

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, May 7, 2007/Vaisakha 17, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM CUBA

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the outset, I am happy to make an announcement.

On behalf of the hon. Members of the House and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Jaime Crombet Hernandez Baquero, Vice-President of the National Assembly of People's Power of the Republic of Cuba, and the Members of the Cuban Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Saturday, 5 May 2007. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Cuba — a country with which our relations have been traditionally warm and friendly.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 441, Dr. M. Jagannath.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been giving notice for the last five days. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Let me understand the issue being raised.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me try and understand the issue that you are raising.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the time for the Question Hour, and we are to carry on with it. You can raise your issues thereafter.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) Sir, many of the innocent people are getting brutally killed. *....(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Sir, innocent people are being killed. This is a very important matter. *... (Interruptions)*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, this is a very important issue. We should be given an opportunity to raise it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, very very important matters are to be discussed in the House today.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: What all is happening there? *... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are very important Questions, Calling Attention, etc. I cannot take them.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Media is being attacked there. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is some procedure for it. I will give you opportunity. But I cannot hear anything if all of you stand together. I cannot discuss anything like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: People are being killed.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity at the appropriate time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: May I make a request to all of you? You may have an important matter to raise, but allow the House to continue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is my request to all sides of the House. Hon. Members, please see that the House runs. I will allow it after the Question Hour at the appropriate time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let nothing be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want the Question Hour to continue? I do not know how to carry on with the Business of the House like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: People are being killed.
...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time. This is the time for the Question Hour. I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing them, and nothing is being recorded. What can I do about it?

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not want the House to run?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. I am not allowing anything to be recorded. It is impossible to conduct the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Question Hour go on please.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Subsidy Reimbursement to Fertilizer Companies

*441. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided that subsidy reimbursement can be claimed by the fertilizer companies only after their produce reaches the desired destinations;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

*Not recorded.

(c) whether the Government has issued orders to fertilizer companies for establishment of fertilizer depots in every district in order to facilitate supply of fertilizers in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the fertilizer companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under New Pricing Scheme Stage-III notified on 8th March 2007, the subsidy on urea will be paid after it reaches the district. Similar arrangement already exists for P & K fertilizers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Fertilizer companies have been asked to identify primary godowns in each district where they are operating so that movement of fertilizers from the factories/ports can be monitored upto the primary godowns.

(e) All the Fertilizer companies have identified primary godowns in the districts in which they are operating.

Degraded Land

*442. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of degraded land in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of such land falling under agricultural category; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reclaim such land?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The soil formation and erosion is a natural process occurring simultaneously to Maintain the equilibrium in eco-system. As per recent study conducted by National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Nagpur of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), out of a total geographical area of 328.60 million ha.,

about 146.82 million ha. area (45%) is suffering from various kinds of land degradation as per break up given below:

S.No.	Type of Land Degradation	Extent of Area in million ha.
1.	Water erosion	93.68
2.	Wind erosion	9.48
3.	Water logging	14.30
4.	Salinity/alkalinity	5.95
5.	Soil acidity	16.03
6.	Complex problem	7.38
Total Degraded area		146.82

The State-wise and category-wise extent of degraded land and its percentage with respect to State's geographical area are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The preliminary assessment suggests that about 50% of this area is under agricultural category.

(c) With a view to preventing land degradation and for land improvement, Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Projects for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP), (viii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and (ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) in the country. Under these programmes, since inception upto end of X Five Year Plan about 50.83 million ha. of lands have been developed as per scheme-wise details given in enclosed Statement-II. In addition to above programmes, a new initiative of Reclamation of Acid Soil has been taken up in the Eleventh Five Year Plan under the Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).

Statement I

*State-wise extent of various kinds of Land Degradation in India
(As per NBSS&LUP-ICAR-2005 on the Scale of 1:250,000)*

(Area in thousand hectares)

Sl.No.	Name of the States	Water Erosion	Wind Erosion	Water Logging	Salinity/ Alkalinity	Soil Acidity	Complex Problem	Degraded Area	Geographical Area	Degraded Area(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11518	0	1896	517	905	156	14992	27505	54.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2372	0	176	0	1955	0	4503	8374	53.8
3.	Assam	688	0	37	0	612	876	2213	7844	28.2
4.	Bihar+ Jharkhand	3024	0	2001	229	1029	0	6283	17387	36.1
5.	Goa	60	0	76	0	2	24	162	370	43.9
6.	Gujarat	5207	443	523	296	0	1666	8133	19602	41.5
7.	Haryana	315	536	146	256	0	214	1467	4421	33.2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2718	0	1303	0	157	0	4178	5567	75.0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5460	1360	200	0	0	0	7020	22224	31.6
10.	Karnataka	5810	0	941	110	58	712	7631	19179	39.8
11.	Kerala	76	0	2098	0	138	296	2808	3686	67.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh+ Chhattisgarh	17883	0	359	46	6786	1126	26210	44345	59.1
13.	Maharashtra	11179	0	0	1056	517	303	13055	30771	42.4
14.	Manipur	133	0	111	0	481	227	952	2233	42.6
15.	Mizoram	137	0	0	0	1050	694	1881	2108	89.2
16.	Meghalaya	137	0	7	0	1030	34	1208	2243	53.9
17.	Nagaland	390	0	0	0	127	478	995	1658	60.0
18.	Orissa	5028	0	681	75	263	75	6122	15571	39.3
19.	Punjab	372	282	338	288	0	0	1280	5036	25.4
20.	Rajasthan	3137	6650	53	1418	0	110	11368	34224	33.2
21.	Sikkim	158	0	0	0	76	0	234	710	33.0
22.	Tamil Nadu	4826	0	96	96	78	138	5334	13006	41.0
23.	Tripura	121	0	191	0	203	113	628	1049	59.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24.	Uttar Pradesh+ Uttaranchal	11392	212	2350	1370	0	0	15324	29441	52.0
25.	West Bengal	1197	0	710	170	556	119	2752	8875	31.0
26.	Delhi	55	0	6	10	0	11	82	148	55.4
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	187	0	0	9	0	9	205	825	24.8
28.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
30.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Grand Total		93680	9483	14299	5946	16033	7381	146620	328602	
Grand Total (Million ha)		93.68	9.48	14.30	5.95	16.03	7.38	146.82	328.60	

Statement II

*Lands Developed under various Watershed Development Programmes,
since inception upto Tenth Five Year Plan*

(Area in Lakh ha. and Expenditure in Rs. Crore)

S.No.	Ministry/Scheme and year of start	Progress since inception upto IX Plan		Progress during X Plan* (2002-07)		Progress since inception upto end of X Plan*	
		Area	Expr.	Area	Expr.	Area	Expr.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation)							
1.	NWDPA (1990-91)	69.79	1877.74	23.30	1147.82	93.09	3025.56
2.	RVP & FPR (1982 & 81)	54.88	1516.26	9.98	727.98	64.86	2244.24
3.	WDPSA (1974-75)	2.58	166.27	1.35	129.31	3.93	295.58
4.	RAS (1985-86)	5.81	78.39	1.30	45.35	7.11	121.74
5.	WDF (1999-00)	0.00	0.00	0.59	26.02	0.59	26.02
6.	EAPs	13.35	2039.81	4.80	1927.54	18.15	3967.35
Sub Total		146.41	5676.47	41.32	4004.02	187.73	9680.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources)							
1.	DPAP(1973-74)	68.95	3284.74	68.32	1557.76	137.27	4842.50
2.	DDP(1977-78)	33.56	797.38	45.17	1152.50	78.73	1949.88
3.	IWDP(1988-89)	37.34	616.51	62.22	1821.64	99.56	2438.15
4.	EAPs	1.40	18.39	3.60	274.28	5.00	292.67
Sub Total		141.25	4717.02	179.31	4806.18	320.56	9523.20
Total (A+B)		287.66	10393.49	220.63	8810.20	506.29	19203.69

* Includes tentative achievement of 2006-07.

Abbreviations:

NWDPRA	—	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area
RVP & FPR	—	River Valley Project & Flood Prone River
WDPSCA	—	Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Area
RAS	—	Reclamation of Alkali Soil
WDF	—	Watershed Development Fund
EAPs	—	Externally Aided Projects
DPAP	—	Drought Prone Area Programme
DDP	—	Desert Development Programme
IWDP	—	Integrated Wasteland Development Project

Source: Working Group Report of Natural Resource Management for Eleventh Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission, New Delhi, Feb., 2007.

Draft Pharmaceutical Policy

*443. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no consensus has been arrived at over the Draft Pharmaceutical Policy as reported in the "Times of India" dated April 10, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to resolve the differences over the prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Cabinet Note on proposed National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 along with views

of various Departments was placed before the Cabinet for its consideration/approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11th January, 2007. It was decided that the matter, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM has since been constituted. The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007. The GOM after detailed discussions on various aspects of the Policy would make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

Agricultural Universities

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

(a) the details of the number of graduates who have passed out from the Agricultural Universities during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more Agricultural Universities in the country during the Eleventh Plan period;

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

(d) the time by which these Agricultural Universities are likely to be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) are directly under the administrative control of respective State governments. The ICAR does not exercise any administrative control over these SAUs, thus, the records of pass outs from these Universities are not maintained by the ICAR. However, the intake capacity per batch for Under Graduate and Post Graduate programmes in these Universities is given in enclosed Statement-I. The details

of pass outs during each of the last three years in respect of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal which is directly under the administrative control of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(b) Agricultural Education is a State subject. The setting up of State Agricultural Universities falls under the purview of the State Governments. The ICAR extends limited financial assistance to the State Agricultural Universities for strengthening and development of agricultural research and education in the country.

(c) Not Applicable.

(d) Not Applicable.

Statement I

Intake Capacity of Agricultural Universities during the year 2006-07

State	S. No.	Name of University	No. of seats in U.G. Programmes per batch*	No. of seats in P.G. Programmes per batch*
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad	800	290
	2.	Sri Venkateswara Univ. of Animal, Veterinary & Fisheries, Tirupati	150	150
Assam	3.	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	300	300
Bihar	4.	Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa (Samastipur)	200	150
Chhattisgarh	5.	Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur	200	200
Delhi	6.	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	Nil	80
Gujarat	7.	Anand Agricultural University, Anand	180	100
	8.	Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh	140	80
	9.	Nausari Agricultural University, Nausari	140	120
	10.	S.D. Agricultural University, Sardar Krushinagar	150	120
Haryana	11.	Chaudury Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar	250	280
	12.	National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal	35	78

1	2	3	4	5
Himachal Pradesh	13.	Y.S. Parmar Horticulture and Forestry, Solan	100	70
	14.	Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur	180	110
Jammu and Kashmir	15.	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu	130	50
	16.	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Srinagar	110	80
Jharkhand	17.	Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi	100	150
Karnataka	18.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	500	290
	19.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	400	560
	20.	Karnataka Veterinary, Animal Science and Fisheries University, Bidar	200	120
Kerala	21.	Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur	360	200
Madhya Pradesh	22.	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vigyan Vidyalaya, Jabalpur	550	400
Maharashtra	23.	Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli	300	120
	24.	Maharashtra Veterinary, Animal and Fishery Science University, Nagpur	300	150
	25.	Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani	600	180
	26.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri	620	210
	27.	Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola	700	230
	28.	Central Institute of Fishery Education, Mumbai	Nil	45
Manipur	29.	Central Agricultural University, Imphal	250	50
Nagaland	30.	Nagaland (Central) University	50	50
Orissa	31.	Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar	190	330
Punjab	32.	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	200	250
	33.	Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Science University, Ludhiana	100	120
Rajasthan	34.	Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner	250	160
	35.	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur	250	110
Tamil Nadu	36.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	370	250
	37.	Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University, Chennai	150	150

1	2	3	4	5
Uttaranchal	38.	G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar	300	400
	39.	University of Horticulture and Forestry, Ranichauri (Uttaranchal)	100	30
Uttar Pradesh	40.	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	50	120
	41.	Chandra Sekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur	270	240
	42.	Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, Meerut	100	30
	43.	Allahabad Agricultural Institute Deemed University, Allahabad	500	450
	44.	Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad	120	300
	45.	Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Pashu Chikitsa and Go Raksha Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura	300	120
	46.	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh	Nil	30
West Bengal	47.	Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar	Nil	87
	48.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Mohanpur	150	200
	49.	Vishva Bharti Palli Siksha Bhavan, Sriniketan (W.B.)	50	40
	50.	Uttar Banga Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Cooch Behar (W.B.)	60	60
	51.	West Bengal Veterinary, Animal Science, and Fishery University, Belgachia	160	160
Total			11,665	8,650

*The figures include intake capacity of all the constituent colleges of the Universities but not of the private colleges.

Statement II

The details of pass-outs from Central Agricultural University, Imphal (Manipur) during the last three years

Sl.No.	Name of the Degree	Year of Passing	No. of passed-out students from College at							
			Arunachal Pradesh	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Sikkim	Tripura	Other States of NEH region	Grand Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	B.Sc.	2004	2	10	7	4	3	17	—	43
	(Agri.)	2005	7	9	8	3	3	10	—	40
		2006	1	11	7	1	1	11	1	33
Total (A)			10	30	22	8	7	38	1	116

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2.	M.Sc. (Agri.)	2004	—	10	—	2	—	1	—	13
		2005	1	8	—	1	—	—	1	11
		2006	—	6	—	1	—	—	—	7
		Total (B)	1	24	—	4	—	1	1	31
3.	B.V. Sc. & A.H.	2004	2	3	2	2	—	1	—	10
		2005	2	1	—	2	—	3	1	9
		2006	3	4	—	4	—	2	—	13
		Total (C)	7	8	2	8	—	6	1	32
4.	B.F.Sc.	2004	—	5	—	—	2	5	2	14
		2005	—	4	—	—	—	6	1	11
		2006	—	2	—	—	—	5	2	9
		Total (D)	—	11	—	—	2	16	5	34
5.	B.Sc. (Hort.)	2004	4	4	3	1	—	4	—	16
		2005	3	4	3	—	—	—	—	10
		2006	1	4	2	3	—	3	2	15
		Total (E)	8	12	8	4	—	7	2	41
		Grand Total (A+B+C+D+E)	26	85	32	24	9	68	10	254

[Translation]

Discrimination against Women Labourers

*445. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the women working as agricultural labourers and engaged in other works for their livelihood with men are being discriminated against even today in the matter of payment of wages as reported in "Dainik Jagran" dated April 5, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take stern action and issue strict guidelines for compliance by all the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The news item published in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated April 5, 2007 is based on average daily wage rates data pertaining to 18 selected agricultural and non-agricultural occupations collected from 600 sample villages belonging to 20 selected States for the month of November, 2006 as published in February, 2007 issue of Indian Labour Journal, brought out by Labour Bureau, Shimla.

As per the information collected under Rural Labour Enquiry Scheme, the average daily wage rates for women labourers work out to be lower than those for male labourers in most of the specified agricultural and non-agricultural occupations. Such a disparity could, *inter-alia*, be attributed to discriminatory practices due to existing social norms and inadequate accounting of the overall work output of women, particularly in agricultural sector.

(c) and (d) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for equal remuneration without discrimination between men and women workers in respect of wages and other amenities. The Act is being implemented by the State Governments. The Central Government monitors the action taken by the State Governments in the implementation of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The State Governments are addressed from time to time to ensure strict compliance of the provisions of the Act.

[English]

Performance of Bt. Cotton

*446. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Monitoring Committees have been set up in all cotton growing States to evaluate the performance of Bt. Cotton;

(b) if so, the details of the reports received from the States in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to educate the farmers for proper use of Bt. Cotton to derive economic benefits?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) State Governments have been advised to constitute post-release monitoring committees to monitor the performance of Bt. Cotton.

(b) No reports have been received from any post-release monitoring committee.

(c) The Government has been organizing workshops, seminars and communication programmes for farmers, scientists, SAUs and other stakeholders to educate them to derive maximum economic benefits from cultivation of Bt. Cotton. Further, seed companies are required to provide to the farmers information related to cultivation of Bt. cotton in local languages.

[Translation]

Pollution in Yamuna

*447. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pollution Control Research Institute has conducted a study on the increase in pollution in the Yamuna river;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government to control the increase in pollution in the river?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Pollution Control Research Institute at BHEL (Hardwar) has not conducted any study with regard to increasing pollution in the Yamuna river. However, Pollution Control Research Institute (PCRI), Hardwar is carrying out water quality monitoring and analysis for Western Yamuna Canal only under Yamuna Action Plan. This monitoring is being conducted at Yamunanagar upstream, Yamunanagar downstream, Kamal downstream, Panipat downstream and Sonapat upstream, once a month, for the laid down core parameters. Additionally, monitoring is also undertaken for project specific parameters as per the perceived needs. The monitoring results are being submitted by PCRI to the Ministry of Environment & Forests on regular basis.

(c) The water quality monitoring reports submitted by PCRI reveal that the water quality at these locations meet the desired water quality standards.

To prevent increasing pollution in the Yamuna river, Government has implemented Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I at an estimate cost of Rs. 715 crore. This phase was launched in 1993 in the three States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi covering 15 towns with funding from Japanese Bank for International Cooperation

(JBIC). The project has been completed in February 2003. Under this Plan, a total of 269 schemes of pollution abatement were completed including 38 sewage treatment plants having treatment capacity of 753.25 million litres per day (mld) of which 401.25 mld is in Uttar Pradesh, 322 mld is in Haryana and 30 mld is in Delhi.

Further, the YAP Phase-II has been formulated keeping in view the experience gained during implementation of YAP Phase-I and has started from December 1, 2004. This project has been approved for the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 624 crore and the main components of the project include the following:

Delhi:	— Sewage Treatment Plants (135 mld capacity new and 324 mld capacity rehabilitation)
	— Rehabilitation/replacement of trunk sewers (30.82 kms)
Uttar Pradesh	— Sewage Treatment Plants (54 mld capacity new)
	— Rehabilitation of Sewer lines/Rising Mains (85.7 kms)
Haryana	— Interception & Diversion of sewer lines (73 kms) and improvement in efficiencies of existing Sewage Treatment Plants.

The total amount of funds spent by the Government under the completed Yamuna Action Plan, Phase-I (YAP-I) is Rs. 682.14 crore and that spent on the ongoing works under Yamuna Action Plan, Phase-II (YAP-II) upto December, 2006 is Rs. 6.11 crore.

[English]

Performance of NHM

*448. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds released to the States by National Horticulture Mission (NHM) have been fully utilized during the last two years;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Union Government thereto, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the NHM;

(d) if so, the details thereof in physical and financial terms during the said period;

(e) the extent to which the Mission is expected to achieve its objectives during the coming years; and

(f) the details of the funds allocated for implementing the programmes under NHM during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) was launched during 2005-06. An amount of Rs. 586.20 crore was released to the State Horticulture Missions (SHMs) during the year 2005-06, against which an expenditure of Rs. 196.09 crore was reported by the SHMs. During 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 843.85 crore was released, against which an expenditure of Rs. 686.91 crore has been reported by the SHMs. Low expenditure during the year 2005-06 was on account of the fact that, being the first year of its launch, the State Governments took some time in constituting the State Horticulture Missions as a registered Society under the Societies Registration Act and in formulating and approving the Annual Action Plans (AAPs) as per the scheme guidelines. As a result, funds could be released to most of the SHMs during the last two quarters of the financial year 2005-06 and the funds could not be utilized fully, as the planting season was over by then.

(c) and (d) The General Council of NHM headed by the Union Agriculture Minister has reviewed the performance of NHM thrice since the launch of the Scheme. Besides, the performance of the Scheme in terms of physical and financial progress is being reviewed regularly by the Executive Committee of NHM under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation). In addition, Joint Inspection Teams constituted by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation conduct regular field visits to the individual States. Besides, senior officers of the department also conduct State-wise review meetings periodically to review the performances. Summary details of the physical targets and achievements for major components during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in

the enclosed statement-I and statement-II, respectively. State-wise details of funds released and expenditure incurred during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the enclosed statement-III.

implementing the Scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. It is expected that the objective of the Mission will be achieved in the coming five years.

(e) 'In principle' approval has been accorded for

(f) An amount of Rs. 1150 crore has been earmarked for implementing the Scheme during 2007-08.

Statement I

Physical Targets and Achievements for major activities under NHM during 2005-06

Sl.No.	States	Area Coverage (ha)		Rejuvenation (ha)		Nurseries (Nos.)		Organic Farming (ha)		Integrated Pest Management/ Integrated Nutrient Management (ha)		Post Harvest Management (PHM)(No.)		Markets (No.)	
		Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24398	18576	9670	5515	5	5	200	113	9000					
2.	Bihar	3320		13367		17		-		2500		3			
3.	Chhattisgarh	7680	2086	2450		9		-		500		7			
4.	Delhi														
5.	Goa	155	251	1250	552	2	7	300		500					
6.	Gujarat	27032	11591	400		42	36	50		7000	1966		1		
7.	Haryana	2907	837	200	60	6		60	60	600	440	13			
8.	Jharkhand	7000		-		75		-				12			12
9.	Karnataka	17010	17101	801	812	95	103	4800	2365			3			1
10.	Kerala	10830	2836	7500		48	5	2019	160	3000	250				
11.	Madhya Pradesh	5950	1370	1250	1144	20	32	1668	717	11000	6377		4		
12.	Maharashtra	28495	35750	9000	4386	26	1	4400	1305	19477	6116				1
13.	Orissa	17200	14687	4500	1303	35	35	100	100	200					
14.	Punjab	2480	1142	3350	230	5		-		-		1	3	11	11
15.	Rajasthan	11662	13937	70	146	15	8	500	467	1800	4906	2		4	4
16.	Tamil Nadu	8369	13884	650	877	25	42	800	998	3300	4596	-			
17.	Uttar Pradesh	14940		4850	1320	11	10	1050	3493	400	-	150	13		
18.	West Bengal	8480	8490	3900	3900	4		2500	2021	10000	10000	57	57.00	70	
Total		197908	142538	63208	20245	440	284	18447	11799	68277	34651	245	81.00	97	17.00

Statement II***Physical Targets and Achievements for major activities under NHM during 2006-07***

States	Area Coverage (ha)		Rejuvenation (ha)		Nurseries (Nos.)		Organic Farming (ha)		Integrated Post Management/ Integrated Nutrient Management (ha)		Post Harvest Management (PHM)(No.)		Markets (No.)	
	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.	Tar	Ach.
Andhra Pradesh	42636.36	57764.97	7770.00	10194.09	66.00	25.00	1950.00	0.00	33250.00	31681.00	48.00	4.00	37.00	6.00
Bihar	12212.00	5838.00	0.00	2.00	28.00	98.00	1000.00	0.00	4000.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	12483.00	10614.00	1420.00	0.00	8.00	1.00	1100.00	0.00	14000.00	8000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Goa	750.64	7.82	300.00	0.00	2.00	3.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	16386.40	22143.00	178.00	8.00	27.00	8.00	100.00	197.00	3002.00	6998.00	2.00	3.00	0.80	0.00
Haryana	5379.85	7243.00	939.00	464.00	16.00	12.00	380.00	424.00	1781.00	1710.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	0.00
Jharkhand	10400.00	7339.00	0.00	0.00	83.00	57.00	150.00		500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	34450.40	10675.00	2130.58	0.00	189.00	1.00	5900.00	0.00	49000.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	48.00	1.00
Kerala	26800.00	5275.00	15000.00	7000.00	120.00	9.80	2800.00	1075.00	4101.00	2250.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	7110.00	18386.98	2445.00	2584.05	27.00	40.00	1200.00	2685.00	10000.00	13942.00	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.00
Maharashtra	73081.30	94032.19	10300.00	8100.24	75.00	33.00	5350.00	3248.94	14850.00	8408.11	90.00	104.00	0.00	4.00
Orissa	19500.00	22069.00	1433.00	0.00	42.00	68.00	1000.00	440.00	1200.00	0.00	11.00	0.00	24.00	0.00
Punjab	3057.00	5133.50	0.00	5803.00	2.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	22534.00	15160.51	97.58	387.00	25.00	37.00	700.00	1162.00	3483.00	10084.50	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	41113.10	18544.00	500.00	2044.00	34.00	117.00	3888.00	4252.00	7000.00	20105.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	7488.80	0.00	78.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	10498.20	0.00	1300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	18366.80	7380.00	300.00	112.00	214.00	5.00	4000.00	0.00	11008.00	0.00	17.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	334.00	19.70	50.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	346564.85	316206.07	42863.16	36577.08	952.00	517.00	30840.00	23843.14	152977.00	102944.61	188.00	130.00	108.00	11.00

Statement III*State-wise details of amount released and expenditure incurred under NHM during 2005-06 and 2006-07*

(Rupees in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Amount Released			Expenditure incurred		
		2005-06	2006-07	Total	2005-06	2006-07	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4420.96	7500.00	11920.96	1781.14	7137.47	8918.61
2.	Bihar	3100.00	3500.00	6600.00	3.02	2403.91	2406.93
3.	Chhattisgarh	2367.83	5500.00	7867.83	353.96	4560.66	4914.62
4.	Goa	315.20	200.00	515.20	112.91	26.57	139.48
5.	Gujarat	3239.28	2577.03	5816.31	1011.24	2823.55	3834.79
6.	Haryana	1050.00	3480.00	4530.00	180.33	3539.38	3719.71
7.	Jharkhand	3030.00	4000.00	7030.00	-	2383.52	2383.52
8.	Karnataka	4455.17	8448.25	12903.42	322.72	6461.32	6784.04
9.	Kerala	3533.98	7959.53	11493.51	400.14	2471.72	2871.86
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2839.77	4291.75	7131.52	481.67	4400.26	4881.93
11.	Maharashtra*	8260.28	14492.65	22752.93	3228.67	12999.79	16228.46
12.	Orissa	3611.91	4450.00	8061.91	2572.76	3286.59	5859.35
13.	Punjab	2868.82	1150.00	4018.82	697.21	1736.88	2434.09
14.	Rajasthan	2259.57	3837.93	6097.50	1833.31	3306.96	5140.27
15.	Tamil Nadu	3891.67	6450.00	10341.67	2462.47	8498.23	10960.70
16.	Uttar Pradesh	5340.25	1500.00	6840.25	537.97	2257.78	2795.75
17.	West Bengal	4035.31	4600.00	8635.31	3629.59	395.40	4024.99
18.	Delhi	-	300.00	300.00	-	0.00	0.00
19.	Lakshdweep	-	63.00	63.00	-	-	0.00
20.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	85.00	85.00	-	1.22	1.22
Total		58620.00	84385.13	143005.13	19609.11	68691.21	88300.32

Cultivation of Cashew

*449. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under cashew cultivation in the country at present alongwith the yield and income derived therefrom, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of import and export of cashew recorded during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has conducted research for the development of new hybrid cashew plants; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof and the action taken on the basis of the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) State-wise area under cashew cultivation in the country along with the yield and estimated income is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The quantum of import and export of cashew recorded during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Research Centre for Cashew under ICAR and various State Agricultural Universities have conducted research on cashew and released around 37 high yielding varieties, including hybrids. The details of high yielding varieties/hybrids are given in the enclosed statement-III. In order to multiply these high yielding varieties/hybrids, the Government of India have assisted in establishment of 90 nurseries under public and private sectors, having production capacity of about 50 lakh cashew grafts per annum.

Statement I

State-wise area, production, productivity and estimated income from cashew

State	Area ('000Ha)	Production ('000MT)	Productivity (Kg/ha)	Average income per ha. from raw cashew @Rs. 38.0/Kg
Kerala	80	67	900	34200
Karnataka	100	45	700	26800
Goa	55	27	690	26220
Maharashtra	160	183	1300	49400
Tamil Nadu	121	56	640	24320
Andhra Pradesh	170	92	880	33440
Orissa	120	78	860	32680
West Bengal	10	10	950	36100
Gujarat	4	4	900	34200
NE States	14	10	640	24320
Others	3	1	400	15200
Total	837	573	815	30970

Source: Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development, Kochi.

Note: The average yield of cashew in the country is about 815 Kg/ha. The average wholesale price obtained by the farmer during 2006 harvesting season was about Rs.38.0/Kg.

Statement II*The details of year-wise quantum of export and import of cashew*Value in Rs. Lakhs
Quantity in MT

Year	Export of kernels		Export of CNSL		Import of Raw nut	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2003-2004	100828	180443	6926	703	452398	140093
2004-2005	126667	270924	7474	791	578884	218326
2005-2006	114143	251486	6405	709	565400	216295

Source: Director-General of Foreign Trade.

Statement III*Details of cashew varieties released in the country*

Sl.No.	Variety	Hybrid/Selection	Year of release	Area for which recommended
1	2	3	4	5
1.	BPP-1	Hybrid	1980	Andhra Pradesh
2.	BPP-2	Hybrid	1980	Andhra Pradesh
3.	BPP-3	Selection	1980	Andhra Pradesh
4.	BPP-4	Selection	1980	Andhra Pradesh
5.	BPP-5	Selection	1980	Andhra Pradesh
6.	BPP-6	Selection	1980	Andhra Pradesh
7.	BPP-8 (H 2/16)	Hybrid	1993	Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal
8.	Bhubaneswar-1	Selection	1989	Orissa
9.	Chintamani-1	Selection	1993	Karnataka - Maidan parts
10.	Jhargram-1	Selection	1989	West Bengal
11.	Anakkayam-1 (BLA-139-1)	Selection	1985	Kerala
12.	Madakkathara-1 (BLA-39-4)	Selection	1987	Kerala
13.	Madakkathara-2 (NDR-2-1)	Selection	1987	Kerala
14.	K-22-1	Selection	1987	Kerala

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Dhana (H-1608)	Hybrid	1993	Kerala, Orissa, Plains region of Karnataka
16.	Kanaka (H-1598)	Hybrid	1993	Kerala
17.	Priyanka (H-1591)	Hybrid	1995	Kerala
18.	Amrutha (H-1597)	Hybrid	1999	Kerala
19.	Vengurla-1	Selection	1974	Maharashtra, Goa & Karnataka
20.	Vengurla-2	Selection	1979	Maharashtra & Goa
21.	Vengurla-3	Hybrid	1981	Maharashtra & Goa
22.	Vengurla-4	Hybrid	1981	Maharashtra, Goa & Karnataka
23.	Vengurla-5	Hybrid	1984	Maharashtra & Goa
24.	Vengurla-6	Hybrid	1991	Maharashtra & Goa
25.	Vengurla-7	Hybrid	1997	Maharashtra, Goa & Karnataka
26.	VRI-1 (M 10/4)	Selection	1981	Tamil Nadu
27.	VRI-2 (M 44/3)	Selection	1985	Tamil Nadu
28.	VRI-3 (M 26/2)	Selection	1981	Tamil Nadu & Kerala
29.	NRCC Sel-1 (VTH 107/3)	Selection	1989	Karnataka
30.	NRCC Sel-2 (VTH 40/1)	Selection	1989	Karnataka
31.	Bhaskara (Goa 11/6)	Selection	2006	Coastal Karnataka
32.	Ullal-1	Selection	1984	Karnataka
33.	Ullal-2	Selection	1984	Karnataka
34.	Ullal-3	Selection	1993	Karnataka
35.	Ullal-4	Selection	1994	Karnataka
36.	UN-50	Selection	1995	Karnataka
37.	Goa-1	Selection	1999	Goa

Delay in Transportation of Imported Wheat

*450. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wheat imported by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during 2006-07 to meet the

shortage in the country was stuck up at different ports, particularly at the privately owned Agni port, Gujarat and could not be transported to various godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the extent of losses suffered due to rotting of such wheat;

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

(d) if so, the action taken against the officers and ports held responsible for these losses?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Out of 55 lakh metric tons of wheat contracted, 54.13 lakh metric tons of wheat has arrived at various Indian ports as on 3rd May, 2007. Of this, 53.60 lakh metric tons of wheat has been bagged and transported to the godowns. Wheat has not been imported through any port of the name Agni port. There was some delay in movement of wheat from ports due to the simultaneous arrival of wheat and fertilizers at the ports and the priority given to fertilizer ships to discharge the cargo and in movement to destinations by rail.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Project for Rehabilitation of Child Labour

*451. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) the States in which the Indo-US Project (INDUS) is being implemented for the rehabilitation of child labour;

(b) the number of children benefited therefrom so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the said project is being/has been discontinued in some States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether some irregularities have also been reported in the said scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon and the remedial measures taken to check their recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR

FERNANDES): (a) An Indo-US Joint Programme (INDUS) for elimination of child labour is being implemented in 21 districts spread over in five States of Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and NCT of Delhi.

(b) State-wise details of children benefited under the schemes are sofar as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of child labour benefited
1.	Tamilnadu	15987
2.	Madhya Pradesh	22196
3.	Maharashtra	16271
4.	Uttar Pradesh	36323
5.	NCT of Delhi	1795
Total		92572

(c) No, Sir. The project has not been discontinued in any State.

(d) In view of the (c) above, does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) In view of the (e) above, does not arise.

"E-Waste"

*452. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) the scheme formulated by the Government for disposal of E-Waste;

(b) the number of industrial and medical units in the country, particularly in Delhi, which are generating E-Waste;

(c) the approximate quantum of E-Waste generated in all the metro cities in the country; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests have notified the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 which was amended in 2000 and 2003. The E-wastes are regulated under these rules.

(b) As per the Guide to Electronic Industry, published by Department of Information and Technology in 2003-04, there are over 3500 units engaged in electronic production in consisting of 11 Central Public Sector units with 31 manufacturing establishments, 46 units in State Public Sector, about 500 units in organized private sector and more than 2900 units in small scale sector in India. Besides these units, there are a number of unregistered smaller units engaged in assembly of consumer electronics products.

(c) According to an assessment made in a study commissioned by Central Pollution Control Board to M/s IRG South Asia (Pvt.) Ltd., New Delhi, the estimated total generation of electrical and electronic wastes in the country is about 1,46,000 tonnes per year. The study also revealed that approximately 29,000 tonnes of E-waste is generated in the four Metro cities in the country.

(d) According to the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2003, the residues and wastes generated from the operations in electronic industry are considered as hazardous wastes and are listed at Sl. No. 31 of Schedule 1 of these rules. Such units are required to take authorization from the State Pollution Control Boards. Further, as per the provisions of these rules Electrical and Electronics Assemblies are covered under Categories A-1180 and B-1110 in Schedule 3 which are applicable for import and export of hazardous wastes. The import of wastes under this category are only permitted for direct reuse and not for recycling or final disposal. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has undertaken a study

for the preparation of "Guideline Document for Environmentally Sound Recycling of E-waste" for the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committee of the Union Territories and the industries for handling E-waste.

(English)

Dry Land Farming

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

(a) the funds allocated, released and utilized for the promotion of Dry Land Farming during Tenth Plan, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the targets fixed and success achieved thereunder during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated under the scheme - "Enhancing Sustainability of Dry Land Farming Systems" in the Eleventh Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Agriculture is contemplating a new scheme 'Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Farming Systems' to enhance the agricultural production in dryland areas in identified arid and semi arid districts in seven States viz. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Karnataka. The list of districts identified on the basis of rainfall, moisture index and irrigation coverage is enclosed as statement. The scheme focuses on rainwater harvesting and its efficient utilization, in-situ moisture conservation, use of organic manures, alternate land use and adoption of improved dryland farming technologies. An allocation of Rs. 200.00 crore (B.E.) has been made in the Annual Plan 2007-08. The State-wise releases will be made after getting the approval of the scheme.

Statement

List of Identified Districts for Proposed New Scheme Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Farming Systems

State	Sl.No.	District	Annul.Rainfall (mm)	Net Sown area (hectares)	Irrigation (%)	Moisture Index
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
RAJASTHAN (20)	1.	Barmer	261.40	1304041	7.95	-85.92
	2.	Bikaner	247.60	1063628	16.51	-86.02
	3.	Churu	371.70	1211415	4.99	-77.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	4.	Hanumangarh	309.90	643967	52.74	
	5.	Jaisalmer	163.70	353534	20.06	-92.07
	6.	Jalore	438.00	529016	42.88	-76.25
	7.	Jodhpur	324.40	1060902	13.43	-82.39
	8.	Nagaur	407.70	1200172	21.59	-75.48
	9.	Pali	487.60	545582	28.65	-70.29
	10.	Ajmer	495.50	364635	23.17	-68.36
	11.	Bhilwara	678.00	339593	33.40	-56.51
	12.	Dungarpur	727.40	119148	18.17	-51.60
	13.	Jaipur	586.80	666305	53.91	-66.37
	14.	Jhunjhunu	487.60	426731	49.96	-69.41
	15.	Karauli	689.10	198609	46.90	
	16.	Rajsamand	529.30	90757	22.77	
	17.	Sikar	467.90	514629	42.59	-68.87
	18.	Sirohi	658.00	126749	38.30	-62.49
	19.	Tonk	619.80	475531	39.78	-61.19
	20.	Udaipur	650.20	233887	20.50	-52.88
GUJARAT (11)	1.	Ahmedabad	694.90	574900	31.43	-58.59
	2.	Banaskantha	665.80	840800	45.47	-66.46
	3.	Mehsana	715.90	690900	52.32	-63.99
	4.	Patan	577.60	404609	24.32	-63.99
	5.	Amreli	566.20	498100	14.60	-69.83
	6.	Jamnagar	500.20	575000	10.94	-70.85
	7.	Bhavnagar	608.00	628800	21.56	-66.48
	8.	Kuch	404.90	491300	26.73	-79.42
	9.	Porbandar	671.70	132257	14.62	-50.39
	10.	Rajkot	613.60	728200	19.69	-71.38
	11.	Sumdemagar	531.20	685300	18.93	-73.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MAHARASHTRA (7)	1.	Ahmednagar	595.00	1154600	26.44	-62.93
	2.	Dhule	677.20	704600	13.76	-60.47
	3.	Nasik	656.50	852800	22.91	-60.43
	4.	Sangli	739.40	582900	22.78	-54.36
	5.	Sholapur	660.60	1055800	21.97	-63.32
	6.	Beed	733.70	774000	27.20	-54.32
	7.	Jalna	749.80	568400	12.79	-51.91
MADHYA PRADESH (1)	1.	Barwani	742.10	233478	28.90	
ANDHRA PRADESH (3)	1.	Medak	749.60	451856	31.32	-57.36
	2.	Chittor	539.30	477177	38.02	-65.34
	3.	Kumool	718.40	899977	19.97	-60.70
TAMIL NADU (1)	1.	Villore	657.10	215916	52.63	
KARNATAKA (12)	1.	Bidar	731.30	372345	10.22	-58.33
	2.	Dharwada	631.80	331471	13.14	-62.05
	3.	Gulbarga	626.20	1152143	13.67	-67.30
	4.	Koppal	741.90	349942	30.55	
	5.	Raichur	584.70	503864	28.72	-70.03
	6.	Bangalore (R)	725.60	298621	17.59	
	7.	Bellary	739.90	487573	32.86	-57.43
	8.	Chamarajnagar	634.50	154472	30.29	
	9.	Devangere	534.00	384748	34.40	
	10.	Hassan	660.40	364399	19.47	-53.03
	11.	Mandeya	740.50	246662	43.79	-51.88
	12.	Mysore	702.10	389921	29.24	-54.26

[Translation]

Crime against Wildlife

*454. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crime against wildlife has taken the form of an organised crime in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check this;

(c) whether the activities of international smugglers have also increased recently in India;

(d) if so, the steps taken to check it;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a new law to check the crime against wildlife;

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be formulated; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A few incidents of wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife have been brought to the notice of the Government. Considering the lucrative prices and demand for wildlife products in the clandestine international markets, the possibility of organized form of wildlife crime in the country cannot be ruled out.

The steps taken by the Government against wildlife crime are as under:

- (i) The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime.
- (ii) Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (iii) The 2006 amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act provides for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary Wildlife Crime Control Bureau with the main objective of collecting and collating intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to state and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the

criminals and to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank.

(iv) India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates the international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

(v) Regional and sub-regional offices have been set up at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(c) and (d) No reports have been brought to the notice of the Government indicating that the activities of international smugglers have increased recently in India. However, the following initiatives have been taken to strengthen international efforts against wildlife crime:

(a) India is a signatory to many international conventions responsible for the protection of biodiversity and its habitat, that include the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(b) India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

(c) India is also a founder member of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking.

(e) to (g) The existing Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences. The 2006 amendment provides for the establishment of a multi-disciplinary Wildlife Crime Control Bureau for effective enforcement of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. Hence, there is no proposal to formulate a new law to check the crime against wildlife.

Promotion of Organic Farming/Cultivation

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

(a) the area/percentage of the total agricultural land in which organic cultivation is being done in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds sanctioned, released and utilized under various schemes for encouraging the organic

farming during each of the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) the details of targets fixed and success achieved under the said schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated under the said scheme during the Eleventh Plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The formal certified area under organic cultivation in the country at present is about 1.74 lakh hectare. The State-wise area under certified organic cultivation is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) Organic farming is being promoted under the National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) from 2004-05 and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) from 2005-06. The State-wise funds sanctioned/released and utilized for NPOF is given at enclosed statement-II and for NHM at statement-III.

(c) The State-wise targets and achievements under NPOF is given at enclosed statement IV and under NHM at statement-V.

(d) The proposed outlay for the Eleventh Plan period is Rs.150.00 crore under NPOF. No State-wise allocation is made under both the schemes as funds are released on the basis of proposals received from States.

Statement I

State-wise Certified area in the Country

Sl. No.	State	Total Area in hectare
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1661.42
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	557.76
3.	Assam	18717.5
4.	Bihar	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	293.16

1	2	3
6.	Delhi	1658.71
7.	Goa	5555.07
8.	Gujarat	1627.06
9.	Haryana	3437.52
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3647.41
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	22315.92
12.	Jharkhand	5
13.	Karnataka	4117.17
14.	Kerala	15474.47
15.	Manipur	347.65
16.	Maharashtra	18786.69
17.	Madhya Pradesh	16581.37
18.	Mizoram	300.4
19.	Meghalaya	378.89
20.	Nagaland	718.76
21.	Orissa	26387.86
22.	Punjab	3779.31
23.	Rajasthan	22104.91
24.	Sikkim	177.64
25.	Tripura	20.87
26.	Tamilnadu	5423.63
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3033.98
28.	Uttaranchal	5915.85
29.	West Bengal	6743.43
30.	Other	824.13
Total		173682.5

Statement II*State-wise release of Fund under National Project on Organic Farming from 2004-05 to 2006-07*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the States	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		Sanction	Released	Utilized*	Sanction	Released	Utilized*	Sanction	Released	Utilized*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
North Eastern States										
1.	Assam	1.07	1.07	1.07	70.12	66.72		3.68	3.68	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.49	4.49	4.49	30.16	30.16		41.28	41.28	
3.	Manipur	6.69	6.69	0	7.87	5.75		101.58	101.58	
4.	Meghalaya	2.34	2.34	2.34	46.89	38.07		0.78	0.78	
5.	Mizoram	45.31	45.31	45.31	22.50	22.50		166.59	166.59	
6.	Nagaland	0	0	0	86.69	86.69		88.31	88.31	
7.	Sikkim	10.34	10.34	10.34	49.11	49.11		32.58	32.58	
8.	Tripura	8.97	8.97	8.97	25.84	25.84		30.00	30.00	
Other States/UTs										
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	36.27	34.65		41.55	41.55	
2.	Bihar	0	0	0	1.50	1.12		69.36	69.36	
3.	Chhattisgarh	14.98	14.98	14.98	0	0		119.23	119.23	
4.	Delhi	0	0	0	8.013	6.52		1.822	1.822	
5.	Goa	0	0	0	8.52	4.39		4.13	4.13	
6.	Gujarat	2.0	2.0	2.0	62.26	59.74		0	0	
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	6.50	4.40		48.23	48.23	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.0	2.0	2.0	19.12	12.80		50.56	50.56	
9.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	10.61	6.95		93.00	93.00	
10.	Karnataka	2.04	1.53	2.04	37.41	20.43		57.09	57.09	
11.	Kerala	2.28	1.71	2.28	75.01	69.56		50.20	50.20	
12.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	8.50	2.30		0	0	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	13.18	6.89	0	41.31	33.21		149.44	149.44	
14.	Maharashtra	6.76	5.32	0	175.67	102.22		169.93	169.93	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15.	Orissa	0	0	0	7.20	7.20		197.11	197.11	
16.	Punjab	0.32	0.24	0.32	0	0		16.15	16.15	
17.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	20.65	13.73		17.56	17.56	
18.	Tamil Nadu	1.00	1.00	1.00	111.38	87.02		72.96	72.96	
19.	Uttar Pradesh	12.47	9.35	0	67.20	44.24		51.88	51.88	
20.	Uttaranchal	76.40	48.20	48.20	1.14	0.88		332.72	332.72	
21.	West Bengal	0	0	0	26.05	24.39		98.53	98.53	
22.	NABARD	150.00	160.00	150.00	732.5	732.5		0	0	
23.	NCDC, New Delhi	0	0	0	100.00	100.00		0	0	
	Total	362.64	322.43	295.34	1895.985	1693.09		2106.26	2106.26	

*Utilization Certificate awaited.

Statement III*National Horticulture Mission—Funds released and utilised under Organic Farming*

(Rs. in Lakh)

State	2005-06		2006-07	
	Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	50.00	35.06	524.90	157.10
Bihar	-	-	700.00	825.00
Chhattisgarh	10.50	-	1740.00	1605.00
Goa	30.00	-	65.00	-
Gujarat	5.00	14.43	45.40	52.85
Haryana	41.00	19.02	206.60	181.88
Jharkhand	-	-	90.00	-
Karnataka	541.50	291.50	1055.00	-
Kerala	503.11	188.75	870.00	488.30
Madhya Pradesh	224.90	56.74	147.00	321.41

1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra	840.00	-	1242.30	1754.40
Orissa	29.00	19.00	510.00	284.00
Punjab	75.00	-	480.00	75.00
Rajasthan	53.00	47.21	116.00	94.64
Tamilnadu	87.50	82.94	450.00	469.87
Uttar Pradesh	105.00	32.00	1500.00	1187.29
West Bengal	490.00	490.00	670.00	—
Total	3085.51	1276.65	10412.20	7496.74

Statement IV

Physical Targets/Achievements under the scheme National Project on Organic Farming for the year 2004-05 to 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Component-wise physical achievement														
		Service Provider			Production units			Model Farms			Training programmes			Demonstrations		
		04-05	05-06	06-07	04-05	05-06	06-07	04-05	05-06	06-07	04-05	05-06	06-07	04-05	05-06	06-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	10	10	02	0	05	11	0	24	0	110	20
2.	Assam	0	01	0	0	0	0	0	07	0	11	0	08	0	157	05
3.	Manipur	02	07	07	0	0	19	01	0	02	0	05	105	0	132	160
4.	Meghalaya	0	03	0	0	0	0	0	01	0	24	02	0	0	264	0
5.	Mizoram	0	0	13	0	15	18	19	0	0	75	0	175	0	0	169
6.	Nagaland	0	12	0	0	10	04	0	05	16	0	29	51	0	49	100
7.	Sikkim	0	10	0	0	0	08	04	01	0	24	11	0	0	110	100
8.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	08	20	0	0	0	11	01	0	0	50	0
9.	Andhra Pradesh	0	03	03	0	0	0	0	02	08	0	11	41	0	93	53
10.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	02	0	0	21	0	15	12
11.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	39	07	0	0	10	0	25	0	0	125
12.	Delhi	0	02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	05	07	0	08	10
13.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	02	0	0	04	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
14.	Gujarat	0	15	0	0	0	0	01	01	0	0	02	0	0	90	0
15.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	01	01	0	0	03	0	23	50
16.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	04	0	0	05	01	05	05	0	20	24	0	11	19
17.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	01	05	0	17	0	0	05	0
18.	Karnataka	0	15	0	0	0	15	0	03	05	06	13	15	12	110	05
19.	Kerala	0	04	0	0	0	0	0	16	05	0	206	22	18	0	10
20.	Lakshadweep	0	03	0	0	0	0	0	01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Madhya Pradesh	04	49	01	0	0	0	0	02	0	04	03	10	06	244	10
22.	Maharashtra	0	40	37	0	0	01	0	13	03	02	143	163	55	130	193
23.	Orissa	0	04	0	0	0	57	0	02	17	0	0	25	0	0	250
24.	Punjab	0	01	0	0	0	0	0	0	01	0	0	42	02	0	58
25.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	01	0	01	04	0	49	04	0	28	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	0	03	02	0	20	01	0	19	02	0	47	28	0	55	30
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	06	0	0	0	76	0	08	01	07	27	48	105	22	30
28.	Uttaranchal	14	01	20	02	0	0	01	0	05	08	04	39	100	0	515
29.	West Bengal	0	01	20	0	0	0	0	10	01	0	05	03	0	0	101
Total		20	180	107	2	63	350	36	101	89	193	604	883	298	1704	2025

Note: Targets achieved during 2004-05 in respect of most of the States. However, information is still awaited in respect of 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Statement V

National Horticulture Mission

Target and Achievement of Organic Farming for 2005-06

State	Organic Farming (ha.)		Vermi compost units (000 No.)		Certification (Clusters of 50 ha.)	
	Target	Achmt.	Target	Achmt	Target	Achmt
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	200	113	100	113		
Bihar	—		—			
Chhattisgarh	—		35			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Goa	300		2	1		
Gujarat	50		—	38		
Haryana	110	60	100	58		
Jharkhand	—		—			
Karnataka	4800	2365	205	205		
Kerala	2019	160	1004	436		
Madhya Pradesh	1868	717	127	93		
Maharashtra	4400	1305	700	515	38	2
Orissa	100	100	30	30	2	
Punjab	—		250			
Rajasthan	500	467	10	73		
Tamilnadu	800	998	25	3		
Uttar Pradesh	1050	278.5	—			
West Bengal	2500	2500	800	800		
Total	18697	9063.5	3388	2365	40	2

*National Horticulture Mission**Target and Achievement of Organic Farming for 2006-07*

State	Organic Farming (ha.)		Vermi compost units (000 No.)		Certification (Clusters of 50 ha.)	
	Target	Achmt.	Target	Achmt	Target	Achmt
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1950		1093	923	20	
Bihar	1000		2000	5500		
Chhattisgarh	1100		5350		5	
Delhi						
Goa	450		3		200	
Gujarat	100	197	118	138		
Haryana	380	424	512	454	3	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jharkhand	150		200		3	
Karnataka	5500		1350		20	
Kerala	2800	1075	1300	864	40	—
Lakshadweep						
Madhya Pradesh	1200	2685	90	323		
Maharashtra	5350	3248.94	1975	2842.83	77	224
Orissa	1000	440	200	800	3500	
Punjab	1000		100	250	3500	
Rajasthan	700	1162	70			
Tamilnadu	3960	4252	180	151		
Uttar Pradesh		10459.2		452	300	
West Bengal	4000		900			
Andaman and Nicobar Islands						
Total	30640	23843.1	15441	12697.99	7668	224

[English]

**Assistance under Integrated Forest
Protection Scheme**

*456. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides assistance to States under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided to various States during 2006-07 under the said scheme;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of work executed under the said scheme in various States;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the diversion of such assistance by States?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes Sir, under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS) financial assistance is provided to the State Forest Departments, for protection and management of existing forests.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests awarded two studies, one for North Eastern region and other for the Rest of India to independent agencies, M/s Society for Social Services Madhya Bharat Chapter, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and M/s Santek Consultant Private Ltd. New Delhi, respectively for evaluation of the Scheme in November 2005. These independent agencies have recommended for continuance of the Scheme in the Eleventh Plan. The guidelines for the Scheme provide for monitoring and evaluation by the State Forest Department. In addition officials of the Ministry also review the performance and progress of IFPS.

Statement*Funds Released to States/UTs under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme during 2006-07*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No	State	Funds Released During 2006-07		
		2nd Installment of W.P 2005-06	1st Installment of W.P 2006-07	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Bihar	12.53	120.00	132.53
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	371.40	371.40
4.	Goa	Nil	Nil* (29.01)	Nil* (29.01)
5.	Gujarat	200.00	200.00	400.00
6.	Haryana	51.48	116.02	167.50
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jharkhand	112.263	Nil	112.263
10.	Karnataka	122.88	Nil	122.88
11.	Kerala	167.597	Nil	167.597
12.	Madhya Pradesh	200.00	125.00	325.00
13.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil* (103.46)	Nil* (103.46)
14.	Orissa	76.38	Nil	76.38
15.	Punjab	Nil	Nil* (100.00)	Nil* (100.00)
16.	Rajasthan	Nil	100.07	100.07
17.	Tamil Nadu	158.40	Nil	158.40
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	135.04	135.04
19.	Uttarakhand	188.22	320.36	508.58
20.	West Bengal	57.57	160.53	218.10
	Total	1347.32	1648.42	2995.74
NE and Sikkim				
1.	Assam	150.26	40.00	190.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	181.68	10.00	191.68

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Manipur	194.29	200.89	395.18
4.	Meghalaya	150.00	Nil	150.00
5.	Mizoram	79.71	150.00	229.71
6.	Nagaland	237.72	100.00	337.72
7.	Sikkim	141.70	Nil* (36.88)	141.70
8.	Tripura	182.915	Nil	182.915
	Total	1298.275	500.89	1799.165

Union Territories

1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.8552	Nil	3.8552
4.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	New Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total	3.8552	Nil	3.8552
	Grand Total	2649.4502	2149.31	4798.7602

*Indicates that funds were sanctioned but actual release was Nil as the earlier unspent funds were adjusted, against current year's release. These amounts are given in brackets.

Child Labourers

*457. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:

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

(a) whether children continue to be employed as domestic help in various parts of the country despite the law banning their employment;

(b) if so, the number of cases booked in various States in this regard in the last six months; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, Government has banned the employment of children as domestic workers/servants and in dhabas, restaurants, hotels, motels, tea-shops, spas and other recreational centres etc. w.e.f. 10.10.06. Since then, 2229 violations have been detected in these two occupations during the inspections carried out by the State Governments, which are the appropriate Government for the enforcement of the Act.

(c) Child Labour is a manifestation of serious socio-economic problems, an effective enforcement of the ban requires widespread public awareness on the issue and a concerted strategy for the economic empowerment of

the families of child labour. The Government has already undertaken extensive media campaign in this regard and has also addressed to the State/UT Governments for taking necessary measures. Consultations have also been held with the State Governments for finalizing State Action Plans for effective enforcement of the ban coupled with a rehabilitation plan for the children affected by it in convergence with the developmental schemes of various departments.

[Translation]

Consumer Awareness

*458. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any effective steps to make the consumers, especially those in rural areas aware of food safety, on the eve of world Consumer Rights Day;

(b) the details of centres for consumer consultations cum complaints set up in each State of the country, especially in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the details of total amount sanctioned by the Government to boost consumer awareness campaigns in each State during the last three years and in the current year as on date?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes Sir. For the World Consumer Rights Day 2006, the Government had adopted the theme of "Consumer Health and Safety". All the Central Ministries, State Governments/UTs and Stakeholders were requested to undertake advocacy measures through mass media and outdoor publicity to *inter-alia*, highlight the precautions to be taken by consumers against adulterated food products. Accordingly a substantial number of State Governments and stakeholders have reported having taken such advocacy programmes and events, including in the rural areas.

(b) 103 District Consumer Information Centres have been set up in the country, of which 25 are in Uttar Pradesh. State-wise details are enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) Details of State-wise grants released in the last three years and current year till date are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement I

List of District Consumer Information Centres

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of DCICs	Name of the District
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	(i) Guntur, (ii) Cuddapah, (iii) Vishakhapatnam
2.	Chandigarh	1	(i) Chandigarh
3.	Daman and Diu	1	(i) Moti Daman
4.	Delhi	1	(i) Mayur Vihar
5.	Gujarat	9	(i) Rajkot, (ii) Sabarkanta, (iii) Vadodara, (iv) Surat, (v) Bhavnagar, (vi) Bhuj (Kutchh), (vii) Godhara, (viii) Dahod, (ix) Patan
6.	Haryana	1	(i) Jhajjar

1	2	3	4
7.	Manipur	9	(i) Chandel, (ii) Imphal West, (iii) Thoubal, (iv) Senapati, (v) Imphal West, (vi) Bishnupur, (vii) Chandel, (viii) Imphal East, (ix) Churachandpur
8.	Madhya Pradesh	6	(i) Bhopal (I), (ii) Bhopal (2), (iii) Gwalior, (iv) Katni, (v) Sagar, (vi) Gwalior
9.	Maharashtra	4	(i) Ahmednagar, (ii) Parbani, (iii) Nanded, (iv) Gondhia
10.	Mizoram	1	(i) Aizwal
11.	Orissa	10	(i) Mayurbhanj, (ii) Kandhamal, (iii) Bhadrak, (iv) Kalahandi, (v) Bolangir, (vi) Balasore, (vii) Angul, (viii) Cuttack, (ix) Puri, (x) Dhenkanal
12.	Pondicherry	2	(i) Karaikal, (ii) Ayyemkuttipalayam
13.	Rajasthan	3	(i) Chittorgarh, (ii) Dausa, (iii) Ajmer
14.	Uttaranchal	4	(i) Dehradun, (ii) Chamoli, (iii) Almora, (iv) Nainital
15.	West Bengal	9	(i) Paschim Midnapur, (ii) Bankura, (iii) Kolkata, (iv) Kidderpore, (v) Nadia, (vi) Hooghly, (vii) 24 Parganas (South), (viii) Jalpaiguri, (ix) Birbhum
16.	Sikkim	3	(i) Gangtok (East), (ii) North Distt., (iii) South District
17.	Kerala	1	(i) Thiruvanthpuram
18.	Tamil Nadu	3	(i) Sivagangai, (ii) Ramanathapuram, (iii) Salem
19.	Uttar Pradesh	25	(i) Noida, (ii) Lucknow, (iii) Basti, (iv) Bulandshahar, (v) Sant Kabir Nagar, (vi) Deoria, (vii) Hathras, (viii) Pratapgarh, (ix) Kannauj, (x) Aligarh, (xi) Mathura, (xii) Ghazipur, (xiii) Jaunpur, (xiv) Hardoi (xv) Siddharthnagar, (xvi) Mirzapur, (xvii) Auraiya (xviii) Meerut, (xix) Ballia, (xx) Mainpuri, (xdi) Kanpur, (xdi) Sant Ravi Das Nagar, (xdi) Hamirpur (xxiv) Barabanki, (xxv) Rae Bareilly
20.	Bihar	1	(i) Vaishali
21.	Jharkhand	1	(i) Dhanbad
22.	Karnataka	3	(i) Gulbarga, (ii) Udupi, (iii) Hubli
23.	Assam	1	(i) Nagaon
24.	Nagaland	1	(ii) Dimapur
Total		103	

Statement II

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	115.53	32.50	28.75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	30.20	18.75
3.	Assam	3.21	2.50	28.75
4.	Bihar	2.16	-	46.25
5.	Chhattisgarh	26.44	-	45.00
6.	Delhi	78.62	263.51	297.25
7.	Goa	-	4.50	2.50
8.	Gujarat	59.05	0.75	175.25
9.	Haryana	-	43.50	23.75
10.	Himachal Pradesh	-	2.10	15.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	14.79	40.80	17.50
12.	Jharkhand	-	-	30.00
13.	Karnataka	74.55	52.50	36.25
14.	Kerala	-	2.50	17.50
15.	Madhya Pradesh	25.20	0.75	70.00
16.	Maharashtra	109.43	46.50	43.75
17.	Manipur	21.63	11.50	12.75
18.	Meghalaya	-	-	8.75
19.	Mizoram	1.26	29.50	20.00
20.	Nagaland	7.31	-	12.50
21.	Orissa	120.33	2.50	48.25
22.	Punjab	10.00	25.00	21.25
23.	Rajasthan	79.63	5.60	90.00
24.	Sikkim	-	13.25	11.50
25.	Tamilnadu	68.61	10.22	216.25
26.	Tripura	7.70	4.00	5.00

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Uttaranchal	13.63	15.25	16.25
28.	Uttar Pradesh	36.67	149.45	102.50
29.	West Bengal	84.53	8.50	131.00
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	3.75
31.	Chandigarh	0.88	2.50	6.25
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	1.25
33.	Daman and Diu	-	-	2.50
34.	Lakshadweep	-	2.10	1.25
35.	Pondicheerry	1.35	2.50	5.00
		963.6	804.2	1612.00

*In 2007-08, till date no grant for this purpose has been released.

[English]

Conservation of Wetlands

*459. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wetlands of the country are shrinking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified wetlands and formulated any plan for conservation and management of such wetlands;

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

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Many of the Wetlands in the country are shrinking in size due to anthropogenic pressures, uncontrolled siltation, weed infestation, discharge of sewage & industrial effluents, surface run-off, chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified 94 wetlands in the country, covering 23 States and one Union Territory, for conservation and management under National Wetland Conservation Programme. The activities for which 100% assistance is given include survey & demarcation, catchment area treatment, desilting & dredging, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, pollution abatement, education & awareness and community participation. Research organizations are also assisted for Research & Development activities in priority areas of research to supplement Management Action Plans. List of identified wetlands, State/UT-wise is enclosed as statement-I.

(e) An amount of Rs. 53.00 crores has been released for conservation of identified wetlands for undertaking various conservation activities in the country right from the inception of the Programme till date. An amount of Rs. 10 crore has been earmarked for the year 2007-08. The details of funds released State wise under National Wetland Conservation Programme are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I*List of wetlands under National Wetland Conservation Programme*

S.No.	State/UT	S.No.	Name of Wetlands
1	2	3	4
States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.	Kolleru
2.	Assam	2.	Deepar Beel
		3.	Urpada Beel
3.	Bihar	4.	Kabar
		5.	Barilla
		6.	Kusheshwar Asthan
4.	Gujarat	7.	Nalsarovar
		8.	Great Rann of Kachh
		9.	Thol Bird Sanctuary
		10.	Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary
		11.	Little Rann of Kachh
		12.	Pariej
		13.	Wadhvana
		14.	Nanikakrad
5.	Haryana	15.	Sultanpur
		16.	Bhindawas
6.	Himachal Pradesh	17.	Renuka
		18.	Pong Dam
		19.	Chandratat
		20.	Rewalsar
		21.	Khajjiar
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	22.	Wullar
		23.	Tso Moriri
		24.	Tigul Tso & Chisul Marshes
		25.	Hokersar
		26.	Mansar-Surinsar

1	2	3	4
		27.	Ranjitsagar
		28.	Pangong Tsar
8.	Jharkhand	29.	Udhwa
		30.	Tilaiya Dam
9.	Karnataka	31.	Magadhi
		32.	Gudavi Bird Sanctuary
		33.	Bonal
		34.	Hidkal & Ghataprabha
		35.	Heggeri
		36.	Ranganthittu
		37.	K.G. Koppa wetland
10.	Kerala	38.	Ashtamudi
		39.	Sesthamkotta
		40.	Kottuli
		41.	Kadulandi
		42.	Vemnad Kol
11.	Madhya Pradesh	43.	Bama
		44.	Yashwant Sagar
		45.	Wetland of Ken River
		46.	National Chambal Sanct.
		47.	Ghatigaon
		48.	Ratapani
		49.	Denwa Tawa wetland
		50.	Kanha Tiger Reserve
		51.	Pench Tiger Reserve
		52.	Sakhyasagar
		53.	Dihalla
		54.	Govindsagar

1	2	3	4
12.	Maharashtra	55.	Ujni
		56.	Jayakawadi
		57.	Nalganga wetland
13.	Manipur	58.	Loktak
14.	Mizoram	59.	Tamdil
		60.	Palak
15.	Orissa	61.	Chilka
		62.	Kuanria wetland
		63.	Kanjia wetland
		64.	Daha wetland
16.	Punjab	65.	Harike
		66.	Ropar
		67.	Kanjli
17.	Rajasthan	68.	Sambhar
18.	Sikkim	69.	Khechuperi Holy Lake
		70.	Tamze Wetland
		71.	Tembao Wetland Complex
		72.	Phendang Wetland Complex
		73.	Gurudokmar Wetland
		74.	Tsomgo wetland
19.	Tamil Nadu	75.	Point Calimer
		76.	Kaliveli
		77.	Pailaikarni
20.	Tripura	78.	Rudrasagar
21.	Uttar Pradesh	79.	Nawabganj
		80.	Sandi
		81.	Lakh Bahoshi
		82.	Samaspur
		83.	Alwara Wetland

1	2	3	4
		84.	Semarai Lake-Nagaria lake Complex
		85.	Keetham Lake
		86.	Shekha wetland
		87.	Saman Bird Sanctuary & Sarsal Nawar Complex
22.	Uttaranchal	88.	Ban Ganga Jhilmil Tal
23.	West Bengal	89.	East Calcutta Wetland
		90.	Sunderbans
		91.	Ahiron Beel
		92.	Rasik Beel
		93.	Santragachi
24.	UT (Chandigarh)	94.	Sukhna

Statement II

*Details of expenditure made by Government for
development of wetlands State-wise*

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Amount in Rs. Lakhs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	76.05
2.	Assam	311.66
3.	Bihar	31.34
4.	Gujarat	222.25
5.	Haryana	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	480.04
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	477.655
8.	Jharkhand	—
9.	Karnataka	111.04
10.	Kerala	187.532
11.	Madhya Pradesh	30.00

1	2	3
12.	Maharashtra	—
13.	Manipur	707.82
14.	Mizoram	25.42
15.	Orissa	796.69
16.	Punjab	460.935
17.	Rajasthan	247.45
18.	Sikkim	-
19.	Tamil Nadu	177.06
20.	Tripura	75.00
21.	Uttar Pradesh	99.67
22.	Uttaranchal	42.4
23.	West Bengal	420.29
24.	Chandigarh (UT)	-
	R&D activities/General	320.02
	Total	5300.322

Import of Wheat

*460. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the red wheat imported from Australia and Canada for distribution through Fair Price Shops has reportedly found no takers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the cost of import of such wheat alongwith loss incurred thereon;

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

(e) if so, the details and the action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. Though there is a preference for white wheat, red wheat has been accepted for distribution by Fair Price Shops.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 55 lakh MTs of wheat has been imported, as per tender specifications at a weighted average price of US \$ 205.31 per MT. No loss has been incurred in this regard.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Standard of Purity of Drugs

4269. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made available impurities both toxic and non toxic to drug manufacturers who are required to maintain standard of purity and standardization of drugs;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to provide the entire range of the impurity profiles from National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research at reasonable prices to Small Scale Pharma Units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) No Sir, NIPER, Mohali is not entrusted with this job. However, on the instance of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, the Pharma Industry Associations has formed a non-profitable trust under the name of Indian Foundation for Pharmaceutical Reference Standards (IFPRS) for supply of reference standards to manufacturers at reasonable prices.

Soft Loan to Gujarat

4270. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a representation to Union Government for grant of soft loan for re-organization of Cooperative Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat has requested the Government of India to grant a soft loan of Rs. 1500 crore for revitalization of urban cooperative banks.

(c) At present, there is no scheme under which such assistance can be provided to the State Government.

[Translation]

Prices of Patented Medicines

4271. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up any plan to control the prices of patented medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain multinational companies have opposed the said proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) In the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 it has been proposed, *inter alia*, that the patented drugs (formulations under product patent) that would be launched in India after 1st January, 2005 would be subjected to price negotiations before granting them marketing approval. The Cabinet Note on proposed National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 was placed before the Cabinet for its consideration/approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11th January, 2007. It was decided that the matter, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM has since been constituted. The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007. The GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

Joint Survey of Forest land for Railway route

4272. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct a joint survey of the Forest land to be used for the railway route between Jajon and Anandpur Sahib;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

The MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No such proposal for carrying out joint survey of the forest land to be used for the railway route between Jajon and Anandpur Sahib is under consideration of the Ministry.

[English]

Funds for Development of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

4273. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the funds allocated under centrally sponsored schemes for the development of animal husbandry and dairying and fisheries during the current financial year?

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): An amount of Rs. 333.19 crore has been allocated under centrally sponsored schemes for the development of animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries during the current financial year.

State Level Agricultural Research Extension Committees

4274. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has any proposal to develop and to transfer technologies to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ICAR proposes to set up State Level Agricultural Research Extension Committees;

(d) if so, the details and functions thereof; and

(e) the time by which these Committees are 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) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has created a network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in 551 rural districts of the country, aiming at technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology/products and its dissemination through training of farmers and extension personnel. These KVKs have been sanctioned under State Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, Non-Governmental Organizations, State Governments and other educational institutions.

(c) to (e) Each KVK has a provision of Scientific Advisory Committee to review and guide the implementation of KVK activities. The Council has no proposal to set up State level Agricultural Research Extension Committees.

Save Grain Campaign

4275. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Save Grain Campaign (SGC) offices in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether no SGC office has been set up in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of technologies and technical know-how developed and transferred to farmers by the Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute to minimise losses 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) The details of Save Grain Campaign (SGC) offices in the country, State-wise are given below:-

S.No.	Location of SGC offices	Name of the States covered
1	2	3
1.	Bangalore	Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep
2.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh
3.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
4.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar, Tripura and Sikkim
5.	Chandigarh	Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Chandigarh

1	2	3
6.	Guwahati	Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram
7.	Ghaziabad	Western Districts of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Uttarakhand
8.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry
9.	Jaipur	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
10.	Lucknow	Central and Eastern Districts of Uttar Pradesh
11.	Patna	Bihar and Jharkhand
12.	Pune	Maharashtra and Goa

(b) No, Sir. SGC office had been set up at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI) had developed different designs of indoor and out-door metal and non-metallic grain storage bins for minimising losses of foodgrains at farm level. Besides, it had also developed code of practices for safe storage of foodgrains for farmers. The technologies and technical know-how developed by IGMRI are disseminated among the farmers by SGC offices.

Cleaning of Yamuna

4276. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government of Delhi has submitted any report to the Union Government regarding implementation of Yamuna Cleaning Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action on cleaning of River Yamuna is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry has not received any report regarding implementation of Yamuna Cleaning Scheme from Government of Delhi. It has, however, received a copy of the Project prepared by Delhi Jal Board for laying of interceptor sewers along the Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara drains through the Planning Commission. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 3.04.2007 in W.P. no. 725/1994 has constituted a committee comprising multi-disciplinary experts from various agencies to examine the viability of this proposal.

(c) The Delhi Jal Board has submitted time frame for enhancement of the utilization of existing sewage treatment capacities and also the creation of new capacities to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The DJB targets to attain utilization of sewage treatment capacity along with the implicit expansion of the capacity to the level of 2081 mld by December, 2007, 2326 mld by December 2008, 2780 mld by 2009 and 3791 mld by 2015 subject to the required budgetary and non-budgetary resources being available.

POSCO in Orissa

4277. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Korean steel major Pohang Steel Company (POSCO) has decided to withdraw its proposal to set up a steel plant at Paradeep in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the progress so far made for the setting up of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The progress so far made by M/s. POSCO India (P) Ltd. for setting up of steel plant in the State of Orissa is as below:—

- POSCO India Private Limited has been set up with a paid up capital of USD 51.3 million in September 2005.

- Government of Orissa has sanctioned 1135 acres of land in September 2006 to the company in Erasma Block in Jagatsingpur district in Orissa and process to lease out 2431 acres is underway.
- The company has engaged more than 300 persons.
- A Rehabilitation and Periphery Development Advisory Committee (RPDAC) has been constituted in June 2006.
- An investment of Rs. 120 crore has been made by the company till date.

Mango Production Affected due to Diseases

4278. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 25 percent mango production is being affected every year due to infestation of diseases during flowering period in the country; and

(b) if so, the preventive steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Common diseases affecting mango crops during flowering season are powdery mildew and blossom blight. These diseases do not cause widespread damage as control measures easily available and adopted. The preventive measures advised and being adopted by farmers:

- Powdery mildew : Two sprays of wettable sulphur (2g/l)/Tridemorph/Dinocap/ Hexaconazole at 15 days intervals from panicle emergence.
- Blossom blight: Application of combination of Carbendazim + Iprodion/Mancozeb + Dinocap.
- For hopper, first spray of Imidacloprid (0.3 ml/ 10 l) at flower initiation and need based spray of carbaryl (2g/l) after fruit set:

Government of India has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle of plant protection. Government has established Central Integrated

Pest Management (IPM) Centres across the country to, *inter alia*, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). Further, to assist the States, Central Government has established 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory under the scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India". The mandate of these Centres is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and Human Resource Development in Integrated Pest management (IPM) by imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). IPM packages of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed and circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin for use by extension functionaries and farmers. To check the spread of plant diseases, Government of India issues advisories to State Governments, from time to time to constitute survey teams for pest surveillance/monitoring so that timely control measures could be taken by the farmers. Also, CIPMCs located across the country are conducting field surveys for pest monitoring and submit their survey result/reports to State department of Agriculture to enable them to take timely control measures.

[Translation]

Integrated Decision Support System

4279. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 5 Decision Support Systems are proposed to be developed by National Institute of Hydrology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which said Decision Support Systems likely to be merged to create as Integrated Decision Support System;

(d) whether the said Decision Support Systems are likely to be used to resolve problems related to water resources management; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (e) 5 Decision Support Systems (DSS) are in the areas of (a) Surface Water Planning; (b) Integrated Operation of Reservoirs; (c) Conjunctive Surface Water and Ground Water Planning; (d) Drought Monitoring Assessment and Management; and (e) Water Quality to be integrated into one comprehensive system during implementation of Hydrology Project-II with a view to address the various issues related to Integrated Water Resources Development and Management.

[English]

Promotion of Palm Oil Production

4280. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for the promotion of palm oil production in Orissa in view of its vast potential in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating central assistance 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing Oil Palm Development Programme under "Integrated Schemes of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 10 States including the State of Orissa. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided towards the cost of planting material, cultivation inputs, installation of drip irrigation system, diesel pump sets, training, development of waste land, extension and publicity, establishment and staff, frontline demonstrations, leaf nutrients analysis laboratories and testing of genotypes under various environmental conditions etc. The scheme is implemented on 75:25 fund sharing basis between Government of India and State Governments. During the current year, the Central Government is yet to receive the Annual Action Plan under ISOPOM from the State Government of Orissa. After the receipt of Annual Action Plan of the State of Orissa for 2007-08, further action will be taken.

*[Translation]***Population of Kites**

4281. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any estimate of the number of kites (a kind of bird) in the country;

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

(c) whether the number of such kites in Delhi is decreasing;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. No such systematic survey has been carried out to ascertain the number of kites in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the information received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, there are no reports to indicate that the number of kites in Delhi is decreasing.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Exodus of Agricultural Scientists

4282. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural scientists of the country are reportedly opting for VRS and joining the corporate sector for want of better salary and facilities;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during 2005, 2006 and 2007 till date;

(c) whether it is likely to affect the agricultural teaching adversely in the country; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps being taken to meet the situation?

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. Relatively very few Agricultural Scientists are opting for voluntary retirement for personal reasons.

(b) 2005 - 05

2006 - 09

2007 - 05

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

*[English]***Environmental Clearance to Power Plant in Tamil Nadu**

4283. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from Government of Tamil Nadu to give environmental clearance to power project proposed to be set up in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Union Government on these requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Government of Tamil Nadu have requested for an early grant of environmental clearance to the proposed Tuticorin Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) by M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd., a Central Public Sector Undertaking, at Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu.

(c) The above proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee for Thermal Power and Coal Mine Projects (EAC) in its meeting held on January 9-10, 2007. The proposal has been included in the agenda for consideration of the EAC in its meeting scheduled on May 7-9, 2007, in the light of the additional information

and clarifications received from M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

Brahmaputra Board

4284. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has submitted Master Plan (Part-III) dealing with tributaries of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers in Assam and few rivers in Tripura to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the status of earlier two parts;

(c) the cost involved in third part and the expenditure so far incurred on earlier two parts indicating the cost escalation, if any, incurred therein; and

(d) the details of schemes of the third part implemented during Tenth Plan and proposed for execution during Eleventh Plan along with total outlay, utilization during 10th plan as well as annual allocation made for 11th plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Brahmaputra Board has prepared the Master Plan of the Main Stem of Brahmaputra (Master Plan Part I), Barak and its tributaries (Master Plan II) and identified 52 numbers of tributaries under Master Plan (Part III). So far, Government of India has approved the Master Plan Part-I, Part-II and 34 Sub-basin Master Plan under Part-III. Further, 3 numbers of Sub-basin Master Plans have also been completed.

(c) The total cost involved in the implementation of the schemes recommended in third part of the Master Plan, based on 2004 price level, is estimated to be around Rs. 11674.00 crores. The expenditure incurred on the works recommended in the earlier Master Plans I & II was Rs. 52.78 crores.

(d) The two schemes recommended in part III of the Master Plan and implemented during X plan are (i) protection of Majuli Island and (ii) Anti-erosion works Kusiabli area near Dimapur in the river Dhansiri (S), for which outlays of Rs. 41.28 crores and Rs. 2.64 crore were provided during X Plan. As against this, the actual expenditure was Rs. 20.55 crores and Rs. 1.74 crores

respectively. The balance expenditure on these works will spill over to XI Five Year Plan.

Distribution of RBD Palmolein under PDS

4285. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government for exemption/relaxation in import/purchase of RBD Palmolein by the Union/State Government agencies for distribution to the Antyodaya and Below Poverty Line (BPL) card holders under Public Distribution System (PDS) in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The import of edible oil (except Coconut Oil) is under Open General Licence (OGL) and there is no import allocation from Central Government. The State Government is at liberty to import edible oil according to their requirements.

Seed Banks

4286. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seed banks functioning in the country at present, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open some new seed banks during Eleventh Plan Period;

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

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose alongwith the number of farmers likely to be benefited therefrom?

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) Seeds banks are functioning in the States of Andhra

Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, through the State Seeds Corporations (SSCs) of these States and National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India. The seed under seed bank is kept by Corporations in their godowns situated in States at various locations.

(b) and (c) Presently, there is no proposal to open new seed banks in the Eleventh Plan Period. However, during the Tenth Plan Period States of Bihar and Tamil Nadu were included to implement the component, Establishment & Maintenance of Seed Bank of the restructured scheme "Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds" of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

(d) An amount of Rs. 6.00 crore has been proposed for the first year of the 11th Plan under the component. As the objective of the Seed Bank scheme is to meet requirement of seed during natural calamities and unforeseen conditions, it is not possible to estimate the number of farmers likely to be benefited.

**National Institute of Pharmaceutical
Education and Research**

4287. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) does not encourage consultancy support to Small Scale Pharma (SSP) units and have deliberately kept high cost for services, consultancy and projects;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued by NIPER for interaction by the faculty to be helpful and liberal to SSP units;

(c) the total number of papers and patents published by the faculty of NIPER alongwith details of commercial exploitation of such Government funded research by the SSP units;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage development of small and medium scale pharma units through NIPER;

(e) whether the selection Committee and other related Committees do not have any representative of SSP industry; and

(f) if so, the reason therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) NIPER has similar rules on consultancy as existing in other similar institutes of national importance like IIT, Delhi. Rules are uniform and applicable to whole of the pharmaceutical industry irrespective of size.

(b) No separate provisions on the matter of issue of guidelines exist (as for other institutes of national importance).

(c) NIPER has published 755 Research papers and filed 69 patents (9 granted and 2 commercialised). The technologies developed by NIPER can be commercially exploited by any pharmaceutical industry, after following the uniform procedures as laid down by the institute.

(d) As a measure to encourage Small Scale Pharmaceutical units, in its 46th meeting, BOG, NIPER has constituted a sub-committee consisting of Dr. C.L. Kaul, Former Director, NIPER and Shri Lalit Kumar Jain, Member of the Board of Governors, NIPER and Director, NIPER to work out special provisions for Medium and Small Scale Industries with respect to providing the consultancy.

(e) There is no such member from Small Scale Pharma Industry in the Selection Committee or other such related Committees.

(f) Such expert Committees are constituted comprising of highly qualified persons from academics and other related fields as per Rules laid down in the Ordinance issued as per provisions contained in the NIPER Act, 1998.

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients

4288. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative details of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) that are being imported from China at low price than manufacturing cost in the country which has led to closure of bulk drug unit and rendered lakh of people jobless; and

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association (India) has informed that especially because of low value imports of drugs from China, Indian manufacturers of drugs like Ampicillin, Amoxicillin, Vitamin C, Paracetamol, Analgin, Ciprofloxacin, Norfloxacin and Diclofenac Sodium etc. have been seriously affected. The Chinese bulk drugs are cheaper when compared to Indian products because of economies of scale, lower tariffs of power and tax structure etc.

(b) The Government of India has been giving some protection to industry by levying Anti-dumping/related duties on such imports. The Directorate General Anti Dumping under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, initiates proceedings wherever complaints are received by them of such dumping and if proved, levy anti-dumping duties. Besides this, registration for all imports of bulk drugs is compulsory with Drug Controller General (India) under the Foreign Trade Policy.

Committee on Global Warming

4289. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an Expert Advisory Committee on Global Warming;

(b) if so, the time by which the Expert Committee is likely to be constituted; and

(c) the time by which the Expert Committee is likely to submit its report with special reference to its impact on Indian economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is in the process of forming an Expert Committee to study the impacts of climate change and to identify measures that we may have to take in the future.

[Translation]

Leakage of Chlorine

4290. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed the incident of leakage of Chlorine gas in Kota, Rajasthan;

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

(c) the details of lives and property lost as a result thereof;

(d) whether compensation has been provided to the families of the people killed and injured in the incident;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) As per information of the Factories & Boilers Inspectorate, Government of Rajasthan, chlorine leaked from a hole in the shell of a tonner on 21st October, 2006 in the Premises of M/s Vishal Chem Trade Pvt. Ltd., F-31 Chambal Industrial Area, Kota, Rajasthan. The premises is used to store chemicals and chlorine gas for further trading. It is not used for manufacture of any product and does not fall under the Factories Act, 1948. A committee under the chairmanship of the District Collector was constituted and the committee submitted its report on the accident to the District Collector.

(c) The employees of M/s Vishal Chem Trade Pvt. Ltd. were not injured. However, 70 to 80 persons living around and passing by the premises were affected. While one person succumbed to his injuries, few were admitted in the government hospital for treatment, while others were discharged after first aid.

(d) to (f) As per the report of the Joint Labour Commissioner since none of the affected persons were employees of the unit they were not paid any compensation under the Workman Compensation Act. However, the family of the deceased was paid Rs. 1,00,000 by the occupier of the premises. As per records of the collector 55 people affected were paid Rs. 2,000 each and the wife of the deceased Rs. 10,000 from the Chief Minister Relief Fund.

[English]

Air Pollution In Rural Areas

4291. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air pollution is becoming widespread in rural areas due to spread of industries;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted about the volume of air pollution in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps the Government proposes to take to make general awareness about air pollution in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Air pollution in rural areas is not widespread. Except the particulate matter, other pollutants are generally well within the air quality standards. The contribution to higher values of Particulate Matter is generally due to re-suspension of road dust.

(b) and (c) As per the information available on record, no specific study has been conducted about the volume of air pollution in rural areas.

(d) The State Pollution Control Boards undertake awareness programme for creating awareness amongst industries from time to time, and organize pollution control awareness camps which include people living in rural areas.

Protection of Fish Species

4292. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large scale fishing has affected the marine eco-system drastically as reported in *The Hindu* dated March 8, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any effective measures for the protection of the fish species; 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 report in *Hindu* indicates the negative impact on the marine eco-system caused by large scale fishing on a global scale. It is true that in many parts of the world depletion of catches and imposition of catch quota, closing of area, etc. have taken place. In the case of India, as against a projected fishable potential of 3.93 million tonnes, only about 3 million tonnes of marine fish is being exploited currently. As such, no drastic effect on our marine ecosystem has been reported.

(b) and (c) The Government with the aim of attaining sustainability and to minimize possible adverse effect on marine eco-system has made ample provisions for regulation of fishing in the Marine Fishing Regulation Act of Coastal States/UTs. As per this, (a) Closed season is observed both on east and west coasts, (b) catching of endangered species is banned, (c) destructive fishing methods are prohibited, (d) outside the territorial waters, the Government of India has made letter of permission compulsory for entry into India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for fishing, (e) only Indian flag vessels are allowed to fish in the EEZ, (f) only resources specific fishing methods are permitted, (g) the total number of vessels that could be allowed in each resources specific category has been worked out and notified, and (h) an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee has been set up to oversee deep sea fishing activities at the Centre.

[Translation]

Assistance to Agricultural Labour

4293. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes being run to provide assistance to agricultural labour in case of accident in the country;

(b) whether any such scheme is being run in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether any grant is provided by the Union Government for the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) At present, there is no centrally sponsored scheme to provide assistance to agricultural labour in case of accident in the country. However, Government of India is implementing Janshree Bima Yojana for persons, including agricultural labour, living below or marginally above the poverty line. The scheme envisages insurance cover in case of natural death and disability due to the accident.

(b) Indira Krishi Shramik Durghatna Kshati Puri Yojana - 1982 is being run by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to provide assistance to agricultural labour in case of accidents or death by accident.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Assistance to Fishermen

4294. SHRI A. V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided assistance by way of loan and grant-in-aid for the fishermen who lost their fishing implements in Tsunami;

(b) if so, whether the assistance was given by commercial banks or any other financial agency; 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)

to (c) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has announced Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package (RGRP) and Tsunami Rehabilitation Package (TRP) for restoration of damages in the Tsunami affected States & UTs including fishery sector. Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 79720 lakh by way of grant-in-aid and Rs. 63924 lakh by way of loans has been allocated under these packages to the affected States/UTs for restoration of fisheries sector including assistance to fishermen who lost their fishing implements in Tsunami. It has been reported by some of the Tsunami affected States/UTs that commercial banks have also extended assistance to the fishermen. Financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 8171.32 lakh in Tamil Nadu, Rs. 311.17 lakh to Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 322.46 lakh in Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been provided by the commercial banks/financial agencies.

Petro Chemical Complexes

4295. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up some petro chemical complexes during 2007-08;

(b) if so, whether any of those projects are also being set up by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL); and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Government has approved a policy for setting up of Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions in March, 2007. The Government has approved, during the year 2006-07, Assam Gas Cracker Project at Lepetkata, Distt. Dibrugarh, Assam, with Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) as the lead promoter, with equity arrangement of GAIL: 70%, Oil India Limited (OIL), Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Assam Industrial Development Corporation (Government of Assam) 10% each. The total project cost is Rs. 5460.61 Crores (fixed cost). Capital Subsidy of Rs. 2138 Crores for the project during construction period of 5 years and Feedstock subsidy of Rs. 908.91 Crores for the project spread over 15 years of operation period has been approved. The project will produce polypropylene (PP) 60,000 TPA and High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Linear Low Density

Polyethylene (LLDPE) 220,000 TPA. A Joint Venture Company i.e. M/s Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Limited (BCPL) has been constituted for this purpose. The implementation will take 60 months.

Drug Price

4296. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed prices of number of medicines on suo-moto basis in the absence of non-submission of price approval applications;

(b) if so, names of medicines, producers, prices fixed and prices overcharged on suo-moto basis as well as existing prices;

(c) whether none of these producers has submitted the mandatory Form-III;

(d) if so, whether show cause notices were issued for marketing without price approval and non-submission of obligatory Form-III;

(e) if so, the details thereof, company-wise;

(f) whether the NPPA has received requests for fixation of prices of certain medicines; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of medicines and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (g) The prices of 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are controlled in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95 by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). The price fixation is a continuous process and prices are fixed/revised as per the formula given in para 7 of DPCO 1995 and established practices of costing and guidelines of NPPA.

The details of prices fixed based on applications and on suo-moto basis are given in the enclosed statement. Whenever manufacturers fail to submit applications in Form III within the period prescribed in the DPCO, NPPA

revises the prices on suo-moto basis if the prices are getting reduced. NPPA also fixes prices of formulations on suo-moto basis whenever it is noted that Scheduled formulations are being marketed without price approval. NPPA issues show cause notices to the defaulting companies whenever it is found that any company is manufacturing and marketing any Scheduled formulation without the requisite price approval under the provisions of DPCO 1995.

Statement

Details of Prices of Formulations Fixed/Revised under DPCO 1995

S.No.	Year	Suo-Moto Cases (Nos.)	Application Cases (Nos.)	Total Cases (Nos.)
1.	2002-03	72	68	140
2.	2003-04	404	102	506
3.	2004-05	221	111	332
4.	2005-06	803	215	1018
5.	2006-07	776	244	1020

[Translation]

Employment Generation in Flood Affected Areas

4297. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive policy to create more employment opportunities for the people belonging to the flood affected areas;

(b) if so, the extent to which the said policy is likely to be beneficial in providing employment to the poor people at various States especially in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether requests have been made to the Union Government for providing additional assistance for the implementation of various schemes for providing employment in certain States;

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

(e) the action taken in this regard, State-wise; and

(f) the number of poor people benefited so far from the said schemes during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Production of Mushroom

4298. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of mushroom recorded in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the concrete steps taken by the Government to promote production of mushroom 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) The production of mushroom in the country during the last three years is as under:

Year	Production in MT
2003-04	60,000
2004-05	70,000
2005-06	85,000

(b) Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal" to address all the issues related to development of horticulture which include promotion of

Mushrooms in these eleven States. Under the Mission, financial assistance @ Rs. 50.00 lakhs per unit is provided to State Governments for establishment of integrated mushroom units involved in promotion of Mushroom production in the concerned States such as production and supply of Mushroom spawn, imparting training on Mushroom cultivation etc. So far, about 21 Mushroom units have been established in these States.

Besides, as an innovative initiative of the State Governments of other parts of the country, assistance is provided for promotion of mushroom under National Horticulture Mission on project basis.

[Translation]

PSUs in Pharmaceutical Sector

4299. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Public Sector Undertakings functioning in Pharmaceutical Sector at present in the country, location-wise;

(b) the details out of the said undertakings which have been producing below their installed capacity, closed down, incurring loss in the country separately during the last three years;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the capacity and also to revive the closed undertakings in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The details of Pharmaceutical Public Sector Undertakings functioning under the administrative control of Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Location
1	2	3
1.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL)	Corporate Office at Gurgaon and 3 manufacturing units located at Rishikesh, Gurgaon and Hyderabad. It has also 2

1	2	3
		wholly owned subsidiary units namely IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd. located at Chennai and Bihar Drugs & Organic Chemicals Limited (BDOCL) located at Muzaffarpur.
2.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL)	Registered Office at Kolkata. It has four manufacturing units one each at Manikata at Kolkata, Panihati at North 24 Parganas (West Bengal), one at Mumbai (Maharashtra) and at Kanpur (U.P.).
3.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL)	Pimpri, Pune
4.	Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL)	Bangalore [(A Joint Venture of HAL and Karnataka State Industrial and Investment Development Corporation (KSIIDC)]
5.	Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL)	Jaipur [(A Joint Venture of IDPL and Rajasthan Industrial Investment Corporation (RIICO)]
6.	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Limited (ODCL)	Bhubaneswar [(A Joint Venture of IDPL and Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa (IPICOL)].

(b) to (d) IDPL, BCPL, HAL & ODCL are producing below their installed capacity and have been incurring losses, excepting in case of BCPL during 2003-04.

Government has approved revival plans of Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune and Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited, Kolkata. Efforts are on hand to revive the Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, as well. IDPL has plans to revive ODCL.

As a result of the winding up order passed by BIFR, Bengal Immunity Limited (BIL), Kolkata was closed w.e.f. 30.9.2003. All employees were relieved w.e.f. 30.9.2003 under Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS). High Court of Calcutta appointed Official Liquidator (O.L.). However, first at the instance of BIL Employees Union and subsequently at the intervention of this Department, High Court of Kolkata stayed the appointment of O.L. In order to explore the possibility of revival of BIL, a Committee was constituted. The Committee has since submitted the report.

One PSU namely Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Limited (MAPL), a Joint Venture of HAL and State Industrial & Investment Corporation of Maharashtra (SIICOM), was closed on 30.6.2004.

Vacant Posts of Doctors in ESI Hospitals

4300. SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doctors employed in Employees State Insurance (ESI) Hospitals, State-wise;

(b) the number of sanctioned posts of Doctors and other categories of employees, vis-a-vis filled up during the last three years in these hospitals alongwith the present status;

(c) the number of posts out of the above lying vacant presently; and

(d) the time by which the said posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) The details of doctors working in ESI Hospitals, State-wise as on 31.03.2006 are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) The position of doctors and other categories of employees during the last three years in ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries, State-wise, is given in the enclosed statement-II, III and IV.

(d) Filling up of vacancies in ESI Hospitals in the States is to be done by the State Government. In January 2007, Chief Ministers of the respective States have been requested to expedite filling up of the vacancies of all categories of staff.

In Hospitals run by ESI Corporation, the recruitment

process for filling up of vacancies of Specialist doctors/ Medical Officers has been completed.

Regarding filling up of vacancies of para-medical staff, powers have been delegated to the respective Medical Superintendents and they have been given directions to fill up the vacancies on an urgent basis.

Statement I

Details of Doctors Working in ESI Hospitals State-wise

Sl. No.	State	Doctors		
		Sanctioned	In position	Vacant
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	296	133	163
2.	Assam	49	36	13
3.	Bihar	55	21	34
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	49	36	13
5.	Chhattisgarh	33	33	—
6.	Delhi	641	356	285
7.	Goa	41	41	—
8.	Gujarat	717	537	180
9.	Haryana	110	99	11
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2	—
11.	Karnataka	269	234	35
12.	Kerala	313	214	99
13.	Madhya Pradesh	277	233	44
14.	Maharashtra	738	600	138
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Orissa	135	93	42
17.	Pondicherry	24	18	06
18.	Punjab	188	157	31
19.	Rajasthan	204	195	09
20.	Tamilnadu	366	322	44

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Uttar Pradesh	332	233	99
22.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	—
23.	West Bengal	890	730	160
24.	Jammu and Kashmir	19	10	09
25.	Jharkhand	62	24	38
	Total	5810	4357	1453

Statement II

*Details of the Sanctioned Posts of Doctors & Other Categories of Employees in
ESI Medical Scheme State-wise during the year 2003-04*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Medical			Para Medical			Others		
		S	P	V	S	P	V	S	P	V
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	720	414	306	1723	1235	488	1880	1477	403
2.	Assam	102	85	17	181	165	26	241	235	6
3.	Bihar	228	86	142	178	70	106	293	158	135
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	55	32	23	115	66	49	72	49	23
5.	Chhattisgarh	37	32	5	70	59	11	101	88	13
6.	Delhi	1057	667	390	2456	1785	671	1791	1339	452
7.	Goa	37	34	3	86	83	3	89	82	7
8.	Gujarat	827	625	202	1540	1010	530	2149	1825	324
9.	Haryana	284	248	36	663	562	101	911	723	188
10.	Himachal Pradesh	24	22	2	42	34	8	59	54	5
11.	Karnataka	749	518	231	1250	674	576	1527	1143	384
12.	Kerala	644	480	164	1240	998	242	1640	1364	276
13.	Madhya Pradesh	389	329	60	671	540	131	1107	1020	87
14.	Maharashtra	889	751	138	1880	1380	480	3792	2902	890
15.	Meghalaya	2	2	-	8	4	4	15	10	5
16.	Orissa	200	180	40	403	339	64	602	484	118

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
17.	Pondicherry	47	34	13	220	194	26	64	64	—
18.	Punjab	333	327	6	624	579	45	1044	811	233
19.	Rajasthan	340	262	78	676	528	148	938	774	164
20.	Tamil Nadu	754	609	145	2279	1674	605	2433	1827	606
21.	Uttar Pradesh	658	482	176	1482	1048	434	1169	1459	-
22.	Uttaranchal	9	5	4	52	48	4	7	7	-
23.	West Bengal	795	574	221	2395	1545	850	3173	2252	921
24.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	9	3	33	30	3	38	28	10
25.	Jharkhand	137	62	75	236	80	156	388	96	290
TOTAL		9329	6849	2480	20493	14730	5763	26023	20273	5750

S= Sanctioned, P= In-position, V=Vacant.

Statement III

*Details of the Sanctioned Posts of Doctors & Other Categories of Employees in
ESI Medical Scheme State-wise during the year 2004-05*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Medical			Para Medical			Others		
		S	P	V	S	P	V	S	P	V
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	719	434	285	1727	1313	414	1914	1484	430
2.	Assam	102	85	17	191	164	27	241	237	4
3.	Bihar	120	61	59	284	113	171	330	162	178
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	55	48	7	117	91	26	72	56	16
5.	Chhattisgarh	41	31	10	74	60	14	105	89	16
6.	Delhi	1038	625	413	2458	1735	723	1666	1289	377
7.	Goa	37	34	03	86	83	3	89	84	5
8.	Gujarat	827	611	216	1540	933	607	2149	1748	401
9.	Haryana	284	252	32	663	534	129	916	709	207
10.	Himachal Pradesh	25	25	-	45	37	8	59	42	17
11.	Karnataka	662	518	144	1141	859	282	1174	914	260

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12.	Kerala	637	447	190	1331	1028	303	1392	1244	148
13.	Madhya Pradesh	388	339	49	705	545	160	1095	1004	91
14.	Maharashtra	472	345	127	1625	1161	464	3728	2819	909
15.	Meghalaya	2	2	-	8	3	5	15	11	4
16.	Orissa	200	147	53	402	356	46	564	484	80
17.	Pondicherry	47	37	10	220	204	16	64	63	1
18.	Punjab	238	250	+ 12	565	582	17	1048	767	281
19.	Rajasthan	316	258	58	659	525	134	772	707	65
20.	Tamilnadu	748	632	116	2247	1622	625	2506	1727	779
21.	Uttar Pradesh	541	434	107	1405	1126	279	1676	1418	158
22.	Uttaranchal	10	4	6	18	12	6	43	41	2
23.	West Bengal	797	582	215	2405	1472	933	3189	2099	1090
24.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	9	3	32	26	6	38	28	10
25.	Jharkhand	180	80	100	281	90	191	452	105	347
Total		8498	6290	2208	20229	14674	5555	25297	19331	5966

Sanctioned Strength

P = In-Position

V = Vacant

Statement IV

Details of the Sanctioned Posts of Doctors & Other Categories of Employees in ESI Medical Scheme, State-wise during the year 2005-06

Sl.No.	State/UT	Medical			Para Medical			Others		
		S	P	V	S	P	V	S	P	V
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	721	486	235	1727	1161	566	1914	1608	306
2.	Assam	119	31	88	212	183	29	229	216	13
3.	Bihar	122	68	54	302	116	186	327	152	175
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	55	45	10	117	90	27	72	57	15
5.	Chhattisgarh	38	28	10	70	60	10	84	70	14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.	Delhi	1040	577	463	2453	1740	713	1807	1264	543
7.	Goa	37	31	06	86	83	03	89	84	05
8.	Gujarat	772	526	246	1453	922	531	1733	1515	218
9.	Haryana	284	248	36	663	552	111	916	720	198
10.	Himachal Pradesh	22	27	+5	52	49	03	56	48	08
11.	Karnataka	625	433	192	1141	859	282	1128	991	157
12.	Kerala	633	463	170	1094	866	228	1649	1443	206
13.	Madhya Pradesh	388	120	268	674	533	141	1101	991	110
14.	Maharashtra	610	414	196	1854	1245	619	4111	3095	1016
15.	Meghalaya	2	2	—	8	3	05	15	12	03
16.	Orissa	239	157	82	432	347	85	596	492	104
17.	Pondicherry	47	38	09	216	200	16	65	63	02
18.	Punjab	304	255	49	799	630	169	1294	789	505
19.	Rajasthan	317	268	49	654	514	140	801	711	90
20.	Tamilnadu	746	607	139	2053	1412	641	2412	1747	665
21.	Uttar Pradesh	640	461	179	1571	1121	450	1623	1415	208
22.	Uttaranchal	11	7	04	24	13	11	58	38	20
23.	West Bengal	797	558	239	2405	1506	899	3189	2044	1145
24.	Jammu and Kashmir	24	12	12	36	35	11	44	30	14
25.	Jharkhand	180	178	02	308	90	218	419	102	317
Total		8773	6040	2733	20414	14320	6094	25732	19677	6055

S=Sanctioned, P=In-position, V=Vacant.

Ethanol Production from Sugarcane

4301. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the way for manufacturing ethanol directly
from sugarcane has been paved by introducing
amendments in related legislations in certain States of
the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have
amended laws to this effect;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement
the scheme for promoting the manufacturing of ethanol
directly from sugarcane; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Pharmaceutical Research and Education Centre

4302. **SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:**
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up State-run pharmaceutical research and education centres in the country;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure involved therein; and

(d) the criteria fixed to open these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Realising the need for setting up of more NIPER like institutes in India a committee consisting of experts from NIPER was constituted by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. The Committee has submitted its report in January, 2006 and it has recommended for the setting up of NIPER like institutes in other parts of the country. The Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals has initiated action for setting up of more NIPERs or its

Centres accordingly. However, no final decision has been taken in regard to their numbers and places by the Government.

(c) The expected expenditure on setting up of each NIPER as suggested by the Expert Committee is Rs. 200 crores which also includes Rs. 50 crores of recurring operating expenditure for first five years. This is being further examined by the Department in consultation with Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure and other various agencies.

(d) The Expert Committee has recommended the opening of new NIPERs based on status and need of pharma industry, pharma education and other resources and also health care needs of the people at large in that area.

Price Index for Spices

4303. **SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:** Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government keeps any records on consumer price index for spices; and

(b) if so, the average price index recorded during the last one year?

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 Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India compiles and maintains Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (Base year 2001=100) for various Groups and Sub-Groups of items including Condiments and Spices.

(b) The average price index of condiments and spices at All-India level recorded during last one year i.e. January to December, 2006 are given below: -

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Index	112	106	104	105	107	110	114	118	122	127	130	132	116

Setting up of Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

4304. **SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:** Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from Kerala for setting up of Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal seeking central assistance for establishment of a Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in Kerala was received from the State Government in June, 2005. Agricultural Education being a State subject, establishment of new Universities falls within the purview of concerned State Governments. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research/Department of Agricultural Research and Education extends limited financial assistance to the already established State Agricultural Universities for strengthening and development of Agricultural Education. Accordingly a suitable reply was sent to the State Government.

Free Marketing of Agricultural Produce

4305. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been advocating for free marketing of agricultural produce and most of the States have already done so;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this decision has helped to bring private sector participation?

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 Central Government has advised the State Governments by circulating a Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) Act in 2003, to make amendments in their respective Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts, to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to facilitate setting up of competitive markets in private and cooperative sector. The development of contract farming, direct marketing and alternative competitive market in private and cooperative sector would provide freedom to farmers to sell their produce in such market, which will ensure them better prices/services. The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim,

Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Union Territory of Chandigarh have made amendments on the major areas of reforms suggested in the Model Law and Haryana, Karnataka, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Gujarat have made partial reforms. Government of Bihar has repealed the APMC Act. The States and UT of Kerala, Manipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep have no APMC Acts. The APMC Act in Tamil Nadu already had required provisions. Since agriculture marketing is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to amend the APMC Act as suited to them.

(c) Contract Farming is being practiced in number of States, which has benefited the farming community by way of assured returns as well as availability of quality products to the industry. Under Contract Farming arrangements, the private sponsoring companies/agencies are providing technical know-how and quality inputs for getting desired produce from the farmers. Under the provisions of Direct Marketing, many private companies are making purchase of agricultural produce from farmers directly. This has assured better price to the farmer at his doorstep without going through the network of commission agents. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme for Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization with effect from 14.06.2005 in such States which have amended their APMC Act. The aim of the Scheme is to encourage rapid development of marketing infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors by encouraging private investment. Under this Scheme, credit-linked back-ended subsidy is provided on the capital cost of general or commodity specific infrastructure including private markets/farmers markets/cooperative markets, other markets user facilities, functional infrastructure for direct marketing and e-trading and mobile infrastructure for marketing of agricultural commodities including the facilities for grading, standardization and certification of agricultural produce. By 31st March, 2007, 1540 market infrastructure related projects with a total financial outlay of Rs. 276.42 crore have been sanctioned by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and a subsidy of Rs. 27.96 crore has been released under the scheme.

*[Translation]***Unutilized Manpower of Farmers**

4306. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of the country do not get work for most part of the year due to which the manpower of the country remains unutilized;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;

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

(d) the action 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) Work opportunities for farmers depend on farming activities. Farming is characterized by busy and lean seasons. During busy season, farmers are employed. Longer is the busy season, more is the employment. During lean season, employment opportunity decreases.

(b) and (c) The employment pattern is reflected in the quinquennial survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per the 61st round of NSS, in rural India, the proportion of 'all' male workers engaged in the agricultural activities declined gradually from 81 per cent in 1977-78 to 67 per cent in 2004-05. For 'all' female workers, the decline was less i.e., from 88 per cent in 1977-78 to 83 per cent in 2004-05.

(d) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been notified on September 7, 2005 and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) was launched on February 2, 2006. Union Budget 2007-08 announced the extension of the NREGS to 300 districts in the country. Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is in place in the districts not covered by NREGS.

Production and Demand of Foodgrains

4307. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the production and demand of various foodgrains in the country;

(b) if so, the break-up thereof during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the foodgrains required for various welfare schemes of the Government alongwith its actual procurement made during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken and assistance provided for increasing the production of those foodgrains which are in short supply?

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 demand projections of foodgrains for the Tenth Plan Period (2002-03 to 2006-07) were made by a Working Group constituted by the Planning Commission. Table below gives the demand, based on the normative approach, and production of various foodgrains in the country during the period 2003-04 to 2006-07:

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Demand			Production		
	Cereals	Pulses	Foodgrains	Cereals	Pulses	Foodgrains
2003-04	192.53	16.74	209.27	198.28	14.91	213.19
2004-05	196.18	17.06	213.24	185.23	13.13	198.36
2005-06	199.91	17.38	217.29	195.20	13.39	208.60
2006-07	203.71	17.71	221.42	197.67*	14.10*	211.78*

* 3rd advance estimates as on 04.04.2007.

(c) Table below gives the offtake of foodgrains from the central pool for welfare schemes and procurement made from 2003-04 to 2006-07 (financial year wise):

(Million Tonnes)		
Year	Offtake of foodgrains for welfare schemes	Procurement
2003-04	13.50	37.23
2004-05	10.61	41.59
2005-06	9.75	42.63
2006-07	4.13 (upto January 2007)	33.53 (upto February 2007)

Note: The offtake figures are provisional.

(d) To increase cereals production in the country, Centrally Sponsored Schemes "Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), ICDP-Wheat and ICDP-Coarse Cereals" are in place from October 2000. Under the schemes, assistance is provided for propagation of improved/hybrid production technology, integrated pest management, transfer of technology, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds. Government released to the States Rs. 1189.20 crore in 2004-05, Rs. 819.15 crore in 2005-06 and Rs. 911.27 crore in 2006-07 under Macro Management of Agriculture.

To increase pulses production, Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is in place since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments for production of breeder/foundation/certified seeds, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development and integrated pest management. Government released Rs. 176.28 crore in 2004-05, Rs. 212.14 crore in 2005-06 and Rs. 211.50 crore in 2006-07 under ISOPOM.

A minimum price guarantee is also provided to the foodgrains growers through the price support mechanism. For the crop year 2006-07, Government has announced an additional incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal over the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 750 per quintal on procurement of wheat. Similarly, an additional incentive

bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal over MSP was announced for paddy in 2006-07. Attractive MSPs have been announced by the Government for pulse crops also.

[English]

Defaulter Industries

4308. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details about total number of defaulters in depositing the PF amounts with the authority though collected from the workers and employees during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken any action to recover the amount;

(c) if so, the details of the outstanding PF amount collected from the workers but not deposited with the PF authorities;

(d) whether the Government has also taken any penal action against the erring companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The number of defaulting establishments (un-exempted sector) as on 31st March, 2004, 2005 and 2006 was 51990, 40608 and 76476 respectively. This includes the establishments which have defaulted in remittance of employees' share of contribution.

(b) Recovery of dues is effected in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. This includes prosecution under Section 14 of the Act, filing of complaints under Section 406/409 of IPC, attachment of properties/bank accounts and arrest of defaulters.

(c) The amount outstanding from defaulting establishments (including employees' share) was Rs. 1724.19 crore (un-exempted sector) as on 31.03.2006.

(d) and (e) Complaints under Section 406/409 of Indian Penal Code are filed against the defaulting establishments who deduct employees' share but fail to remit the same to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

*[Translation]***Organic Farm Products**

4309. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies engaged in organic farming business in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether any criteria and terms and conditions have been fixed by the Government for conducting business in organic farming;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some of these companies are reported to have been violating the said norms;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the action taken against the erring companies; and

(g) the number of laboratories engaged in testing organic farm products in the country, 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) As per information received by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce & Industry there are 711 certified organic projects, which include farms, processing units and traders in 17 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir and Chhattisgarh.

(b) and (c) There is no standards prescribed for organic products for domestic market. However, organic products for export are required to be certified by an accredited inspection and certification agency under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

(d) to (f) No such report has come to the notice of Government.

(g) As per NPOP, any ISO 17025 accredited laboratory can test the organic products, if required.

However, the National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL) has not accredited any testing laboratory for testing of organic farm products. However, it has accredited 56 laboratories of the country for testing of food and agricultural products. State-wise number of such laboratories are as under:-

State	No. of Labs Accredited
Andhra Pradesh	05
Delhi	09
Gujarat	01
Haryana	04
Jammu and Kashmir	01
Karnataka	06
Kerala	05
Madhya Pradesh	04
Maharashtra	10
Punjab	02
Tamil Nadu	03
Uttar Pradesh	03
West Bengal	03

Safety of Dams

4310. ADV. SURESH KURUP:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the Dams in the country which are more than hundred years old, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the safety of these Dams;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per latest information available in 'National Register of Large Dams' there are 98 large dams in India which are more than 100 years old. The State-wise list of such dams is enclosed as Statement.

(b) Yes Sir. As per the "Dam Safety Procedure" laid down by the Standing Committee for Dam Safety in India, all large dams (irrespective of their age) are required to be inspected twice a year during pre and post monsoon periods. These inspections are to be carried out by the "Dam Safety Organizations" of respective States/owners of dams; and the consolidated information is to be submitted in the form of annual reports to "Dam Safety Monitoring Directorate" of Central Water Commission (CWC). As on date, the consolidated reports for the years 2005 and earlier period have been received from 13 States and from National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

(c) From the consolidated reports made available to CWC by State governments/owners of dam, the major deficiencies observed in case of large dams are as under:

- (a) longitudinal cracks on top of dams,
- (b) seepage of water through dam body,
- (c) sweating of downstream slope,
- (d) Chocking of drainage holes,
- (e) erosion and damage of concrete in buckets/stilling basins/end-seal wall etc.
- (f) scouring downstream of bucket and end seal,
- (g) Erosion/damage to apron floor,
- (h) Opening of joints of abutments, transition walls, end-seal walls etc.

(d) At the level of Central Government, a Standing Committee on Dam safety under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, Central Water Commission was constituted in August 1982. The Standing Committee finalized the Dam Safety Procedures in July 1986, for periodic inspection and monitoring of safety status of large dams. This Committee was reconstituted as the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) in October 1987. The main function of the Committee is to monitor the implementation of action points on Dam Safety Procedures at the Centre

and at the State level. The Committee also oversees dam safety activities in various States/Organizations and suggests improvements to bring these in line with the latest state-of-the-art consistent with the Indian conditions. It acts as a forum for exchange of views on techniques adopted for remedial measures for dams in distress.

Since dam owners in India are mostly State Governments with limited financial resources for rehabilitation of dams, the Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Project (DSARP) Phase-I was taken up with the assistance of the World Bank. This project, implemented in 4 States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu under overall guidance of Central Water Commission, was completed in September 1999 at a cost of Rs. 422.95 crore; and 33 dams were rehabilitated.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Name of the dam
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	CUMBHUM
2.		SHANIGARAM
3.		PAKHAL
4.		UDAYASAMUDRAM
1.	Bihar	KHARAGPUR LAKE
1.	Gujarat	BHADKHA
2.		PANELIA
3.		REVANIA
4.		AJWA
5.		LALPARI
6.		VERI
7.		KHAMBHALA
8.		VIJARAKHI
9.		ADHIA TANK
10.		ALANSAGAR
11.		HANSHTHAL

1	2	3
12.		MOLDI
13.		RAJAWADLA
14.		MOTA ANKADIA
15.		CHIMNABAI LAKE
16.		PANELI
1.	Karnataka	THONNUR TANK
2.		MADAGA TANK (old)
3.		BORANAKANIVE
4.		HESARAGHATTA RESERVOIR
5.		GANTENA HALLY TANK
6.		KOTTUR TANK
7.		BUJAWARA TANK
8.		HANUMANTHAPURA TANK
9.		KADABA TANK
10.		KUNIGAL DODAKERE TANK
11.		MAIDAL AMANIKERE TANK
12.		NIDASALE HOSAKERE TANK
13.		NITTUR TANK
1.	Maharashtra	DHAMAPUR
2.		KALAPVIHIR
3.		MUDANA
4.		RUSHI
5.		VIHAR
6.		PASHAN (PRIVATE)
7.		EKRUKH
8.		MAYANI
9.		MUKTI
10.		RANKALA

1	2	3
11.		SHIRSUFAL
12.		TULSHI
13.		BHADALWADI
14.		KHADAKWASLA
15.		ASHTI
16.		PARSUL
17.		SHANIMANDAL
18.		MHASWAD
19.		NHER
20.		PAWAI
21.		TANSA
22.		BHATODI
23.		SHETFAL
24.		WADSHIVANE
25.		KHAIRBANDHA
26.		KHIRDISATHE
27.		PATHARI
1.	Madhya Pradesh	TEKANPUR
2.		JAWAHARGARH
1.	Orissa	BHANJANAGAR
2.		SORODA
1.	Rajasthan	BARADPURA
2.		BARETHA
3.		BISHAN SAMAND
4.		CHHAPERWARA
5.		DHEEL
6.		HINGONIA
7.		KHARDA

1	2	3
8.		MADAR
9.		MANDAWARI
10.		NAHAR SAGAR
11.		SHIVNATH SAGAR
12.		SONIYANA
13.		UDAI SAGAR
14.		UMED SAGAR
15.		RAJSAMAND
16.		JAI SAMAND-1
17.		CHANDRANA
18.		KHARAD
19.		MORASAGAR
20.		TORDI SAGAR
21.		BUCHARA
22.		SINTHALSAGAR
23.		RAM GARH
24.		RAM SAGAR
25.		SARDAR SAMAND
26.		URMILA SAGAR
27.		BANKLI
1.	Tamil Nadu	PERIYAR*
2.		PECHIPARAI
1.	Uttar Pradesh	BARWA SAGAR
2.		MAGARPUR
3.		PACHWARA LAKE
4.		PARICHA

*Dam is situated in Kerala State and owned and operated by the Tamilnadu State.

Environmental Clearance to Pending Projects

4311. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

(a) the details of the different projects awaiting environmental clearance as on 31.03.2007, State-wise;

(b) the details of the working methodology for the examination and clearance to different projects;

(c) whether certain projects have been rejected by the Government during the last one year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) State-wise details of different projects awaiting environmental clearance as on 31.03.2007 is as per list enclosed as statement.

(b) All the projects submitted to the Ministry are placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee of the concerned sector for appraisal, award of Terms of References (TORs), recommendations for grant of environmental clearance or rejection as the case may be as per the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.

(c) and (d) There are 6 mining projects (4 in Rajasthan and 2 in Orissa) and 8 construction projects (3 in Karnataka, 4 in Punjab and 1 in Tamilnadu) which have been rejected during 2006-07. These rejections were due to reasons like submission of incomplete, inadequate and unrealistic information of the proposed developmental projects as also non-submission of requisite documents to the Members of the Expert Appraisal Committees of the concerned sector and non-attendance in the Expert Appraisal Committee meetings by the concerned Project Authorities.

Statement*State-wise details of different projects awaiting Environmental Clearance as on 31.03.2007*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Industry	Infrastructure & Misc.	Mining	Thermal	River Valley	Nuclear	Construction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	1					
2.	Andhra Pradesh	63	6	23	4			33
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	-					
4.	Assam	7	-		1			
5.	Bihar	3	-					
6.	Chhattisgarh	14	-	13	3			3
7.	Delhi		1		1			55
8.	Goa	1	1	33				8
9.	Gujarat	106	6	48	6			22
10.	Haryana	11	-	3	1			67
11.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	1		1		
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	-					
13.	Jharkhand	12	-	12	3			
14.	Karnataka	30	-	81	1			116
15.	Kerala	1	1			2		2
16.	Lakshadweep	-	-					
17.	Madhya Pradesh	7	-	16	2	2		10
18.	Maharashtra	44	11	33	2	3		60
19.	Manipur	-	-			1		1
20.	Meghalaya	1	-	3				
21.	Mizoram	-	-					
22.	Nagaland	-	-					
23.	Orissa	21	2	40	1			3
24.	Pondicherry	1	5					2
25.	Punjab	5	-					39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
26.	Rajasthan	21	-	51	4			83
27.	Sikkim	-	-			2		
28.	Tamilnadu	35	3	11	3	1		
29.	Tripura	-	-					
30.	Uttar Pradesh	19	1		2			60
31.	Uttaranchal	-	1	2		3		114
32.	West Bengal	19	2		3			
33.	Others	18	23					
	Total	437	64	410	37	15		452

National River Conservation Plan

4312. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) the number of rivers brought/proposed to be brought under national river conservation plan, State-wise;

(b) the number of rivers identified as most polluted ones, State-wise;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on their cleaning; and

(d) the time by which the conservation plan is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of

National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) presently implemented by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, covers 34 rivers spread over 20 States, at an approved cost of Rs. 4783 crores for undertaking pollution abatement works in these rivers. Inclusion of additional rivers/river stretches under the Plan would be dependent upon the outlay approved for the XI Five Year Plan for which an estimated expenditure of Rs. 8303 crores has been projected by this Ministry for continuing ongoing as well as undertaking new works. The names of the rivers presently covered under the NRCP State-wise are indicated in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The names of the rivers and the polluted stretches State-wise identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) are indicated in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) and (d) Based on available estimates of pollution loads, and other relevant factors, there is a requirement of Rs. 8303 crores during XI Plan. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the precise timeframe by which the conservation plan would be completed as it is determined by the quantum of sewage and industrial pollution loads, which are on the increase due to increase in urbanization and industrialization, and also by the commensurateness of funds with the increasing scale of works.

Statement I*State-Wise Number of Rivers Covered under National River Conservation Plan*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Serial Number of River	Name of River
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	Godavari &
		2	Musi
2.	Bihar	3	Ganga
3.	Delhi	4	Yamuna
4.	Goa	5	Mandovi
5.	Gujarat	6	Sabarmati
6.	Haryana		Yamuna
7.	Jharkhand	7	Subarnarekha,
		8	Demodar & Ganga
8.	Karnataka	9	Bhadra,
		10	Tungabhadra,
		11	Cauvery,
		12	Tunga and
		13	Pennar
9.	Kerala	14	Pamiba
10.	Madhya Pradesh	15	Betwa,
		16	Tapti,
		17	Wainganga,
		18	Khen,
		19	Narmada,
		20	Chambal &
		21	Kshipra
11.	Maharashtra	22	Godavari & Krishna
12.	Nagaland	23	Diphu-Dhansiri
13.	Orissa	24	Brahmini &
		25	Mahanadi
14.	Punjab	26	Satluj
15.	Rajasthan		Chambal
16.	Sikkim	27	Rani Chu
17.	Tamil Nadu	28	Cauvery,
		29	Adyar,
		30	Coom,
		31	Vennar,
		32	Valgai &
		33	Tamrabarani

1	2	3	4
18.	Uttar Pradesh		Ganga, Yamuna & Gomti
19.	Uttaranchal		
20.	West Bengal	34	Ganga, Damodar & Mahananda

Statement II

River	Polluted Stretch	State
1	2	3
1. Godavari	• Polavaram to D/S of Rajamundry	Andhra Pradesh
2. Nagavalli	• Nagavalli along Thotapalli Regulator	Andhra Pradesh
3. Musi	• D/S of Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
4. Kalong	• Elengabeel System	Assam
5. Bharalu	• D/S Guwahati	Assam
6. Yamuna	• Wazirabad to Okhla	Delhi
7. Subamrekha	• Ranchi to D/S of Jamshedpur	Jharkhand
8. Sabarmati	• Ahmedabad to D/S of Vautha	Gujarat
9. Amlakhadi	• Along Ankeshwar	Gujarat
10. Shedi	• Along Kheda	Gujarat
11. Damanganga	• Vapi D/S to Confl. with sea	Gujarat
12. Ambika	• Billimora D/S	Gujarat
13. Bhadar	• Jetpur to Ratia (Junagarh)	Gujarat
14. Khari	• Lali village, Ahmedabad	Gujarat
15. Kolak	• Vapi to Patalia	Gujarat
16. Par	• Vapi to Patalia	Gujarat
17. Ghaggar	• Interstate border with Punjab to Ottu wier at Sirsa	Haryana
18. Yamuna	• Okhla to Kosi Kalan	Haryana
19. Markanda	• Kala Amb D/S to Haryana Border	Himachal Pradesh
20. Bhadra	• Maleshwaram to D/S of Bhadravathi	Karnataka
21. Tunga	• D/S of Shimoga	Karnataka
22. Kali	• Along Dandeli Town	Karnataka

1	2	3
23. Tungabhadra	• Harihar D/S to Haraeahalli Bridge.	Karnataka
24. Khan river	• Indore city to confluence with Kshipra	Madhya Pradesh
25. Kshipra	• Ujjain to confluence with Chambal	Madhya Pradesh
26. Chambal	• D/S of Nagda	Madhya Pradesh
27. Tapi	• D/S of Napanagar to Burhanpur city	Madhya Pradesh
28. Godavari	• Nasik to (Rahe) Nanded	Maharashtra
29. Kalu	• Atale village to Confl. with Ulhas	Maharashtra
30. Ulhas	• Mohane to Baddapur	Maharashtra
31. Weinganga	• D/S Ashti	Maharashtra
32. Panchganga	• Along Ichalkaranji	Maharashtra
33. Wardha	• Along Rajura village	Maharashtra
34. Bhima	• Pargaon to Confluence with river Daund	Maharashtra
35. Mula & Mutha	• D/S Pune city	Maharashtra
36. Bhatsa	• D/S of Shahpur Industrial township	Maharashtra
37. Patalganga	• Khopoli to Estuarine region	Maharashtra
38. Kundalika	• Along Roha city	Maharashtra
39. Krishna	• Dhondam to Sangli	Maharashtra
40. Tapi	• M.P. Border to Bhusaval	Maharashtra
41. Gima	• Malegaon to Confl. with Tapi	Maharashtra
42. Nira	• Along Pulgaon	Maharashtra
43. Kharkhala	• Near Sutnga Khlieri, Jaintia Hills	Meghalaya
44. Brahmani	• Panposh D/S to Dharamsala	Orissa
45. Ib	• Sundargarh to Confl. with Mahanadi	Orissa
46. Mahanadi	• Cuttack D/S	Orissa
47. Kuakhai	• Along Bubhaneshwar	Orissa
48. Kathjodi	• Along Cuttack	Orissa
49. Satluj	• D/S of Ludhiana	Punjab
50. Beas	• D/S of Mukorian	Punjab
51. Ghaggar	• Mubarkpur to Sardulgarh	Punjab
52. Ghaggar	• Ottu weir to Hanumangarh	Rajasthan
53. Chambal	• D/S Kota city	Rajasthan

1	2	3
54. Banas/Berach river	• Udaipur to Chittorgarh	Rajasthan
55. Vaigai	• Along Madurai	Tamil Nadu
56. Palar	• Vaniyambadi	Tamil Nadu
57. Adyar	• Along Chennai	Tamil Nadu
58. Coovum	• Along Chennai	Tamil Nadu
59. Tambiraparani	• Papavinasam to Arunuganeri	Tamil Nadu
60. Noyyal	• Along Coimbatore, Tirupur, Palayankotti	Tamil Nadu
61. Cauvery	• D/S of Mettur Dam to Erode city	Tamil Nadu
62. Ranichu	• Along Ranipur	Sikkim
63. Yamuna	• Kosi Kalan to confl. with Chambal	Uttar Pradesh
64. Hindon	• Saharanpur to Confl. with Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
65. Western Kali	• Muzaffar Nagar to Confluence with Hindon	Uttar Pradesh
66. Buri Yamuna	• Pilkhahi to Confluence with Yamuna	Uttar Pradesh
67. Kali Nadi Eastern	• Merrut to Kannauj	Uttar Pradesh
68. Gomti	• Lucknow to Confluence with Ganga	Uttar Pradesh
69. Ganga	• Kannauj to Kanpur D/S	Uttar Pradesh
70. Ganga	• Varanasi D/S	Uttar Pradesh
71. Damodar	• Durgapur to Haldia	West Bengal

Environmental Clearance to Hubli-Ankola Railway Line Project

4313. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain railway line projects particularly Hubli-Ankola Railway Line Project are pending with the Union Government for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which clearance is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

Setting up of Farm School

4314. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farm schools functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposed to set up some more farm schools during Eleventh Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) There is no separate scheme in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture for setting up Farm Schools. However, Farmer Field Schools (FFS) are being supported by DAC under the scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India". The State-wise number of FFS operationalized during Kharif and Rabi 2006-07 is given in the enclosed statement.

DAC is also implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" based on Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) model. It aims at promoting decentralized and farmer-friendly extension system. Demonstration, training, exposure visit and specified forms of research-extension-farmer interactions are some of the extension activities eligible under the scheme. It has been suggested to States in April, 2007 that they may operationalize Farm Schools through a combination of eligible extension activities under the scheme.

Statement

*Farmer Field School (FFS) conducted during
Kharif & Rabi 2006-07*

S.No.	Name of State	No. of FFS organized
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32
2.	Assam	36
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8
4.	Bihar	30
5.	Chhattisgarh	26
6.	Goa	8
7.	Gujarat	24
8.	Haryana	40
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	30
11.	Jharkhand	18
12.	Karnataka	20

1	2	3
13.	Kerala	12
14.	Madhya Pradesh	28
15.	Maharashtra	32
16.	Manipur	4
17.	Meghalaya	12
18.	Mizoram	12
19.	Nagaland	4
20.	Orissa	28
21.	Punjab	22
22.	Rajasthan	32
23.	Sikkim	12
24.	Tamil Nadu	18
25.	Uttaranchal	24
26.	Uttar Pradesh	76
27.	West Bengal	20
Total		638

[Translation]

**Decreasing Population of Tigers in
Sanctuaries in Bihar**

4315. SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of tigers in the sanctuaries in Bihar is decreasing mysteriously;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No report of tigers decreasing mysteriously from Sanctuaries has been received from the State.

(c) The steps taken at the Government of India for conservation of tigers are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Several milestone initiatives have been taken by the Government in the recent past for tiger conservation which are as below:

1. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.
2. Implementation of the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force constituted by the National Board for Wildlife chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, which, *interalia*, include Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.
3. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been constituted with effect from 4.09.2006, which would strengthen tiger conservation by, *interalia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
4. Assessment of tiger habitat status in the country at Taluka amplification in the Geographical Information System (GIS) domain in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India.
5. Comparative appraisal of forest cover status in and around tiger reserves (upto a radial distance of 10 kms.), in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India for evolving reserve specific restorative strategies involving local people in the peripheral/buffer areas.
6. Assessment of tiger reserves by a panel of independent experts based on 45 parameters, adapted from the framework of the World

Commission on Protected Areas, which has been peer reviewed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and laid in the Parliament.

7. Refinement of the All India Tiger Estimation process (including other prominent prey and predators apart from habitat monitoring) in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India.
8. Bilateral initiatives with neighbouring tiger range countries.
9. Providing funding support for ecodevelopment around core areas of tiger reserve to foster inclusive management and taking initiatives for evolving a set of ecotourism guidelines to benefit local people.
10. Taking initiatives for enhancing the village relocation package through a professional agency.

Apart from the above, other initiatives taken by the Government for wildlife conservation are as below:

11. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
12. Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest degree of protection.
13. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment in cases of offences has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.
14. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
15. Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

16. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.
17. A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16 was adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life under the chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.
18. Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.
19. Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.
20. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

[English]

Modernisation of Pest Management

4316. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched/proposes to launch any scheme/programme project for strengthening, developing and modernizing the pest management in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocation made for the purpose; and

(c) the details of plant quarantine facilities available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India implements a scheme known as "Strengthening and Modernisation of Pest Management Approach in India".

(b) Government of India has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle of plant protection. Government has established Central Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Centres across the country to, *inter alia*, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). Further, to assist the States, Central Government has established 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory under the scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India". The mandate of these Centres is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and Human Resource Development in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). IPM packages of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops have been developed and circulated to all States/UTs and have been posted on www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin for use by extension functionaries and farmers. To check the spread of plant diseases, Government of India issues advisories to State Governments, from time to time to constitute survey teams for pest surveillance/monitoring so that timely control measures could be taken by the farmers. Also, CIPMCs located across the country are conducting field surveys for pest monitoring and submit their survey result/reports to State Department of Agriculture to enable them to take timely control measures.

The allocation made for this purpose during the year 2007-08 is Rs. 16.00 crores.

(c) There are 35 Plant Quarantine Stations in the country. These includes the National Plant Quarantine Station at New Delhi and four Regional Stations at Amritsar, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai. These stations have been strengthened with modern equipment for plant quarantine testing facilities for detection and speedy clearance of agricultural imports and exports.

Promotion of Coriander and Cumin

4317. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas covered under coriander and cumin cultivation in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the assistance provided for the purpose during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any scheme to promote said cultivation 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) A statement-I showing the details of area covered under coriander and cumin cultivation in the country during last three years, State-wise is enclosed.

(b) to (d) During the year 2000-01, nine schemes of horticulture were subsumed under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of State efforts through

Work Plans with effect from October 2000. This scheme provided flexibility to the State Governments to take up programmes and fix targets as per their felt needs and requirements according to their Work Plans. On launching of National Horticulture Mission during 2005-06 all the horticulture programmes which were earlier subsumed under micro management schemes were transferred under National Horticulture Mission. For enhancing horticulture production two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Technology Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States, are being implemented in the country for holistic development of horticulture sector duly ensuring an end to end approach having forward and background linkages covering research, production, post harvest management and marketing with the active participation of all the stake holders. The thrust of the Missions is on area based regionally differentiated cluster approach for development of horticulture crops including coriander and cumin. Statement II showing the details of assistance provided to State Agricultural Universities for quality seed production for promoting coriander and cumin is enclosed.

Statement I

The details of area covered under coriander and curmin cultivation in the country during last three years, State-wise

(Area: '000 ha)

State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Coriander			
Andhra Pradesh	45.0	49.0	49.0
Bihar	2.2	2.2	2.1
Chhattisgarh	3.8	4.0	4.0
Haryana	1.4	1.7	1.7
Karnataka	7.7	7.8	9.6
Madhya Pradesh	62.1	125.1	115.9
Meghalaya	0.1	0.1	0.1
Orissa	18.9	19.0	19.1
Rajasthan	112.3	241.4	148.4

1	2	3	4
Tamilnadu	26.3	27.7	18.5
Uttar Pradesh	6.1	5.5	5.5
Total	285.854	483.52	373.90
Cumin			
Gujarat	200.049	200.049	200.049
Rajasthan	321.201	321.201	321.201
Uttar Pradesh	0.002	0.002	0.002
Total	521.252	521.252	521.252

Statement II

The details of assistance provided to State Agricultural Universities for quality seed production for promoting coriander and cumin

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	University	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	Acharya N.G. Ranga Agri. University	-	0.4	2.4
West Bengal	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya	4.0	0.2	8.0
	Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya	-	-	0.8
Uttar Pradesh	CSA Agri. & Tech., Kanpur	1.5	1.2	2.4
	ND University, Faizabad	2.0	1.2	1.6
	CSS Amar Singh College	-	0.4	4.0
	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Agri. University, Meerut	0.7	1.0	2.4
Gujarat	Sardar Keshavnagar, Dandiwada Agri. University	4.0	2.0	8.0
	Anand Agri. University	-	1.8	4.0
	Junagad Agri. University	-	1.2	2.4
	Navasari Agri. University	-	2.0	4.0
Uttarakhand	GB Pant Agri. University, Pantnagar	2.0	-	-
Haryana	CCS Haryana Agri. University	1.0	1.4	4.0
Himachal Pradesh	Dr. Y.S. Parmar University, Shimla	0.2	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur	4.0	2.0	4.0
Maharashtra	Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli	-	-	0.8
	Marathwada Agri. University, Parbani	0.1	0.2	1.6
	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya	2.0	1.0	1.6
	Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola	-	1.0	0.8
Rajasthan	Maharana Pratap University, Udaipur	1.2	1.0	1.6
	Rajasthan Agri. University, Bikaner	4.0	2.0	8.0
Orissa	Orissa University of Agri. & Technology	0.5	0.2	1.6
Punjab	Punjab Agri. University	0.5		
Tamilnadu	Tamilnadu Agri. University, Coimbatore	0.2	1.0	4.0
Karnataka	University of Agri. Sciences, Dharwad	0.1	0.2	0.8
	University of Agri. Sciences, Bangalore	-	-	0.8
Chhattisgarh	Indira Gandhi Agri. University, Raipur	1.0		
Jharkhand	Birsa Agri. University	-	0.8	1.6
Bihar	Rajendra Agri. University	1.0	1.2	2.4
Total		30.0	23.0	73.6

Protection of Women from Work Related Diseases

4318. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has urged the Government to incorporate preventive measures in their occupational safety and health policies;

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

(c) whether women suffer from work related communicable diseases and psychosocial factors; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government is taking to protect women from work related diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR

FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no specific request from the International Labour Organisation to the Government of India to incorporate preventive measures in the occupational safety and health policies. However, the International Labour Standards on Occupational Safety and Health adopted by the International Labour Conference from time to time emphasise the need for preventive measures in the Occupational Safety and Health policies of the member countries of the International Labour Organisation. Such a need is incorporated in the Convention No. 155 of the International Labour Organisation. The Government of India have not ratified this Convention for various reasons, including the fact that the national laws are presently not totally in consonance with the provisions of the above ILO Convention.

(c) and (d) The Factories Act, 1948 requires that where any worker in a factory contracts any disease specified in Schedule III thereof, the manager or the

medical practioner concerned, shall send details of the same to the Chief Inspector of the Factories of the concerned state to ensure that facilities are provided to protect the safety and health of such workers. These provisions of the Factories Act are applicable to all workers irrespective of their gender. The Schedule III contains 29 diseases, including certain case of poisoning.

Issuance of Ration Cards

4319. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether ration cards are required to be issued within a period of one month from the date of receipt of applications under the Public Distribution System (PDS) Control Order, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the audit examination has revealed lapses in the issue of ration cards beyond the stipulated period;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the name of defaulter States; and

(d) the action taken against such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) in his report no. 16 of 2006 vide para 7.2.5 has stated that there were delays in issuance of ration cards beyond one month in States of Delhi, Kerala, Meghalaya, Sikkim & West Bengal. Also adequate details indicating relevant dates so as to reflect the extent of delay were not maintained in Gujarat, Goa and A&N Islands.

(d) On receipt of the audit report, the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations have been directed to take immediate necessary corrective steps to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS.

Relocation of Villages from Tiger Reserves

4320. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Tiger Conservation Authority has proposed any plan amounting to Rs. 600 crores for the protection of Tigers and relocation of approximately 2000 villages from 28 Tiger Reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal including the list of priority given to the State Governments for relocation of such villages;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision to accept the proposal of the Authority;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the amount being sanctioned for the plan and the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) During the current financial year, an allocation of Rs. 65.00 crores has been provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger which includes Central Assistance for States towards relocation/rehabilitation of villages from Tiger Reserves.

(c) The Wildlife Institute of India has been directed to assess the core areas of tiger reserves where village relocation has to be undertaken, in addition to other protected areas of the country within a timeframe. Simultaneously, action has been taken for developing a model involuntary village relocation/rehabilitation package through professional agency.

(d) While initiatives have been taken for assessment of countrywide inviolate areas for wildlife and enhancement of the relocation/rehabilitation package, funding support is being provided to States as per existing norms under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger. The Central Assistance for village relocation/rehabilitation is based on proposals received from States to provide inviolate areas for wild animals.

(e) Question does not arise.

Impact of Growing Economy on Environment

4321. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the pressure of growing economy on the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank study finds that monitoring of Environment Impact Assessment in India is not satisfactory; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Under the aegis of World Bank Technical Assistance programme, re-engineering of the Environmental Clearance process was undertaken from the year 2001 onwards culminating in new Environment Impact Assessment Notification issued on 14.09.2006, as a replacement of the earlier Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 1994. The objectives of this Notification were to make the Environmental Clearance process more effective, efficient and decentralized. Further, to mitigate the impact on environment, a provision for Environment Impact Assessment study has been made in the above Notification in order that impacts of developmental projects are identified and mitigation measures formulated at the planning stage of the project.

(c) and (d) World Bank Study on "Strengthening Institutions for Sustainable Grown-Country Environmental Analysis for India" has been issued in April, 2007, wherein *inter-alia* strengthening of monitoring mechanism has been mentioned. The work for this Study was done when re-engineering process mentioned above was in progress and infact the new Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 does provide for post environmental clearance monitoring mechanism.

[Translation]

Supply of Adequate Quantity of Foodgrains

4322. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether timely supply of adequate quantity of foodgrains is not being made to the State of Gujarat for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to ensure timely supply of foodgrains to the State;

(c) the process being adopted for quality check of foodgrains being distributed under PDS; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of said process?

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. FCI is regularly releasing foodgrains to the State Government of Gujarat on the basis of the monthly allocations. Adequate induction of foodgrains to the State of Gujarat is also ensured to meet the PDS requirements.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Before the stocks are released for the distribution under PDS, joint inspection of the stocks offered to State Government by FCI are carried out by the representative of State Government and FCI. As a token of satisfaction of quality of stocks, 3 (three) samples are jointly drawn, out of which 2 (two) samples are retained by the FCI for future reference and the 3rd sample is handed over to the State Government representative for display in the Fair Price Shop.

(d) Instructions have been issued to State Governments/UT Administrations to depute officers not below the rank of Inspector for inspection of stocks in FCI godowns before issue. The officers of the State Governments' and the Ministry also conduct surprise inspection of the Fair Price Shops, to check the quality of foodgrains being distributed through PDS.

[English]

Impact of Global Warming on India

4323. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) whether the Government of India has conducted any survey/study on the impact of Global warming on India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) A preliminary assessment of impacts and vulnerability due to projected climate change in key sectors such as water, agriculture, forestry, ecosystems, coastal zones, health, energy and infrastructure has been undertaken. The projected climate change scenarios indicate increase in and variable trend of both rainfall and temperature into 21st century. It is projected that quantity of surface run off due to climate change would reduce and vary across the various river basins. The initial analysis has revealed that climate change may have adverse effects in terms of severity of droughts and intensity of floods in various parts of the country. Increase in CO₂ concentration; increase in temperature and variable distribution of rainfall show a mixed projection of yields of various crops across the regions. No definite trends have yet been established. Forest types in India seem to be vulnerable to the projected changes in climate. Coastal areas are also vulnerable to climate variability in varying degrees.

(c) The Government of India is seized of the various concerns that may arise due to climate change. The existing legislative and policy framework in various sectors of concern, together with programmes which target conservation of rivers, improvement of urban air quality, enhanced forestation, promote renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency etc. contribute to addressing climate change issues. Moreover, India has had, over the last 55 years of economic development, undertaken major programmes addressing climate variability concerns. These include cyclone warning and protection, coastal protection, floods and drought control and relief, major and minor irrigation projects, control of malaria, food security measures and research on drought resistant crops.

Increase in Nitrogen Dioxide Level in Delhi

4324. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct an exhaustive study to analyse the reasons for the increase of nitrogen level in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain other cities are also facing such problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board has established a nationwide monitoring network under National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP), which covers 313 stations in 115 cities/towns in 25 States and 4 Union Territories. Ambient Air Quality of Delhi is measured at seven locations of which four are in residential and two are in industrial areas.

The nitrogen oxide data for residential and industrial areas of Delhi for the period 2001-2006 are within the limit of Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

(c) and (d) The results of NO₂ level observed in 35 major cities during the last two years (2005 and 2006) reveal that the NO₂ level in ambient air in all the major cities is below prescribed NAAQS. At present, no additional studies are contemplated by CPCB in this regard.

(e) Emission standards and policies have been formulated for checking auto exhaust emission as well as NO₂ level which includes restrictions on grossly polluting vehicles, and adoption of pollution-abatement measures by Thermal Power Plants.

Priority to Agriculture Research and Development

4325. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised any priorities for Research and Development in Agricultural field for the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the thrust areas under the said schemes; and

(c) the manner in which its benefits are proposed to be disseminated 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ICAR has identified the following thrust areas for research focus, so that the technology generated could be used by farmers for increasing the productivity and profitability :-

- Enhancing Productivity, Profitability and Product Quality
- Cost-effective Management of Biotic and Abiotic stresses
- Hybrid technology
- Biotechnology
- Biodiversity
- Supply Augmentation of Quality Seed and Planting material
- Vaccines and Diagnostics
- Post-harvest Management
- Water, Nutrient and Energy Management
- Resource Conservation Technologies
- Agricultural Diversification
- Climatic Change
- Organic Farming
- Quality Human Resource
- Agricultural Policy research
- Application of statistical methods and computer in agriculture .
- Technology Transfer Methodology

(c) The Government of India has decided to establish one Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in each rural district (589). The ICAR has already established 551 KVKs in the country. The activities of the KVKs includes technology assessment and refinement through on-farm trial in order to identify the location specificity of technology under different farming system, frontline demonstrations to establish the production potential of improved agricultural technology on the farmers field, training of farmers to update their knowledge and skill, and training of extension

personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development. The KVKs are also targeted for e-connectivity to facilitate enhanced access to information and updation of technology.

[Translation]

Unemployment Allowance to SCs/STs/OBCs

4326. **SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has prepared/is likely to prepare any policy for payment of unemployment allowance to the unemployed youth of the country particularly to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been directed to implement such policies; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. However, under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development there is a provision for making payment of unemployment allowance; this provision covers, *inter-alia*, unemployed youth belonging to SC/ST/Other Backward Classes.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Cleaning of River

4327. **SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:**
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether cleaning of Sabarmati river phase II in Gujarat has been approved by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the funds allotted to the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The proposal received from the State Government of Gujarat for cleaning of Sabarmati River Phase-II at Ahmedabad could not be considered due to budgetary constraints so far. Accordingly, the State Government was advised to explore the alternative sources of funding including external assistance for the said works.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Establishment of Fish Farmers Training Centres in Orissa

4328. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided assistance for establishment of Fish Farmers Training Centres to popularize Fisheries activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details of assistance requested by the State Governments for the purpose during 2006-07, State wise;

(c) the amount released during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government has released its share under the said scheme so far;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be released?

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

(b) to (f) The States of Manipur, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have been extended total assistance of Rs. 22.95 lakh towards first installment against their proposal seeking assistance of Rs. 36.00 lakh for setting up of one Fish Farmer Training Centre involving central

share of Rs. 12.00 lakh in each State in 2006-07. The proposal received from Tamil Nadu and Orissa seeking Central assistance of Rs. 36.00 lakh each for setting up of three Fish Farmers Training Centres in each State were not considered as either it was received late or State has unspent balance of Central assistance provided under the scheme earlier. These States are eligible to obtain Central assistance under the scheme for setting up of Fish Farmers Training Centres in 2007-08 along with other States.

[Translation]

Demand and Availability of Seeds

4329. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and availability of seeds for all kinds of crops, State-wise;

(b) the names of ongoing schemes for increasing the seed production; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated, released and utilized under such schemes during each of 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) The availability of seeds of all agriculture crops in Kharif 2007 is 84,59,679 quintals against the demand of 78,64,186 quintals. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) The ongoing schemes for increasing the Seed Production are Integrated Cereals Development Programme, Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palms and Maize, Technology Mission on Cotton, Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds, All India Coordinated Research Project on National Seed Project (Crops), Breeder Seed Production on Annual Oilseed crops and Seed Project—Seed Production of Agricultural Crops. The details of the funds allocated, released and utilized are given in the statement II to VIII.

Statement I

State-wise Demand and Availability of Certified/Quality Seed during Kharif-2007

(Quantity in Quintals)

Name of State	Demand	Availability
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	2206880	2400600
Arunachal Pradesh	7100	7100
Assam	79404	78604
Bihar	264580	253597
Chhattisgarh	156515	102934
Goa	3060	3060
Gujarat	238956	281596
Haryana	84820	122268
Himachal Pradesh	22570	22570
Jharkhand	104561	114775
Jammu and Kashmir	20981	20587
Karnataka	621665	681800
Kerala	22625	11062

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	680000	724682
Meghalaya	7367	8188
Maharashtra	1268388	1301297
Manipur	2740	2740
Mizoram	4675	4675
Nagaland	12000	12000
Orissa	237068	279661
Pondicherry	2270	3050
Punjab	79425	164585
Rajasthan	421535	368623
Sikkim	3510	3510
Tamil Nadu	100134	287267
Tripura	18383	18383
Uttarakhand	24794	30128
Uttar Pradesh	656580	639287
West Bengal	511600	511050
GRAND TOTAL	7864186	8459679

Statement II

Funds allocated/released and utilized during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 to various States under Macro Management Mode of State Work Plan for Seed Production, Distribution etc.

(Amount Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Allocated/ Released	Utilized	Allocated/ Released	Utilized	Allocated/ Released	Utilized
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	390.81	390.81	168.62	168.62	345.36	345.36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	93.10	93.10	27.20	27.20	218.70	218.70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	42.82	42.82	63.00	63.00	429.60	429.60
4.	Bihar	167.93	167.93	292.837	292.837	288.742	288.742
5.	Chhattisgarh	108.40	108.40	163.50	163.50	250.20	250.20
6.	Goa	N.A.	N.A.	0.50	0.50	10.45	10.45
7.	Gujarat	130.65	130.65	226.60	226.60	160.00	160.00
8.	Haryana	445.30	445.30	403.28	403.28	519.50	519.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	186.75	186.75	269.00	269.00	239.50	239.50
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	N.A.	N.A.	107.78	107.78	233.77	233.77
11.	Jharkhand	N.A.	N.A.	248.80	248.80	60.00	60.00
12.	Karnataka	186.18	186.18	385.36	385.36	555.00	555.00
13.	Kerala	302.50	302.50	152.50	152.50	160.50	160.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	294.10	294.10	1502.25	1502.25	859.02	859.02
15.	Maharashtra	260.00	260.00	759.80	759.80	505.00	505.00
16.	Manipur	51.60	51.60	257.82	257.82	336.35	336.35
17.	Meghalaya	40.50	40.50	72.80	72.80	153.96	153.96
18.	Mizoram	13.02	13.02	112.80	112.80	288.00	288.00
19.	Nagaland	180.00	180.00	234.50	234.50	280.00	280.00
20.	Orissa	N.A.	N.A.	492.85	492.85	211.40	211.40
21.	Punjab	155.50	155.50	112.00	112.00	274.00	274.00
22.	Rajasthan	432.20	432.20	710.11	710.11	629.75	629.00
23.	Sikkim	160.20	160.20	157.90	157.90	142.00	142.00
24.	Tamilnadu	N.A.	N.A.	428.00	428.00	189.00	189.00
25.	Tripura	160.40	160.40	777.40	777.40	768.38	768.38
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1500.06	1500.06	2227.45	2227.45	2336.15	2336.15
27.	Uttaranchal	48.80	48.80	192.61	192.61	155.51	155.51
28.	West Bengal	N.A.	N.A.	335.58	335.58	402.00	402.00

N.A.—Not Available.

Statement III

Funds allocation, released & utilized during 2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07 to various States for implementation of the Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State/ Implementing Agency	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		Allocation	Amount Released	Expenditure Incurred	Allocation	Amount Released	Expenditure Incurred	Allocation	Amount Released	Expenditure Incurred
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3543.00	3559.97	3864.95	4900.00	4816.50	2649.41	4542.00	4542.00	4693.2
2.	Assam	8.00	4.00	139.94	15.00	3.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	290.00	145.00	421.65	245.00	245.00	149.97	385.00	385.00	266.95
4.	Chhattisgarh	625.00	625.00	523.58	400.00	400.00	505.75	675.00	675.00	286.71
5.	Gujarat	1883.00	1883.00	1316.71	1850.00	1850.00	1714.06	975.00	975.00	1131.22
6.	Goa	20.00	10.00	7.75	16.50	16.50	3.89	3.00	0.00	2.12
7.	Haryana	559.00	497.00	495.07	434.00	434.00	339.53	411.00	411.00	522.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	40.00	40.00	55.08	75.50	75.50	64.46	75.00	75.00	70.04
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	170.00	85.00	29.30	142.50	142.50	87.18	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Karnataka	2155.00	2155.00	1580.97	1800.00	1800.00	1764.72	2700.00	2700.00	2810.85
11.	Kerala	10.00	5.00	34.83	7.50	7.50	33.40	15.00	15.00	40.16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2925.00	2925.00	2627.40	2400.00	2400.00	2455.92	3750.00	3750.00	3378.34
13.	Maharashtra	1040.00	1040.00	991.41	2739.30	2739.00	1786.25	925.00	925.00	1536.92
14.	Mizoram	107.00	107.00	221.00	90.00	90.00	10.00	180.00	102.87	117.05
15.	Orissa	455.00	455.00	569.86	500.00	500.00	531.78	525.00	525.00	522.86
16.	Punjab	105.00	52.50	1.78	87.50	87.50	65.84	0.00	0.00	1.15
17.	Rajasthan	2000.00	2000.00	1613.21	2840.00	2840.00	2906.73	2934.50	2934.50	2912.29
18.	Tamil Nadu	990.00	990.00	644.14	1245.00	1245.00	1168.65	1345.00	1345.00	988.52
19.	Tripura	10.00	5.00	0.0	20.00	7.00	65.07	40.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Uttar Pradesh	785.00	785.00	761.43	1065.00	1065.00	1134.3	1115.00	1115.00	1295.65
21.	West Bengal	260.00	260.00	229.97	450.00	450.00	706.51	674.50	674.50	366.93
Total		17980.00	17628.47	16110.01	16462.50	21214.00	18143.22	21300.00	21149.87	20943.06

Statement IV

*Allocation, Release and Expenditure under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission
on Cotton from 2004-05 to 2006-07*

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		Allocation	Release	Exp.	Allocation	Release	Exp.	Allocation	Release	Exp.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	623.62	571.16	554.14	440.00	570.52	547.99	1320.00	1227.91	994.23
2.	Gujarat	750.00	773.04	800.18	750.00	812.42	658.11	1200.00	1095.11	1095.47
3.	Haryana	225.00	112.50	186.96	280.00	270.43	203.72	300.00	223.17	207.70
4.	Karnataka	486.03	478.58	420.79	500.00	500.00	416.21	560.00	438.62	448
5.	Madhya Pradesh	607.59	483.28	406.42	400.00	302.35	427.70	450.00	377.30	228.05
6.	Meharashtra	784.79	771.44	775.81	786.00	763.00	765.82	1000.00	989.93	625.62
7.	Orissa	80.00	40.00	100.94	78.00	78.95	75.16	125.00	120.41	80.35
8.	Punjab	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	264.00	10.00	0.00	0
9.	Rajasthan	719.21	231.25	189.55	500.00	392.87	457.98	580.00	548.11	242
10.	Tamil Nadu	339.41	342.94	234.08	350.00	338.45	400.26	245.00	291.54	237.6
11.	Tripura	25.00	22.00	15.07	50.00	15.00	20.00	200.00	32.00	7.5
12.	Uttar Pradesh	80.00	40.00	58.15	85.00	35.00	39.38	80.00	40.00	36.85
13.	West Bengal	50.00	38.59	49.60	75.00	92.77	66.00	80.00	40.00	77.16
Total		4771.650	3904.780	3791.690	4275.000	4171.760	4342.13	6150.00	5424.10	4220.53

P-Provisional, final expenditure from States yet to be received.

Statement V

Seed Village Programme—funds released and utilized

(Amount Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of State	2005-06		2006-07	
		Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Uttar Pradesh	209.07	108.08	277.67	155.95
2.	Rajasthan	3.41	1.96	52.44	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Karnataka	15.64	11.63	18.25	12.44
4.	Andhra Pradesh	350.00	350.00	500.00	500.00
5.	West Bengal	1.17	-	36.60	1.50
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4.27	4.27	4.37	-
7.	Punjab	29.75	-	11.55	-
8.	Madhya Pradesh	462.91	183.34	-	-
9.	Maharashtra	79.20	-	-	-
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.00	-	0.25	0.25
11.	Assam	4.67	-	2.97	-
12.	Tripura	30.00	-	-	-
13.	Orissa	44.74	-	28.21	-
14.	Bihar	32.92	-	-	-
15.	Tamilnadu	203.00	200.00	81.92	-
16.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	21.00	-
17.	Manipur	-	-	9.97	-
18.	Haryana	-	-	15.72	-
19.	Sikkim	-	-	10.35	-
20.	Mizoram	-	-	3.58	-
Total:		1477.75	859.28	1074.85	670. 14

Statement VI*Assistance for Creation of Seed Infrastructure facilities—Fund released and Utilised*

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of State/Agency	2005-06		2006-07	
		Amount Released	Amount Utilized	Amount Released	Amount Utilized
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	National Seeds Corporation	138.00	138.00	Nil	Nil
2.	State Farms Corporation of India	136.00	133.22	Nil	Nil
3.	Uttar Pradesh	311.54	303.56	93.01	88.94

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	West Bengal	12.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Gujarat	12.00	2.69	Nil	Nil
6.	Jharkhand	85.32	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Chhattisgarh	575.34	510.14	Nil	Nil
8.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	250.00	Nil
9.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	250.00	Nil
10.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	8.95	Nil
11.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	23.33	Nil
Total		1270.20	1067.61	625.29	88.94

Statement VII

Details of Funds Released and Utilized for Hybrid Rice Seed Production and Distribution during 2005-06 and 2006-07

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State	2005-06		2006-07	
		Released	Utilized	Released	Utilized
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19.20	-	600.70	-
2.	Bihar	28.00	-	24.00	-
3.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	3.60	-
4.	Karnataka	39.00	-	28.10	-
5.	Haryana	-	-	4.50	-
6.	Maharashtra	-	-	19.80	-
7.	Manipur	-	-	6.50	-
8.	Punjab	-	-	5.70	-
9.	Sikkim	-	-	7.95	-
10.	Tripura	17.75	-	-	-
11.	Tamilnadu	-	-	39.29	-
12.	Uttar Pradesh	25.00	-	7.45	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Uttaranchal	-	-	32.15	-
14.	West Bengal	25.00	-	-	-
15.	NSC	30.00	-	-	-
16.	SFCI	40.00	-	-	-
TOTAL		223.95	-	779.74	-

Statement VIII

Details of Funds Released by Indian Council of Agriculture Research and Utilized under All India Coordinated Research Project on National Seed Project (Crop), Breeder Seed Production on Annual Oilseed Crops and Seed Production on Agriculture Crops

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State	Name of University/Institute/ Directorate	Name of Scheme	Year		
				2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Assam	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	NSP Seed Project	23.8884 —	23.1105 176.74	25.0497 276.44
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	41.9136 51.00 —	42.6708 57.72 271.26	46.4862 48.50 424.71
		DOR, Hyderabad	BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	12.00	5.754 —	— 47.60
		DRR, Hyderabad	NSP Seed Project	0.55	0.55 —	0.55 121.00
		NRCS, Hyderabad	NSP Seed Project	0.55	0.55 —	— 51.20
		NRCOP, Pedavegi	Seed Project	—	—	33.00
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	CARI, Portblair	Seed Project	—	—	78.20
4.	Bihar	RAU, Pusa	NSP Seed Project	31.9851	33.3927 112.71	36.3657 176.29
		NRCL, Mujafarpur	Seed Project	—	—	62.90
		ICAR-RCER, Patna	Seed Project	—	—	57.60
5.	Chhattisgarh	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur	NSP Seed Project	10.5525	11.4921 168.91	12.5385 264.19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	New Delhi	IARI, New Delhi DMR, New Delhi	Seed Project Seed Project		— —	469.00 17.00
7.	Gujarat	Gujarat Agricultural University, Jamnagar Gujarat Agricultural University, Anand NRCG, Junagarh NAU, Navsari DAU S.K. Nagar NRCMAP—Anand	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed project Seed Project NSP Seed Project Seed Project	40.74 22.00 15.597	41.655 9.70 132.90 123.65 17.0682 187.94	45.40575 12.72 299.46 78.70 193.41 18.693 293.96 37.70
8.	Goa	ICAR-RC, Goa	Seed Project		—	67.71
9.	Haryana	CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar DWR, Karnal	NSP Seed Project Seed Project	31.9125	29.6193 226.72	32.2305 357.80 33.80
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University, Palampur YSBPUH &F, Solan CPRI, Shimla	NSP Seed Project Seed Project Seed Project	19.6671	18.9627 98.63 100.11	21.612 154.27 158.59 262.70
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Shere-Kasmir University of Ag. & Tech., Srinagar Jammu	NSP Seed Project Seed Project	10.3287	9.1278 129.50 152.16	9.9012 202.55 237.99
12.	Jharkhand	Birsa Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar	NSP Seed Project	5.439	5.9166 176.34	6.447 85.86
13.	Kerala	Kerala Agricultural University, Trissure IISR, Kallicut CPCRI, Kasargad CMRI, Kochi CTCRI, Trivananthpuram	NSP Seed Project Seed Project Seed Project Seed Project	6.2535	6.8091 174.72 — — — —	7.4235 276.27 58.00 92.00 134.00 128.95
14.	Karnataka	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad NRC Cashew, Puttur IIHR, Bangalore	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project Seed Project Seed Project	29.1105 25.00 12.897 38.00	29.0133 9.786 223.03 10.0646 4.274 214.71 194.90	31.5645 11.80 349.27 15.351 15.30 335.79 33.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Maharashtra	Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	28.8825 13.00	29.0118 11.94 220.23	31.491 11.78 344.47
		Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	34.2185 10.00	34.47145 3.569 234.54	37.39725 2.90 366.84
		Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	31.209 30.00	3.1604 37.33 189.14	34.014 17.94 264.46
		KKV, Dapoli	Seed Project		175.58	274.62
		Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur	NSP Seed Project	0.55	0.55 —	0.55 141.60
		NRCC, Nagpur	Seed Project		—	82.75
		NRCOG, Pune	Seed Project		—	71.70
		NRCG, Pune	Seed Project		—	26.40
		CIFE, Mumbai	Seed Project		—	45.22
		VSI, Pune	Seed Project		12.21	19.09
16.	Madhya Pradesh	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	29.2815 15.00	29.7474 — 244.34	32.481 7.00 382.19
		NRCS, Indore	BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	—	5.22 —	4.50 86.95
17.	Manipur	CAU, Imphal	Seed Project		138.23	216.19
18.	Orissa	Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubneshwar	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	33.0516 17.00	34.923 2.731 174.63	37.2027 6.57 258.71
		Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack	NSP Seed Project	0.55	0.55 —	0.55 282.90
		NRCWA, Bhubneshwar	Seed Project		—	14.42
		CIFA, Bhubneshwar	Seed Project		—	138.58
19.	Punjab	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	NSP Seed Project	33.9	33.3368 221.65	36.78555 346.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	26.7825 9.00	26.8065 1.829 165.66	29.118 6.57 259.11
		Maharana Pratap Univ. of Ag. & Tech., Udaipur	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	5.535 24.00	6.024 1.59 189.57	6.567 2.34 296.51
		Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur	NSP Seed Project	1.28	1.28 —	1.28 129.40
		NRCSS, Ajmer	Seed Project		—	45.75
		CIAH, Bikaner	Seed Project		—	62.85
		NRCRM, Bharatpur	Seed Project		—	46.50
21.	Sikkim	NRCOP- Pakyang	Seed Project		—	25.80
22.	Tamilnadu	Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	27.476 20.00	26.0631 6.70 235.96	28.3317 20.30 369.04
		TNAUVAS, Tuticorin	Seed Project		34.94	54.67
		SBI, Coimbatore			—	53.42
		CIBA, Chennai			—	112.20
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Chander Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	26.4375 14.00	26.6493 6.253 203.03	28.9605 4.86 341.57
		Narendra Dev University of Ag. And Tech., Faizabad	NSP Seed Project	29.373	28.9383 174.00	31.4895 272.15
		Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	NSP Seed Project	6.686	7.2668 46.28	7.91 174.94
		Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi	NSP Seed Project	0.55	0.55 46.00	0.55 83.75
		Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur	NSP Seed Project	0.55	0.55 —	0.55 104.92
		SBPUA&T, Meerut	Seed Project		116.28	181.87
		IISR, Lucknow	Seed Project		—	83.75
		DSR, Mau	Seed Project		25.00	152.89
		CISH, Lucknow	Seed Project		—	77.25
		IIVR, Varanasi	Seed Project		—	163.00
		NBFGR, Lucknow	Seed Project		—	68.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Uttaranchal	G.B. Pant University of Ag. And Tech, Pantnagar	NSP BSP on Oilseed Seed Project	31.1298 — —	31.7277 — 227.42	34.5357 1.92 355.70
		Vivekanand Parvitya Anusandhan Shala, Almora	NSP Seed Project	0.55 —	0.55 —	0.55 89.25
		NRCWF, Bhimtal	Seed Project	—	—	23.00
25.	West Bengal	Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres, Barrackpore	NSP Seed Project	0.55 —	0.55 —	0.55 91.15
		BCKVV, Mohanpur	Seed Project	—	86.63	122.67
		UBKV, Pundibari	Seed Project	—	102.67	167.58
		WBUAFS, Mohanpur	Seed Project	—	8.97	14.03
		CIFRI, Barrackpore	Seed Project	—	—	14.42

Note:-

NSP : National Seed Project (Crops).

Seed Project : Seed Project on Agricultural Crops and Fisheries.

BSP on Oilseed : Breeder Seed Production on Annual Oilseed Crops.

Approval of Construction Project in Rajasthan

4330. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has granted environment clearance to certain construction projects in Rajasthan during the last three years including the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress report regarding approval of the sanctioned bye pass bridge on the Chambal river in Kota (Rajasthan) on National Highway No. 76 of the East-West corridor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The environment clearance was accorded to M/s. GECIS for the construction of Multistoried Call Centre for IT enabled services facility at Jaipur in December, 2004 and it was also accorded to M/s. Kajaria Infrastructure for the construction of a Housing Project at Bhiwadi, Alwar in March, 2007.

(c) The environment clearance for National Highway Development Project Rehabilitation & Upgradation of NH-76 from Chittaurgarh to Kota in Rajasthan of East-West corridor by National Highway Authority of India was accorded in February, 2006. Under the EIA Notification 2006, road bridges/by pass bridges etc. are not required to take any environment clearance.

Project Tiger

4331. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement project tiger scheme in accordance with Wild life Protection Amendment Act, 1972;

(b) whether certain proposals have been received from the States for notifying sanctuaries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN

MEENA): (a) While the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is ongoing in twenty eight (28) Tiger Reserves spread over seventeen States in the country, the tiger range States have been requested for implementation of the enabling provisions made in the recent amendment (2006) to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(b) and (c) So far no proposal has been received from any tiger range State for declaring tiger reserves as per the enabling provisions of the said Act.

[English]

National Bamboo Mission

4332. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of National Bamboo Mission with special reference to the States of North East Region; and

(b) the proposed plan for execution during 11th plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The National Bamboo Mission has been launched in the country, including the States of North-Eastern Region, during 2006-07.

(b) 'In Principle' approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for continuing this Mission during the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-08 - 2011-12) has been obtained.

Representation from Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council

4333. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of drugs have been affected due to ban on clearance of import of drugs and drug intermediates under Advance Licenses;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any representation from Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (PEPC); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No Sir. Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) has informed that they have no information regarding ban on clearance of import of drugs and drug intermediates under Advance Licenses. According to Ministry of Finance (Central Board of Excise and Customs) communication No.450/08/2007-Cus.IV dated 22nd January, 2007 it is observed that as per rule 43A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 drugs can be imported into India through one of the following places, namely :-

- (i) Ferozepore Cantonment and Amritsar Railway Stations (in respect of drugs imported by rail across the frontier with Pakistan).
- (ii) Ranaghat, Bongaon and Mohiassan Railway Stations (in respect of drugs imported by rail across the frontier with Bangladesh).
- (iii) Raxaul (in respect of drugs imported by road and railway lines connecting Raxaul in India and Birganj in Nepal).
- (iv) Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, Cochin, Nhava Sheva and Kandla (in respect of drugs imported by sea into India).
- (v) Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad (in respect of drugs imported by airports into India).

Accordingly, import of drugs at the ports other than those mentioned above is not permitted as per the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

(b) Pharmexcil has informed that they have not submitted any representation to the Government in this regard. Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has also informed that there is no specific information regarding ban under the Advance Authorization Scheme on import of Drugs and Drug Intermediates affecting exports.

(c) In view of above, does not arise.

Productivity of Cereal Crops

4334. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been constant and alarming decline in the Total Factor Productivity of several crops particularly cereal crops in the country;

(b) if so, the remedial measures the Government proposes to take to arrest this trend;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has prepared any plan of action to enhance the productivity levels of cereals and other crops 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) to (d) There is no decline in the growth of agricultural total factor productivity (TFP) in the country. However, there is slowing down of TFP in few pockets for some crops during the recent period. To accelerate the growth of TFP, there is special focus on improving irrigation efficiency, enhanced availability of institutional credit, strengthening of technology systems, augmenting supply of source seed, etc. Research is one of the factors affecting growth in TFP and Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken steps to accelerate flow of technology to farmers. Important steps taken are: strengthening basic and strategic research, promoting of value chains, expanding frontline extension system, developing partnership with private sector for rapid transfer of technology.

Review of EIA Norms

4335. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether there is a demand for drastic revision of the fresh Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) rules;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to set up an independent National Environment Impact Assessment Authority;

(c) if so, whether the State Government has agreed to review the EIA as per the September notification; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No demand for drastic revision of the new Environment Impact Assessment Notification issued on 14.09.2006 has been received. However, a few suggestions from a few individuals, industry groups and concerned Ministries for improving, revising and amending the new Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 have been received.

(b) No proposal is under consideration in the Ministry to set up an Independent National Environment Impact Assessment Authority.

(c) and (d) The Paras 3 and 4 of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 envisage the constitution of the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and the State Level Expert Appraisal Committees (SEAC) by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for appraisal and granting Environmental Clearances to the activities listed in Schedule under Category 'B' in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. A number of proposals in this regard from various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been received.

[Translation]

Cap on Tourists Visiting National Parks

4336. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) whether the Wildlife Boards have put a cap on the number of tourists visiting National Parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more tourists are being permitted to visit National Parks in violation of the recommendations made by the Wild life Boards;

(d) if so, the appropriate steps taken/proposed by the Government to carry out a review in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to limit the number of animals in National Parks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Union Government has issued guidelines to permit the entry of tourists in National Parks, particularly, Tiger Reserves only in accordance of the carrying capacity of the National Park.

(c) and (d) Possibility of visitation of tourists more than the carrying capacity of the National Park can not be ruled out in some cases. However, the State Governments have been requested not to permit the tourists beyond the carrying capacity of the Park.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Fertilizer Plants in other countries

4337. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fertilizer plants set up by the public as well as private sector Indian companies in other countries;

(b) whether any assistance has been extended or proposed to be extended by the Government and thereby encouraged these companies to set their plants either independently or with joint ventures in those countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The details of fertilizer plant set up by the public as well by the private sector in other countries are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The Government has been encouraging setting up of joint venture fertilizer plants by both public and private sector companies in other countries. The Government played a pivotal role in setting up of Oman India Fertilizer project (OMIFCO) at Sur (Oman). Further, it has also invested in the form of equity in ICS, Senegal, which is a Joint Venture project in phosphatic sector.

Further, for encouraging joint ventures abroad, the New Pricing Scheme Stage-III provides for Government entering into long term buy-back arrangement for off take of urea from joint ventures abroad set up by the Indian public or private sector companies.

Statement

Company	Location	Participants	Est. project cost (US\$ million)	Date of Commissioning	Product	Capacity (000 tonnes per annum)	Buy back arrangement by India
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I. Details of Fertilizer Plants Set up abroad							
Oman India Fert. Co. (OMIFCO)	Sur, Muscat, Oman	KRISHCO, IFFCO, Oman Oil Co., Oman	882	July 2005	Ammonia Urea	1155 1652	100% of Urea production is being purchased by the Govt. of India

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. ICS, Senegal	Darou, Senegal	IFFCO, Govt. of India ICS-Senegal	Original: 275.21 Debottlenecking: 45.66	April, 1984 Debottlenecking 1991	Phosphoric acid	660 (P ₂ O ₅)	100% upto 550 thousand tonnes P ₂ O ₅ by IFFCO
2. ICS, Senegal (Expn.)		IFFCO ICS-Senegal	250	Feb. 2002	Phosphoric acid		
3. Indo Jordan Chemicals Co.	Eshdiya, Jordan	SPIC, JMPC, Jordan The Arab Investment Co.	170	May 1997	Phosphoric acid	224 (P ₂ O ₅)	
4. Indo Maroc Phosphore S.A.	Jorf Lasler, Morocco	Chambal Fert. & Chem., TCL, OCP-Morocco	230	Nov. 1999 Revamp-Sept. 2006	Phosphoric acid	430 (P ₂ O ₅)	100%
II. Under Implementation:							
1. Indo Egyptian Fertiliser Company (IEFC)	Edfu ASWAN Governrate Egypt	IFFCO & El NASAR Mining Co., Egypt	325	Mid 2009*	Phosphoric acid	450 (P ₂ O ₅)	100% by IFFCO
2. Tunisian Indian Fertilizers (TIFERT) SA	Tunisia	GSFC, CFL, GCT-Tunisia	165	June 2008*	Phosphoric acid	330 (P ₂ O ₅)	100% by GSFC & CFL

*Expected date.

Production of Chillies

4338. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and variety of chillies produced in various States particularly in Orissa during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the details of domestic demand of chillies in the country during the said period;

(c) whether farmers are suffering losses in the sale of chillies in the market; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide relief to the farmers and increase the production of chillies 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) Statement-I & II showing the details of State-wise production of chillies during last three years and different

trade varieties of chillies produced in various States is enclosed.

(b) As per available statistics on production, import and export of chillies it is estimated that about 9.00 lakh tones of chillies are consumed annually in the country.

(c) No Sir. The average price of chillies has gone up from Rs. 25 per kg in 2005-06 to Rs. 50 per kg in 2006-07 an increase of 100% in Guntur, the major marketing centre. Prices of cold storage chillies in Guntur market for the week ending 13.4.2007 was reported as Rs. 50 per kg against Rs. 34 per kg during the same period of last year.

(d) Several Development Programmes on chillies were implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Sector Schemes in the major centres of cultivation. The efforts in this regard have been intensified through the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) launched by Government of India since 2005-06. The mission programmes are aimed at increasing production, productivity and quality of chillies produced in the country to meet the growing demand in the domestic as well as export market. Major among them is the production of

chilli seeds of high yielding and export oriented varieties specific to different agro climatic conditions and distribution through State Department nurseries and other selected private nurseries for their wide coverage in the area expansion programme.

Statement I

State-wise production of chillies in India during the last three years

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (P)
Andhra Pradesh	797.0	748.5	538.0
Karnataka	94.5	94.5	60.0
Orissa	63.2	63.2	63.2
Madhya Pradesh	38.4	39.6	39.6
Maharashtra	44.0	44.0	30.0
West Bengal	66.3	61.4	61.4
Rajasthan	31.1	31.4	31.4
Tamil Nadu	40.1	44.6	44.6
Uttar Pradesh	12.8	12.8	12.8
Others	48.0	45.3	45.8
All India	1235.4	1185.3	926.8

Statement II

The details of trade varieties of chillies produced in the various States in the country

- **Birds Eye Chilli (Dhani)** Grown in Mizoram & some areas of Manipur. Blood red in colour, highly pungent
- **Byadagi (Kaddi)** Grown in Dharwar, Karnataka. Red in colour with less pungency or without pungency.
- **Elachipur Sannam - S4 Type** Grown in Amaravathi District of Maharashtra. Reddish in colour and very hot.
- **Guntur Sannam - S4 Type** Grown in Guntur, Warangal, Khammam Districts of Andhra Pradesh. Skin thick, hot and red.

- **Hindpur - S7** Grown in Hindpur in Andhra Pradesh. Red in colour, hot and highly pungent.
- **Jwala** Grown in Kheda, Mehsana & in south Gujarat. Highly pungent, light red in colour, Short and the seeds are compact.
- **Khandarl - White** Grown in Kerala & some parts of Tamil Nadu. Short and ivory white in colour with high pungency.
- **Kashmir Chilli** Grown in temperate regions such as Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and also in sub tropical regions of North India during winter season. Long, flesh, deep red in colour.
- **Madhya Pradesh G.T. Sannam** Grown in Indore, Malkapur chikil and Elachpur areas of Madhya Pradesh Red in colour and pungent.
- **Madras Perl** Grown in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh Pure red in colour and hot
- **Nagpur** Grown in Nagpur District of Maharashtra Red in colour and pungent.
- **Nalchettl** Grown in Nagpur District of Maharashtra Red in colour and extremely pungent.
- **Ramnad Mundu** Grown in Ramnadi District of Tamil Nadu. Yellowish red and hot
- **Sannam - S4 Type** Grown in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra, Light red in colour and hot.
- **Sattur - S4** Grown in Dindigul, Sattur, Rajapalayam, Sankarankoil & Theni in Tamil Nadu. Red in colour, pungent with thick skin.
- **Scotch Bonnet** Introduced from Jamaica. Cultivation in India is on the initial stage. Studies shows that it comes up well in the hilly regions of Kerala & Karnataka. May be possible to grow in other parts of India as well.
- **S9 Mundu** Grown in Anantpur District of Andhra Pradesh. Tomato red in colour and with fairly good pungency.
- **Tadappally - Big Long** Grown in Tadappally in Andhra Pradesh Red in colour, less pungent, thick skin.

- **Tomato Chilli (Warangal Chappatta)** Grown in Warangal, Khammam, East & West Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh. Deep red and less pungent.

[Translation]

Per-Capita Availability of Land

4339. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in per-capita availability of land in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any official survey has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for decreasing per-capita land;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any proposal is under consideration to fix minimum quantum of agricultural land and to make it a viable earning through the mode of legislation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. As per the information furnished by the States based on their regular surveys, the per capita availability of cultivable land has declined from 0.27 ha. in 1980-81 to 0.17 ha. in 2004-05 due to increase in population and diversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purposes such as urbanization, roads, industries etc. During the same period, land under non agricultural purposes has increased from 19.66 million ha. to 24.45 million ha.

(f) and (g) No, Sir.

[English]

Import of Potato

4340. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to import potato; and

(b) if so, the details and 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) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to import Potato.

Assistance to Women for Poultry Farming in Kerala

4341. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Government of Kerala for seeking assistance to women for poultry farming; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories

4342. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories working at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories in tribal, scheduled and hilly areas of the country during Eleventh Plan Period; and

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

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

At present there are 122 mobile Soil Testing Laboratories (STLs) functioning in the country. A statement showing State-wise number of mobile STLs working during 2005-06 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Government is promoting setting up of new STLs including mobile STLs by providing financial assistance to the State Governments in all States including tribal, scheduled and hilly areas of the country during 11th Plan period under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—"Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers" since subsumed under Macro Management of Agriculture scheme.

Statement

*State-wise Number of Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories,
during the year 2005-06*

S.No.	Name of the State	Total No. of Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories
1	2	3
I. South Zone		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Karnataka	3
3.	Kerala	9
4.	Tamil Nadu	17
5.	Pondicherry	0
6.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1
7.	Lakshadweep	0
Total		34
II. West Zone		
8.	Gujarat	3
9.	Madhya Pradesh	3
10.	Maharashtra	5
11.	Rajasthan	12
12.	Chhattisgarh	0
13.	Goa	1

1	2	3
14.	Daman and Diu	0
15.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
Total		24
III. North Zone		
16.	Haryana	1
17.	Punjab	14
18.	Himachal Pradesh	2
19.	Uttar Pradesh	21
20.	Jammu and Kashmir	4
21.	Uttaranchal	3
22.	Delhi	0
23.	Chandigarh	0
Total		45
IV. East Zone		
24.	Bihar	0
25.	Orissa	0
26.	West Bengal	7
27.	Jharkhand	3
Total		10
V. N.E. Zone		
28.	Assam	4
29.	Tripura	4
30.	Manipur	0
31.	Nagaland	0
32.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
33.	Meghalaya	1
34.	Sikkim	0
35.	Mizoram	0
Total		9
GRAND TOTAL		122

*[Translation]***Cases Against Employers**

4343. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the number and the nature of the cases registered by the Provident Fund offices against the employers during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) whether these cases are pending in courts for more than five years;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of said cases; and

(e) the extent of success achieved by the Government through the steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : (a) The details of cases sanctioned by Regional Provident Fund Commissioners for prosecution under Section 14 of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and complaints filed under Section 406/409 of IPC are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) The details of pending cases are given in the enclosed statement-II. The pendency position varies from case to case.

(d) and (e) Progress of the pending cases is regularly monitored by the Head Office of EPFO. Standing Counsels have been impressed upto to get expeditious disposal of the cases and prayers are made to the courts accordingly. The courts dispose of the cases filed before it in accordance with the due procedure.

Statement I

Cases launched u/s 14 of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 and u/s 406/409 of IPC

Region	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	u/s 14	u/s 406/409	u/s 14	u/s 406/409	u/s 14	u/s 406/409
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	429	10	1547	18	2105	6
Bihar	0	0	546	4	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	2	0	4	0	0
Delhi	10	9	0	10	0	9
Goa	237	13	133	1	22	0
Gujarat	0	28	90	12	211	33
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	1	9	55	8	714	7
Jharkhand	475	1	0	0	0	4
Karnataka	570	98	753	244	2070	122
Kerala	337	95	362	88	868	68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra	1	7	0	5	641	14
Madhya Pradesh	4	4	0	3	3	2
North Eastern Region	0	10	0	0	12	1
Orissa	80	3	2	0	0	0
Punjab	111	4	137	6	34	10
Rajasthan	184	28	0	8	1	0
Tamil Nadu	294	432	661	179	187	117
Uttaranchal	24	3	0	1	3	0
Uttar Pradesh	4	7	0	2	247	0
West Bengal	78	29	2075	91	887	64
TOTAL	2839	792	6361	684	8005	457

Statement II

Cases pending u/s 14 of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 and u/s 406/409 of IPC as on 31st March

Region	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	u/s 14	u/s 406/409	u/s 14	u/s 406/409	u/s 14	u/s 406/409
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	2214	254	2363	216	4386	222
Bihar	3957	19	4503	23	4503	23
Chhattisgarh	907	3	907	7	907	7
Delhi	967	57	967	67	927	76
Goa	378	83	511	84	525	83
Gujarat	3574	381	3648	393	3859	417
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haryana	1797	120	1832	123	2546	128
Jharkhand	2229	1	2142	1	2141	2
Karnataka	3734	567	4458	793	5454	914
Kerala	2926	1085	2983	1173	3644	1188
Maharashtra	5321	388	5315	393	5610	397

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madhya Pradesh	4372	109	4372	112	4320	85
North Eastern Region	421	57	421	57	433	57
Orissa	1784	99	1786	99	1786	99
Punjab	1521	186	1618	191	1615	197
Rajasthan	502	176	502	38	503	34
Tamil Nadu	2996	1480	3613	1497	3738	1313
Uttaranchal	36	5	36	6	26	5
Uttar Pradesh	2696	278	2696	280	2943	280
West Bengal	2792	851	3205	940	4092	1004
TOTAL	45124	6199	47878	6493	53938	6531

[Translation]

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

Environmental clearance for Construction of Dams

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

4344. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain proposals seeking environmental clearance have been received from the Governments of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh for construction of new dams in those States;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. During last three years, a total of four proposals was received from the States of Andhra Pradesh & Kerala wherein construction of new dams was involved. The details are given below:-

S.No.	Name of the Project	Status on 30.4.2007
Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Indira Sagar (Polavaram) Multipurpose Project, Department of Irrigation & Command Area Development	Environmental clearance granted on 25.10.2005
2.	Galeru Nagari Sujala Sravanthi Project, Deptt. of Irrigation & Command Area Development	Environmental clearance granted on 21.6.2006
Kerala		
3.	Athirapally Hydroelectric project, Kerala State Electricity Board	Being considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley & Hydroelectric projects.
4.	Pathrakadavu Hydroelectric project, Kerala State Electricity Board	Being considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee for River Valley & Hydroelectric projects

*[English]***Notices Issued to Drug Companies**

4345. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 83 dated February 26, 2007 regarding notices issued to drug companies and state:

(a) the name of the drug companies served with notices of overcharging by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) alongwith name of medicines, price overcharged in comparison to the prices fixed during the last three years;

(b) the amount of liability to each company; and

(c) the details of drug companies who have gone in litigation and the issues raised by them in different courts alongwith the details of the issues lying pending in each court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regularly takes action against pharma companies who do not implement the prices fixed/notified by NPPA under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO,95) and this is a continuous and ongoing process. Since, inception in Aug' 1997, NPPA has raised a total demand of Rs. 1409.81 crores for recovery towards overcharged amount in 415 cases, under the provisions of DPCO' 1995 read with Essential Commodities Act, 1955. NPPA has recovered Rs. 100.10 crores (upto 30.4.2007) from the defaulting companies. NPPA continues to take appropriate action regularly for recovery of the overcharged amount.

Since inception of NPPA (August 1997) till date, NPPA is handling 70 court cases filed by Pharma companies against NPPA/Union of India in various parts of the country with respect to recovery of overcharged amount. An estimated overcharged amount of Rs. 1318.64 crores is being contested by the said Pharma units against which NPPA has recovered Rs. 81.14 crores (upto 30.4.2007). In some cases the recovery is affected due to orders from the Hon'ble High Courts and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and cases presently are subjudice in Courts.

Demand of Chrome Ore for Steel Industry

4346. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of chrome ore for stainless steel and other steel related industries in the country has rapidly increased; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the plan formulated to meet their requirement of raw materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) The production and dispatches of chrome ore (chromite) during last five years is as below:

Year/Period	Quantity Million tonnes	
	Production	Dispatch for Internal Consumption
2002-2003	3.06	1.08
2003-2004	2.90	1.82
2004-2005	3.62	1.90
2005-2006(P)	3.42	1.93
2006-2007(E)	4.10	3.97

Source : Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur. (P) - Provisional (E) - Estimated.

From the above, it is evident that demand of chrome ore has increased suddenly from 1.93 million tonnes (provisional) in 2005-06 to 3.97 million tonnes (estimated) in 2006-07.

Production and distribution of chrome ore to stainless steel or other steel related industries is in the de-regulated sector, therefore, not under Government control. However, there is an export ceiling on chrome ore of 4 lakh tonnes per annum. Export duty of Rs. 2000 per tonne on chrome ore and concentrates has been proposed in Budget 2007-08.

Assistance to Sanctuaries

4347. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA:

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

(a) the quantum of assistance provided to sanctuaries for development of habitats during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any evaluation study has been conducted to assess the impact of the assistance provided to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether certain proposals for financial assistance under the scheme 'Development of Parks/Sanctuaries' is lying with the Union Government;

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

(f) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The quantum of assistance provided to various sanctuaries and national parks for conservation

and development of habitats during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. At the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' was evaluated by five Organizations namely, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, Indian Institute of Forests Management, Bhopal, Development Alternatives, New Delhi, Indian Society of Wildlife Research, Kolkata and GEER Foundation, Gujarat. They noted that the scheme is the only source of funds to the Protected Areas and therefore recommended for the continuation of scheme in the next plan period with increased financial outlay.

(d) to (f) Proposals in the form of Annual Plan of Operations (APO) for financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" are received from State/UT Governments from time to time. These proposals are scrutinized and financial assistance provided to States/UTs subject to the availability of funds and fulfilment of necessary criteria.

Statement

Details of financial assistance provided under the Scheme 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' during the last three years, State-wise

(Rs. in Lakhs)				
Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69.40	63.55	57.75
2.	Andhra Pradesh	71.70	104.245	143.238
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	111.086	144.845	78.602
4.	Assam	213.45	193.205	161.79
5.	Bihar	—	—	10.50
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	227.29	359.817	377.863
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20.00	20.00	14.50
9.	Goa	37.50	14.40	5.00
10.	Gujarat	223.93	275.93	328.675

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Haryana	45.10	24.20	60.45
12.	Himachal Pradesh	343.52	283.83806	261.56
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	63.20	113.50	173.68
14.	Jharkhand	77.59	124.90	98.54
15.	Karnataka	546.24	474.9931	490.582
16.	Kerala	238.78879	284.5412	362.115
17.	Madhya Pradesh	268.4755	613.553	759.46
18.	Maharashtra	108.05	241.68	223.855
19.	Manipur	110.588	101.03	96.986
20.	Meghalaya	84.82	59.30	38.20
21.	Mizoram	315.0412	221.28	136.066
22.	Nagaland	32.32	1.50	16.38
23.	Orissa	370.27	325.649	340.855
24.	Punjab	—	—	3.00
25.	Rajasthan	246.62	192.62	207.665
26.	Sikkim	74.40	118.84	140.376
27.	Tamil Nadu	158.75	197.20	205.24
28.	Tripura	49.125	—	31.60
29.	Uttar Pradesh	287.53	345.63	290.38
30.	Uttaranchal	68.20	85.65	100.12
31.	West Bengal	317.24	313.9437	357.225
32.	Delhi	—	19.50	—
TOTAL		4780.22449	5319.34	5572.252

[Translation]

Model Hospitals

4348. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme to develop Model Hospital was

announced by the Employees State Insurance Corporation during some time past;

(b) if so, the name of the hospital which is likely to be declared as a model hospital in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Employees State Insurance Corporation in this regard?

The MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. The ESI Corporation in its meeting held on 16.02.2001 decided to convert one existing ESI hospital of the State into a model hospital and the entire expenditure incurred on the running of Model Hospital will be borne by the ESI Corporation outside the ceiling limit.

(b) and (c) Initially, ESI Hospital and Occupational Diseases Centre (ODC), Nagda commissioned by ESI Corporation on 05.06.1999 was designated as a Model Hospital for the State of Madhya Pradesh. Subsequently, the Government of Madhya Pradesh conveyed its consent for transfer of ESI Hospital, Indore to ESI Corporation to be run as Model Hospital in lieu of ESIC Hospital, Nagda. Accordingly, ESI Hospital, Nanda Nagar, Indore has been taken over by the ESI Corporation on 31.03.2007 to be run as Model Hospital in the State and ESIC Hospital, Nagda was handed back to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh on 01.04.2007.

[English]

Foodgrains for Welfare Institutions

4349. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for supply of foodgrains to hostels and welfare institutions is being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of allocation and off-take under the said scheme in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the off-take of foodgrains in the State has been very low *vis-a-vis* its allocation during the said period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and 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) and (b) Yes Sir. There is a scheme called Supply of foodgrains to hostels and welfare Institutions and is being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The allocation and off take of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh under this Scheme during the last three years are as under:

(In tons)

Year	Allocation	Offtake
2004-05	63600	13984
2005-06	60764	16278
2006-07	65802	32416

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The offtake of foodgrains under this scheme in the State has been very low *vis-a-vis* its allocation because as reported by the State Government, from 2004-05, releases have been made after detailed verification of actual requirement of the institutions/NGOs.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Low Cost Ferrous Sulphate Medicine

4350. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge difference in the prices of various medicines containing iron;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether pharmaceutical companies have been asked to manufacture ferrous sulphate medicine at low cost as this medicine is considered to be an effective remedy to anemia; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) and (b) The prices of 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are controlled in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95 by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). NPPA has not carried out any study regarding huge differences in the prices of various medicines containing iron.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply (c), as above.

Decline in Production of Mustard

4351. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under cultivation and production of mustard recorded during each of the last three years vis-a-vis the current year; and

(b) the manner in which the Government proposes to meet the shortage of mustard 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) Table below gives the area under cultivation and production of Rapeseed and Mustard in the country from 2003-04 to 2006-07:

Year	Area (‘000 Hectares)	Production (‘000 Tonnes)
2003-04	5428.1	6291.4
2004-05	7316.4	7593.1
2005-06	7276.5	8131.2
2006-07*	6332.0	6694.0

*3rd advance estimates as on 04.04.2007.

(b) The overall demand-supply gap of edible oils is met through imports. However, for increasing the production of oilseeds, including mustard, a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is in place from 01.04.2004. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seeds, distribution of seed minikits, infrastructure development, block demonstrations on improved technology, integrated pest management, weedicides, distribution of sprinkler sets and farmers training. The Budget 2007-08 announced proposals to expand the ISOPOM.

[English]

Environmental clearance to Sidhumber Irrigation Scheme

4352. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sidhumber Irrigation Scheme of Dharampur Taluka in Valsad District of Gujarat is pending for environmental clearance with the Union Government since 2004;

(b) if so, whether some other schemes/projects of State Government of Gujarat are also pending with the Union Government since long;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons for pendency of each scheme; and

(e) the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Grant of Environment clearance in respect of Sidhumber Irrigation Scheme of Dharampur Taluka in Valsad District of Gujarat was not found possible by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the project proponent was intimated accordingly on 15.09.2004. No other such schemes/projects are pending with the Ministry for environmental clearance.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of the reply to parts (a) and (b).

Assistance under IFPS

4353. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether assistance is provided to various States under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS);

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided during 2006-07, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of work executed by the State Governments under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the funds provided under the scheme have been diverted by some States;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN

MEENA): (a) Yes Sir, under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS) financial assistance is provided to the State Forest Departments, for protection and management of existing forests.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (g) Evaluation of the Scheme was got done by independent agencies. Two studies were awarded. One for the North Eastern region and other for the rest of India. These independent evaluations have recommended that Scheme should continue during XI Plan. The guidelines for the Scheme provide for monitoring and evaluation by the State Forest Department. In addition officials of the Ministry during visit to States also review the performance and progress of various Schemes including IFPS.

Statement

Funds Released to States/UTs under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme during 2006-07

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No	States	Funds Released During 2006-07		
		2nd Installment of W.P 2005-06	1st Installment of W.P 2006-07	Total
1	2	3	4	5
	Other States			
1.	Andhra Pradesh			Nil
2.	Bihar	12.53	120.00	132.53
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	371.40	371.40
4.	Goa	Nil	Nil* (29.01)	Nil* (29.01)
5.	Gujarat	200.00	200.00	400.00
6.	Haryana	51.48	116.02	167.50
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jharkhand	112.263	Nil	112.263
10.	Karnataka	122.88	Nil	122.88
11.	Kerala	167.597	Nil	167.597
12.	Madhya Pradesh	200.00	125.00	325.00

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil*(103.46)	Nil* (103.46)
14.	Orissa	76.38	Nil	76.38
15.	Punjab	Nil	Nil*(100.00)	Nil*(1 00.00)
16.	Rajasthan	Nil	100.07	100.07
17.	Tamil Nadu	158.40	Nil	158.40
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	135.04	135.04
19.	Uttarakhand	188.22	320.36	508.58
20.	West Bengal	57.57	160.53	218.10
Total		1347.32	1648.42	2995.74
NE & Sikkim				
1.	Assam	150.26	40.00	190.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	181.68	10.00	191.68
3.	Manipur	194.29	200.89	395.18
4.	Meghalaya	150.00	Nil	150.00
5.	Mizoram	79.71	150.00	229.71
6.	Nagaland	237.72	100.00	337.72
7.	Sikkim	141.70	Nil* (36.88)	141.70
8.	Tripura	162.915	Nil	162.915
Total		1298.275	500.89	1799.165
Union Territories				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.8552	Nil	3.8552
4.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	New Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		3.8552	Nil	3.8552
Grand Total		2849.4502	2149.31	4798.7602

*Indicates that funds were sanctioned but actual release was Nil as the earlier unspent funds were adjusted, against current year's release. These amounts are given in brackets.

*[Translation]***Demand/Availability of Carbonised Steel**

4354. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demand and availability of carbonised steel recorded in the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds released for the said sector during the last three years;

(c) the details of import and export of the carbonised steel during the last three years; and

(d) the details of production capacity and actual production of carbonised steel during the last three years, public-sector plant-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Demand and availability of finished (carbon) steel in the country during the last three years are given below:

(in million tonnes)

Year	Apparent Demand	Domestic Availability
2004-05	33.5	34.5
2005-06	38.5	39.4
2006-07 (Provisional)	44.0	43.7

(Source: Joint Plant Committee)

(b) No Plan fund was released to Carbon steel producing integrated steel plants i.e Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) during the last three years. However, SAIL was provided non-plan fund of Rs. 9.30 crores towards interest subsidy in the year 2004-05 and Rs. 70.22 crores towards waiver of penal guarantee fee in the year 2006-07. No non-plan fund was provided to RINL during the last three years.

(c) Import and export of finished (carbon) steel in the country during the last three years are given below :

(in million tonnes)

Year	Imports	Exports
2004-05	2.109	4.381
2005-06	3.850	4.478
2006-07 (Provisional)	4.100	4.750

(Source: Joint Plant Committee)

(d) The crude (Carbon) steel making capacity and production of public sector steel plants viz., Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) during the last three years are given below:-

(in million tonnes)

Year	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (Provisional)	
	Capacity	Production	Capacity	Production	Capacity	Production
SAIL(Including IISCO)	12,859	12,460	12,859	13,470	12,839	13,506
RINL	2,910	3,452	2,910	3,494	2,910	3,487
Total	15,769	15,912	15,769	16,964	15,749	17,003

(Source : Joint Plant Committee)

*[English]***Restructuring of Brahmaputra Board**

4355. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 801 dated Dec. 06, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has since been restructured;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manpower and institutional break-up finalized as well as additional power or autonomy granted to upgrade the board to an effective functional entity;

(d) if not, reasons for the inordinate delay and when it is targeted for execution; and

(e) the salient features of the master plan prepared for flood moderation and river training with outlays, allocation and achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) The earlier proposal referred to in reply to Unstarred Question No. 801 dated Dec. 06, 2004 was for internal restructuring of Brahmaputra Board. The action for restructuring of Brahmaputra Board was initiated in the Ministry and Recruitment Rules for promotion to the posts of Chief Engineers and Assured Career Progression (ACP) cases of Junior Engineers were finalized. As regards Cadre Review proposal, it is proposed to restructure the Brahmaputra Board by an amendment of the existing Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980. A proposal for amendment of the said Act is under formulation in consultation with the concerned Ministries/ Departments and authorities/agencies.

Thereafter, a bill seeking amendment of the Act will be brought up before the Parliament. After the said bill has been passed, the amended Act will be notified in the official Gazette and the Board will be restructured accordingly. As this is a time consuming process, the target for execution of the provisions of the amended Act will depend on the final passing of the Bill by the Parliament.

(e) In the Master Plan prepared by Brahmaputra Board, detailed studies of the river system of the basin, hydro-meteorology, analysis of hydrological data, geology, climate, socioeconomic status, population (human & livestock), urban development, forests, industries and transport, food and its impact and overall water resource development are carried out and different measures for control of flood and bank erosion and improvement of drainage giving due regard to other beneficial purposes are recommended. The recommendations consist of structural as well as non-structural measures. The structural measures include short term as well long term measures.

The Board has taken up execution of the schemes for flood moderation and river training works recommended in the Master plans. These include Harang Drainage Development Scheme, Protection of Majuli Islands, Avulsion of Brahmaputra at Dholla Hatighuli, Barbhag Drainage Development Scheme and Pagladiya Dam project. An outlay of Rs. 646.12 crores was provided during X plan, against which, an amount of Rs. 74.80 crores was spent on these projects.

The achievements made so far include execution of Anti-erosion schemes, Embankments, Drainage

Development Schemes, setting up of North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute (NEHARI), carrying out of Geo-morphological and allied studies of the river Brahmaputra etc.

Buffer Stock of Urea

4356. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to maintain a buffer stock of Urea in major States to avoid shortage during the coming kharif season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the States identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department will operate a buffer stock of urea through the State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major consuming States up to a limit of 5% of the seasonal requirement. States identified for operating the buffer stock during Kharif 2007 are as follows:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Karnataka
3. Tamil Nadu
4. Gujarat
5. Madhya Pradesh
6. Maharashtra
7. Rajasthan
8. Haryana
9. Punjab
10. Uttar Pradesh
11. Bihar
12. Orissa
13. West Bengal.

Assistance under Fodder Development Scheme

4357. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
 SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate attention has been given to the production of fodder crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several States have emphasized the need to develop fodder banks in vulnerable areas and to chalk out strategies for improving the supply/transportation of fodder from one region to the other regions in the country;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon;

(e) whether various State Governments have requested the Union Government to increase financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme; and

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

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

(b) The following schemes have been implemented for enhancement of fodder production:

1. Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme comprising of following components:

- (i) Establishment of Fodder Block Making Units.
- (ii) Grassland Development including Grass Reserves.
- (iii) Fodder seed production and distribution.
- (iv) Biotechnology Research Project.

2. The Government has established Central Fodder Development Organization comprising of seven Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration, one Central Fodder Seed Production Farm and Central Minikit Testing Programme for production of fodder seed, organizing demonstration, farmers' fairs and training programmes on production of high yielding varieties of fodder crops.

(c) and (d) No specific proposal in this regard has been received from any State.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

Aims and Objectives of DGFASLI

4358. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
 SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) the aims and objectives/accountability of the Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to expand the accountability of DGFASLI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Directorate General of Factories Advice Service & Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) was set up with the objective of advising the Central and State Governments on the administration of the Factories Act, 1948 and for integrating all related activities with Factory Inspection Services in the States. The DGFASLI renders advice and carries out support activities such as studies and surveys for administration of the Factories Act, 1948 and Dock Workers' (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act, 1966. It also coordinates with the State Governments in the technical and legal sphere to facilitate uniform standards of enforcement of safety and health in manufacturing and Port sectors. The Labour Institutes under the DGFASLI conduct studies and surveys, training programmes and other promotional programmes in the field of occupational safety and health.

The DGFASLI also administers Dock Workers' (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act, 1986 and the Regulations, 1990 framed thereunder in major Ports of the country through its Inspectorates of Dock Safety.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Fire in Talcher Fertilizer Plant

4359. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Talcher Fertilizer Plant in Orissa has been destroyed due to fire accident recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated loss sustained as a result thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) There was an incidence of wild bush fire on 8.4.2007 in the premises of closed Talcher fertilizers Plant of FCIL, which erupted at about 1.30 P.M. The fire started from near the boundary wall which was inaccessible due dense wild growth. The fire spread quickly to large area due to heavy wind and dry grasses on the ground. It was brought under control within 4-5 hours with the help of fire tenders of Orissa State Government, Heavy water plant, NTPC, NALCO & MCL. There was no major loss to the plant and equipments. The only loss was damage and fall of wooden cooling tower structure. The management constituted a High Power Committee to visit the site and report on the fire incidence. The Committee has reported that loss sustained by the company in the fire incidence is approximately between Rs. 0.5 lac to Rs. 1 lac.

Setting up of New Fertilizer Plants

4360. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has chalked out capital cost for setting up of seven new fertilizer plants so as to remove the crisis of fertilizers in the country as reported in *Dainik Jagran* dated April 22, 2007;

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

(c) the estimated cost involved therein;

(d) the total quantity of fertilizers estimated to be produced in each of the plant; and

(e) the time by which such plants are likely to be commissioned and the production started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) In view of increasing gap in demand and supply of urea in the country, the Government is encouraging companies for setting up of new urea plants within the country and also in other countries where gas is available at reasonable price. Some of the Indian companies have submitted their plans for setting up of new urea units in the country during the 11th Plan period. RCF has proposed setting up of urea unit at Thal, Mumbai (Maharashtra), KRIBHCO has proposed setting up of urea unit at Hazira (Gujarat), Indo-Gulf has proposed to set up urea unit at Jagdishpur (Uttar Pradesh) and IFFCO has proposed to set up a urea unit at Nellore (Andhra Pradesh). For setting up of these plants the companies are in initial stage of discussions with gas suppliers and accordingly the detailed project report is under preparation, only after which likely cost of project can be ascertained. At this stage no definite time frame can be fixed.

Price Stabilisation Fund

4361. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Price Stabilisation Fund and Market Intervention Plan for all Agricultural products as recommended by the National Commission on Farmers;

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(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said fund 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) to (c) The National Commission on Farmers, in its Revised Draft National Policy for Farmers has recommended the establishment of Market Price Stabilization Fund jointly by Central and State Governments and financial institutions to protect farmers during periods of violent fluctuations in prices. The Commission has also recommended that the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) should respond speedily to exigencies, specially in the case of sensitive crops in the rainfed areas. The recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers have been examined in consultation with the subject matter Ministries and State Governments and a note has been circulated for the consideration of the Committee of the Secretaries. A final decision on the recommendations of the Commission has not been taken by the Government so far.

However, the Government is implementing a Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of oilseeds and pulses through NAFED and a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of perishable agricultural and horticultural commodities not covered under PSS, in order to protect the growers from making distress sales.

Task Force on Flood Management

4362. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a Task Force for flood management/erosion control to look into the recurrent floods in Assam and some other neighbouring States;

(b) if so, whether it has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the salient features of the report;

(d) whether the Government has circulated the recommendations of the Task Force to various Ministries/Planning Commission and the State Governments for their comments;

(e) if so, the details of reactions received from various States, Ministries and Planning Commission in this regard;

(f) the follow-up action taken thereon; and

(g) if not, the time by which the Government proposes to take decision on the recommendations of the said Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (g) Yes Sir. The Government of India had constituted a Task Force for flood management/erosion control in August, 2004 to look into the recurrent floods in Assam and some other neighbouring States, under the chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission. The Task Force submitted its report on 31.12.2004.

The Task Force recommended a number of Flood Management schemes/works amounting to a total of Rs. 4982.10 crore. It included works of Rs. 316.14 crore under immediate, works of Rs. 2030.15 crore under Short Term-I and works of Rs. 2635.81 crore as Short Term-II category, to be implemented during next six months, 2 years and 7 years respectively. The State governments were, however, required to prepare detailed project reports of the schemes and process them for approval as per the guidelines of the Planning Commission and get them techno-economically cleared by appraising agencies for taking them up for implementation.

The report of Task Force was circulated to various Ministries/Planning Commission and the State Governments.

Based upon the recommendations of the Task Force, two on-going schemes during X plan under central plan, namely, "Critical Anti Erosion Works in Ganga Basin States" and "Critical Flood Control and Anti Erosion Schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley" were upwardly revised to Rs. 1150.68 crore and Rs. 830.14 respectively. However, considering very little time left in the X plan period, these schemes were sanctioned for Rs. 305.03 crore and Rs. 225 crore respectively with a suggestion that the scheme for balance works may be proposed

during XI plan period. Accordingly, remaining works recommended by the Task Force have been included in the proposals of XI Plan.

[Translation]

Review of ISOPOM

4363. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning and achievements of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM);

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

(c) the steps taken to make the said scheme more effective and result oriented?

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 functioning of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm & Maize (ISOPOM) is reviewed periodically by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and Planning Commission. On the basis of review, the implementation of the scheme has been found to be satisfactory and it has been decided to continue the scheme in 11th five year plan. Further, on the basis of experience gained in the implementation of the scheme during 10th plan as also the suggestions received from various implementing States, modification of the scheme is envisaged for implementation during 11th plan in a more effective and result oriented manner.

[English]

Steel/Sponge Iron Plants in Orissa

4364. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI NARHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel plants/sponge iron plants set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent by each plant on peripheral development during the last three years;

(c) the specific work carried out by them during the said period;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up new steel/sponge iron plants in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The number of steel plants/sponge iron plants in public and private sector set up in the country, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The Ministry of Steel has two steel-making Public Sector Undertakings viz Steel Authority of India (SAIL), and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)/Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) and one Sponge Iron Plant i.e. Sponge Iron (India) Limited (SIIL) under its administrative control. The amount spent by each plant/unit of SAIL, RINL and SIIL on peripheral development during the last three years are mentioned below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Plant/Unit	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (upto 3rd quarter)*
1	2	3	4
I. STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED (SAIL)			
Bhilai Steel Plant	18.34	146.25	422.70
Bokaro Steel Plant	27.87	104.41	144.00
Durgapur Steel Plant	19.30	65.94	118.53
Rourkela Steel Plant	27.59	133.65	91.12

1	2	3	4
IISCO Steel Plant	-	12.56	42.45
Alloy Steels Plant	5.86	17.33	17.50
Salem Steel Plant	2.97	13.09	29.41
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant	7.75	27.20	1.67
Central Marketing Organization	12.30	13.84	9.13
Raw Materials Division	10.73	30.97	31.75
RDCIS	4.98	31.27	23.60
II. Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant	9.50	13.50	23.41**
III. Sponge Iron (India) Limited (SIIL)	5.00	5.00	5.00**

*The figures for 2006-07 are available only upto 3rd quarter and the duly audited figures for the whole year are yet to be finalized.

***The figure is for 2006-07.

(c) The specific peripheral development work carried out by the Plants/Units of SAIL, RINL and SIIL during the last three years are detailed at enclosed statement-II.

(d) and (e) SAIL and RINL which are steel producing companies of the Union Government propose to augment steel making capacities at various locations in the country. The locations will be finalized as and when the plans are firmed up.

Statement I

State-wise number of steel plants/sponge iron plants in public and private sector set up in the country

S. No.	State	Public Sector Steel Plants		Major Private Sector Steel Plants	No. of sponge iron Units	Secondary Producer	
		Integrated Steel Plant	Special & Alloy Steel Plant			Electric Arc Furnace	Induction Furnace
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	0	0	14	0	16
2.	Chhattisgarh	1	0	1	49	2	47
3.	Goa			0	4	1	18
4.	Gujarat			1	1	3	49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Jharkhand	1	0	1	32	2	19
6.	Karnataka	0	1	1	16	0	12
7.	Maharashtra			1	6	1	59
8.	Orissa	1		0	60	0	42
9.	Tamil Nadu	0	1	0	4	0	56
10.	West Bengal	2	1	0	31	3	34
11.	Chandigarh			0	0	1	1
12.	Delhi			0	0	1	9
13.	Haryana			0	0	3	29
14.	Kerala			0	0	1	26
15.	Madhya Pradesh			0	0	1	16
16.	Punjab			0	0	2	101
17.	Rajasthan			0	0	2	23
18.	Uttar Pradesh			0	0	2	119
19.	Himachal Pradesh			0	0	0	12
20.	Uttaranchal			0	0	0	22
21.	Jammu and Kashmir			0	0	0	5
22.	Bihar			0	0	0	7
23.	Meghalaya			0	0	0	9
24.	Assam			0	0	0	7
25.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli			0	0	0	17
26.	Daman			0	0	0	9
27.	Pondicherry			0	0	0	23
28.	Non Reported (Estd.)			0	5	5	0
Total		6	3	5	222	38	787

Statement II

Peripheral development work done by the Plants/ Units of SAIL, RINL and SIIL during 2004-07

I. STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED (SAIL)**(a) Bhilai Steel Plant (Chhattisgarh):**

Education : Construction of schools and additional class rooms.

Water Facilities : Providing and repair of drinking water facilities

Roads & Connectivity : Repair of roads

Medical & Healthcare : Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages

Sanitation : Conduction sanitation awareness programmes in peripheral villages.

Cultural : Construction of Community Hall/Centre.

(b) Bokaro Steel Plant (Jharkhand):

Education : Providing schools for students belonging to below poverty line. Providing scholarships to meritorious students and providing free text books, coaching to students.

Water Facilities : Installation of hand pumps and construction of ponds.

Roads & Connectivity : Construction and Repair of roads

Medical & Healthcare : Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages.

(c) Durgapur Steel Plant (West Bengal):

Education : Construction of school building, class rooms, auditorium, computer laboratory and providing furniture for schools.

Water Facilities : Installation of hand pumps and construction of ponds.

Roads & Connectivity : Construction and Repair of roads

Medical & Healthcare : Providing Mobile Dispensary, Renovation of Creche-cum-Home for disabled people, Providing furniture for hospitals and orphanages, Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages.

Sanitation : Providing low cost sanitation units.

(d) Rourkela Steel Plant (Orissa):

Education : Construction of Class Rooms, computer cum library buildings. Providing computers, books and furniture to schools. Cash award to meritorious students.

Scholarship for professional studies to SC/ST students.

Water Facilities : Renovation of water ponds and drainage facility. Providing tube wells and digging of new wells.

Roads & Connectivity : Providing and repairing of roads.

Sanitation : Conduction sanitation awareness programmes in peripheral villages.

Medical & Healthcare : Free medical aid centres in peripheral villages and providing treatment of general ailments and free medicines, Providing Pathological diagnostic centre. Treatment and counselling centre for disabled children. Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages

Cultural : Construction of Community centre.

Miscellaneous : Construction of shops, conducting training on entrepreneurship development programme, nursery training, cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants to promote income generation among the unemployed.

(e) IISCO Steel Plant (West Bengal) :

Water Facilities : Repairing, drilling and deepening of pond & wells. Jobs related to drinking water facilities.

Roads & Connectivity : Construction of PCC pavement roads

Medical & Healthcare : Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages and providing furnitures for hospitals, etc.

Cultural : Construction of sports ground, community centre.

(f) Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur (West Bengal) :

Education : Construction/Repair/Maintenance of School Buildings, Hostel, Class Rooms

Water Facilities : Providing and repair of drinking water facilities

Roads & Connectivity : Construction of cement concrete pavement, culvert, gates, etc.

Medical & Healthcare : Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages

Sanitation : Construction of toilets.

(g) Salem Steel Plant (Tamil Nadu) :

Education : Construction/Repair/Maintenance of School Buildings, Hostel, Class Rooms. Scholarships for SC/ST/ Minority children.

Water Facilities : Construction of overhead water tanks, bore-wells and tube-wells.

Roads & Connectivity : Construction/Repair of roads. Providing lamp posts and street-lighting.

Medical & Healthcare : Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages

Sanitation : Construction of toilets

(h) Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant, Bhadravati (Karnataka) :

Education : Fabrication and supply of steel benches and desks to schools.

Roads & Connectivity : Construction of cover drains, etc.

Medical & Healthcare : Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages

(i) Central Marketing Organization :

Education : Development of Community Hall, Computer Room, Science Laboratory.

Water Facilities : Supply of potable drinking water

Roads & Connectivity : Repair of roads

Medical & Healthcare : Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages

(j) Raw Materials Division :

Education : Construction/Repair/Maintenance of School Buildings, Hostel, Class Rooms

Water Facilities : Providing and repair of drinking water facilities

Roads & Connectivity : Repair of roads

Medical & Healthcare : Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages

(k) RDCIS, Ranchi:

Education : Construction/Repair/Maintenance of School Buildings, Class Rooms.

Water Facilities : Providing drinking water facilities.

Medical & Healthcare : Organizing Health Camps in peripheral villages

Sanitation : Construction of toilets

II. RASHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED (RINL)

During 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, the PSU has carried out peripheral development in the area of health and hygiene, education & training, drinking water, welfare measures and other miscellaneous work by spending an amount of Rs. 9.50 lakh, Rs. 13.5 lakhs and Rs. 23.41 lakhs respectively.

III. SPONGE IRON (INDIA) LIMITED (SIIL)

SIIL carried out peripheral development work in the area of drinking water and medical camps in villages during the period.

Panel on WTO Issues

4365. **SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:**

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Development Council sub-Committee on "Agriculture and Related Issues" has decided to form panel to look into World Trade Organization (WTO) issues and their impact on the farm sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government on recommendations of the working groups on crops, irrigation, marketing, animal husbandry and dry land farming?

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 National Development Council (NDC)'s Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Related Issues has constituted a Sub-Group on "Issues Relating to Land and the Farmers, and the effects of Global issues on Indian Agriculture" under the Chairmanship of Dr. T. Haque, Chairman, CACP, Ministry of Agriculture.

The terms of reference of the sub-group are as follow:-

(i) Examine land-related issues such as declining size of operational holdings, land-leasing, tenurial security, corporate farming, contract farming, land-share companies etc. and suggest measures to promote optimum allocation of land resources.

(ii) Consider global issues including WTO Agreement on Agriculture, particularly, domestic support policies in India and elsewhere, intellectual

property rights regime applicable to agriculture, bilateral trade agreements, regional trading blocks, etc. and suggest measures to mitigate any ill effects these might have on Indian agriculture.

(c) The recommendations of the Working Groups on region/crops specific productivity analysis, irrigation, marketing, animal husbandry and dryland farming have been presented in the meeting of the NDC's Sub-Committee held on 18.04.2007. However, the Sub-Committee has not finalized its report so far.

Industries Requiring Environmental Clearance

4366. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) the categories of industries listed in Schedule-I that are required to seek environmental clearance;

(b) whether the Government has any system to ensure that mitigative measures issued at the time of clearance are strictly followed by such industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of cases of violation of such measures reported during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 in various States, State-wise; and

(e) the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such industries during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) There are 41 categories of developmental projects listed in the Schedule of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 required to seek prior environmental clearance under the provisions of the said Act.

(b) and (c) The compliance of environmental conditions stipulated in environmental clearances to the developmental projects are monitored by the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. As per Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, the project proponents are required to submit six monthly

compliance report of the Environmental Clearance conditions to the concerned regulatory authority. On receipt of the six monthly compliance reports, the Ministry's Regional Offices verify the compliance status by site visits.

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

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

4367. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated, sanctioned, released and utilized for Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) during the Tenth Plan period, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up one KVK in every rural and scheduled districts of the country during the Eleventh Plan period;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government for effective functioning of KVKs?

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 funds are released for the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) based on the requirement for developing infrastructure and to carry out activities. During the Tenth Plan period an amount of Rs. 821.84 crore was released. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) The Government approved for establishment of one KVK in each of the 589 rural districts of the country during Tenth Plan period. The State-wise details of the number of districts are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The steps taken for effective functioning of KVKs are as follows :-

- Formulation of broad guidelines at the central level.

- Monitoring through eight Zonal Coordinating Units.
- Technology backstopping and overseeing the activities through the Directorates of Extension of State Agricultural Universities (SAU) and Central Agricultural University (CAU).
- Constitution of Scientific Advisory Committee for each KVK.

Statement I*State-wise details of funds released for Krishi Vigyan Kendras during X Plan*

S.No.	States/Union Territories	Funds released (Rs.in Lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	205.72
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3820.12
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	390.83
4.	Assam	2185.21
5.	Bihar	4151.08
6.	Chhattisgarh	1351.78
7.	Delhi	87.60
8.	Goa	254.19
9.	Gujarat	2559.70
10.	Haryana	3093.75
11.	Himachal Pradesh	2821.28
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	1958.59
13.	Jharkhand	3102.53
14.	Karnataka	3666.03
15.	Kerala	2209.05
16.	Lakshadweep	115.85
17.	Madhya Pradesh	5602.40
18.	Maharashtra	5766.48
19.	Manipur	1045.10

1	2	3
20.	Meghalaya	484.35
21.	Mizoram	1456.88
22.	Nagaland	681.85
23.	Orissa	3920.46
24.	Pondicherry	375.85
25.	Punjab	2731.74
26.	Rajasthan	6180.13
27.	Sikkim	236.55
28.	Tamil Nadu	4670.14
29.	Tripura	343.80
30.	Uttar Pradesh	11388.23
31.	Uttaranchal	2596.18
32.	West Bengal	2751.11
Total		82184.56

Statement II*State-wise Details of Number of Rural Districts approved by Government for Establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) during X Plan*

S.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Rural Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	15
4.	Assam	23
5.	Bihar	38
6.	Chhattisgarh	16
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
8.	Daman and Diu	2

1	2	3
9.	Delhi	1
10.	Goa	2
11.	Gujarat	25
12.	Haryana	19
13.	Himachal Pradesh	12
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	14
15.	Jharkhand	22
16.	Karnataka	26
17.	Kerala	14
18.	Lakshadweep	1
19.	Madhya Pradesh	48
20.	Maharashtra	33
21.	Manipur	9
22.	Meghalaya	7
23.	Mizoram	8
24.	Nagaland	8
25.	Orissa	30
26.	Pondicherry	4
27.	Punjab	17
28.	Rajasthan	32
29.	Sikkim	4
30.	Tamil Nadu	30
31.	Tripura	4
32.	Uttar Pradesh	69
33.	Uttaranchal	13
34.	West Bengal	18
Total		589

Joint Working Group with Germany on Agriculture

4368. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Joint Working Group with Germany for Cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; 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) Discussions were held recently between German delegation led by Parliamentary State Secretary in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Consumer Protection of Germany and the Indian delegation led by Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation on various issues related to agriculture and allied activities and views were also exchanged on appropriate framework for cooperation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

New Policy for Sugar Industry

4369. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated a new and liberal sugar policy to make sugar industry internationally competitive;

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

(c) whether the said policy proposes to do away with the current system of distribution of levy sugar, State Advised Price and Cane Area Reservation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the preventive steps taken to safeguard the interests of the sugarcane farmers and consumers?

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) The Government has not made any change in the existing sugar policy.

(c) to (e) No decision to do away with the current system of distribution of levy sugar. State Advised Price and Cane Area Reservation has been taken by the Central Government.

Hoarding of Essential Commodities

4370. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether hoarding of essential commodities continues to be the major cause of rise in prices of essential commodities despite the arrival of Rabi crops and several other steps taken by the Government to contain the price rise;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to involve the intelligence agencies to check the hoarding;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received some recommendations/suggestions from various quarters to control the price rise; and

(f) if so, the details and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Rise in prices of essential commodities is caused by a variety of factors impacting on the demand and supply side. These include domestic production, quantity of imports, hoarding, international prices, consumption requirements, expectations regarding behaviour of prices, etc.

The Government is fully alive to the issue of hoarding of essential commodities. It has therefore authorized the State Governments to prescribe stock holding limits on wheat and pulses, by its Central Control Order dt, 29.08.2006 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 for a period of six months.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present with Department of Consumer Affairs.

(e) and (f) Based on its assessment of the price situation, the Government has taken a number of measures to control the price rise. These are to increase the supply and moderate the price rise through administrative, fiscal and monetary measures, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Measures taken by the Government to contain inflation

Monetary Measures

- Increasing the cash reserve ratio by 25 basis points each on four occasions so far on December 23, 2006, February 17, 2007 and March 3, 2007 to reach 6.0 percent. On March 30, 2007, the Reserve Bank of India announced further increase in CRR by 50 basis points (CRR would reach 6.50 per cent effective April 28, 2007).
- Repo rates were revised upwards five times in 2006-07 by 25 basis points on each occasion to reach 7.75 per cent on March 30, 2007.
- On March 2, 2007, the Reserve Bank of India announced three further measures to manage liquidity in the system: first, starting March 5,

2007, under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility, to limit daily reverse repo absorption to a maximum of Rs. 3,000 crore each day; second, to issue dated security for Rs. 6,000 crore (nominal) on March 6, 2007 under the Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS); and third, to auction Treasury Bills for a notified amount of Rs. 2,500 crore on March 7, 2007.

Fiscal Measures

- As against the normal applicable duty of 50 per cent, allowing private trade to import wheat at 5 per cent duty from June 28, 2006, and at zero duty from September 9, 2006.
- Reduction of customs duty on import of pulses to zero on June 8, 2006.
- Reduction in import duty on palm group of oil by 10 percentage points in August 2006 and by a further 10-12.5 percentage points in January, 2007. Maintaining the tariff value for assessing import duty unchanged at the July 2006 level.
- In January customs duty was reduced on Portland cement, various metals, machinery items and project imports.

On February 28, 2007, Budget 2007-08 initiated several further measures, which include:

- Reducing peak rate of basic customs duty for non-agricultural products from 12.5 per cent to 10 per cent;
- Reducing basic customs duty on selected raw materials, intermediate and capital goods to 5-7.5 per cent;
- Removal of additional countervailing duty of 4 per cent on edible oils;
- Reducing basic customs duty on sunflower oil by 15 percentage points;
- Reducing excise duty on petrol and diesel, umbrellas and footwear, and on cement up to Rs. 190 per bag;
- Exempting biscuits up to Rs. 50 per kg, and food mixes from excise duty.
- Basic customs duty on palm group of oils was further reduced by 10-percentage points in April, 2007.

Measures for augmenting domestic availability

- STC contracted for import of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat to supplement domestic availability, of which more than 50 lakh tones had arrived,
- Decision to release up to 4 lakh tones of wheat under the Open Market Sale Scheme in February and March, 2007,
- Ban on export of pulses with effect from June 22, 2006; wheat and skimmed milk powder from February 9, 2007.
- NAFED importing 49,300 tonnes of pulses. Under a new contract executed by NAFED in December 2006 to import 30,000 tonnes of pulses, over 12,000 tonnes had been shipped. NAFED, STC and other public sector agencies are contracting additional quantities of pulses. Public agencies are expected to procure over one million tones of pulses in 2007-08.
- For a sustained improvement in agriculture production and productivity, Budget 2007-08 has proposed measures to increase irrigation, availability of improved seeds, institutional credit and fertilizers and measures to accelerate the adoption of new technologies through a revamped training and visit system.

Administrative measures

- Reduction in the retail prices of petrol by Rs. 2 per litre and diesel by Rs. 1 per litre first in November 2006 and again in February, 2007.
- Ban on futures trading in tur and urad from January 24, 2007 and in wheat and rice from February 28, 2007.
- Extending up to August 28, 2007, the order enabling the State Governments to prescribe stock limits, etc., in respect of wheat and pulses under the Essential Commodities Act.
- Constitution of an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, to look into all the issues relating to futures trading.
- Strengthening the monitoring mechanism of the public distribution system.

[English]

**Shortage of Staff in Rajendra Prasad
Agriculture University**

4371. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of staff in Rajendra Prasad Agriculture University, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fulfil the backlog immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has been informed about the shortage of staff. There is also a backlog of 238 posts in the teaching cadre of Rajendra Prasad Agriculture University, Pusa, Samastipur.

(b) As a process towards appointment, the University has advertised 282 posts vide advertisement No. 1/2006 dated 22.02.2006 and 102 posts were again advertised in special drive (remaining backlog of SC/ST) vide advertisement No. 2/2006 dated 27.03.2006. Again, in continuation, 20 posts of Dean and Directors were advertised vide advertisement No. 3/2006 dated 28.03.2006.

The University has completed the process of appointments in case of the two earlier advertisements but the appointment letters are yet to be issued to the successful candidates subject to the approval of the State Government of Bihar.

Import of Pulses

4372. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to import additional fifteen lakh tonnes of pulses to contain price rise and improve availability;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum, price, importing agencies and time-frame fixed for the said imports;

(c) the rate at which the same is proposed to be sold in the market;

(d) the difference in the price of indigenous and imported pulses;

(e) whether the Government proposes to import edible oil also during the current year in view of its rising prices; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Government recently took a decision to import 1.5 million tonnes of pulses such as Urad, Tur, Moong, Masur, Gram and yellow peas through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), MMTC Ltd, PEC Ltd and State Trading Corporation (STC). The imported pulses will be sold by these agencies through public tenders. The supply of imported pulses will augment domestic availability and thus help in containing the rise in prices. The details of import of pulses by the 4 agencies as on 25.4.2007 are given below:

(in metric tonnes)

Organisation	Item	Contracted Quantity	Quantity arrived (at port)
1	2	3	4
PEC Ltd.	Urad	19000	5000
	Moong	9000	2000
	Tur	10000	4000
	TOTAL (PEC)	38000	11000

1	2	3	4
MMTC Ltd.	Urad	3000	0
	Moong	1000	980
	Tur	20000	4680
	Dunpeas	2000	0
	Yellow peas	53000	0
	TOTAL (MMTC)	79000	5580
NAFED	Urad	65000	19874
	Moong	5000	4440
	TOTAL (NAFED)	70000	24314
STC	Urad	30000	11145
	Yellowpeas	70000	0
	TOTAL(STC)	100000	11145
GRAND TOTAL		2,87,000	52,039

The prices of imported pulses are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Edible oils are under Open General Licence (OGL) of the Foreign Trade Policy of the Government. Since there has been a continuous excess of demand over domestic supply, import of edible oils is being resorted to augment domestic availability. However, the Government at present do not propose to import edible oils.

(f) Does not arise.

Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds

4373. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tree borne oilseeds explored by Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds and National Oilseed and Vegetable Oils Development Board during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any awareness programme for developing tree borne oilseeds has been undertaken during the last three years;

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

(d) whether oil expellers for tree borne oilseeds have been set up in Andhra Pradesh; 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 explore the potential of tree borne oilseeds including *Jatropha* for bio-diesel production, a Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" is being implemented by National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board. Under the Scheme, a R&D programme through networking of 43 institutions of ICAR, CSIR, ICFRE institutions and State Agricultural Universities in 23 States has been initiated by the Board to develop high yielding varieties, location specific package

of practices, preprocessing and processing facilities, mass multiplication, chemical analysis and cryo-preservation etc. The model plantation using elite planting material has also been undertaken in 10,000 ha. area on Government/Universities land in 21 States to ensure quality production of seed for undertaking large scale plantation of Jatropha and Karanja in the country in subsequent years. Besides, the technology transfer and back-ended credit linked subsidy programme have also been undertaken to generate awareness among the growers/farmers and to provide financial assistance in the form of subsidy for area expansion and productivity enhancement. The details

of plantations of Tree Borne Oilseeds undertaken during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) More than 250 farmer training and 190 trainers training programmes have been organized in the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh benefiting more than 22400 field functionaries/seed collectors.

(d) and (e) Three oil expellers has been setup in the State of Andhra Pradesh with the financial assistance under the Scheme during 2003-04.

Statement

State-wise and TBO-wise Plantation during last three years

Sl.No.	Name of TBOs/States	Year-wise plantation in (Ha.)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jatropha			
	Andhra Pradesh	300	—	15
	Arunachal Pradesh	185	—	—
	Assam	—	—	0
	Bihar	0	—	—
	Chhattiegarh	440	—	—
	Gujarat	800	292	80
	Goa	0	—	—
	Haryana	308	—	140
	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	0
	Jharkhand	200	300	200
	Karnataka	310	—	60
	Kerala	50	—	—
	Madhya Pradesh	537	—	—
	Manipur	200	—	50
	Maharashtra	1130	300	—

1	2	3	4	5
	Mizoram	280	—	200
	Meghalaya	113	—	—
	Nagaland	240	—	200
	Sikkim	—	—	—
	Uttar Pradesh	437	155	80
	Uttaranchal	578	—	0
	Rajasthan	150	—	—
	Tamil Nadu	434	—	—
	West Bengal	100	—	—
	Total	6792	1047	1025
2.	Karanja			
	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	50
	Bihar	0	—	—
	Chhattisgarh	81	—	—
	Gujarat	100	—	—
	Goa	10	—	—
	Haryana	5	—	—
	Jharkhand	100	—	—
	Karnataka	267	—	—
	Madhya Pradesh	10	—	—
	Sikkim	—	—	50
	Uttar Pradesh	80	—	—
	Total	653		100
3.	Neem			
	Bihar	0	—	—
	Gujarat	100	—	—
	Goa	0	—	—
	Haryana	4	—	—
	Jharkhand	100	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
	Karnataka •	50	—	—
	Madhya Pradesh	2	—	—
	Manipur	—	—	150
	Sikkim	—	—	—
	West Bengal	50	—	—
	Total	306		150
4.	Simarouba			
	Karnataka	264	—	—
5.	Wild apricot			
	Himachal Pradesh	425	—	10
6.	Tung			
	Nagaland	100	—	—
7.	Mahua			
	Bihar	0	—	—
	Madhya Pradesh	2	—	—
8.	Kokum			
	Goa	10	—	—
	Karnataka	—	—	—

Increase in Production of Paddy

(e) if so, the details thereof?

4374. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up a plan for increasing the production of paddy in some districts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of districts so identified;

(c) the details of assistance proposed to be provided to these identified districts;

(d) whether improved variety of seed has been allocated to these identified districts; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP - Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP - Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP - Coarse Cereals) are already implemented under Macro Management Programme in identified blocks/mandals having larger coverage under rice/wheat/coarse cereals in different States and Union Territories of the country to enhance the productivity and production of cereals including paddy.

Under the above schemes, assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid rice production technology, Integrated Pest Management through field demonstrations, transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, varietal replacement and production of certified seeds, etc. Besides, Frontline Demonstrations are also conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/ State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) on farmers' field to popularize the frontier technologies amongst farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 12 noon.

11.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Twelve of the Clock.*

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us do some work.

[Translation]

What are you talking? Let us do some work.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the ruling party which is not allowing the House to run, not we. Ruling party is not allowing the business of the House to take place for the last three days ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are a good person.

[English]

Papers to be laid.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 214 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2007 under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6281/07]

- (2) A copy of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 280(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2007 under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6282/07]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 3 - Shri B.K. Handique—
not present.

Item No.4 - Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Central Warehousing Corporation and Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6285/07]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (1) of Section 19 of the Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 241(E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2007, containing order increasing the maximum limit of the authorised capital of the Bihar State Warehousing Corporation to ten crores of rupees, divided into ten lakhs shares of the face value of one hundred rupees each.

- (ii) G.S.R. 261(E) published in the Gazette of India dated the 29th March 2007, containing order increasing the maximum limit of the authorised capital of the Kerala State Warehousing Corporation to fifteen crores of rupees, divided into fifteen lakhs shares of the face value of one hundred rupees each.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6286/07]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Steel Authority of India Limited and Ministry of Steel, fertile year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6287/07]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the MECON Limited and Ministry of Steel, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6288/07]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Refractories Limited and Ministry of Steel, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6289/07]

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the MSTC Limited and Ministry of Steel, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6290/07]

- (5) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and Ministry of Steel, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6291/07]

- (6) Memorandum of Understanding between the Manganese Ore (India) Limited and Ministry of Steel, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6292/07]

- (7) Memorandum of Understanding between the Sponge Iron India Limited and Ministry of Steel, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6293/07]

- (8) Memorandum of Understanding between the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited and Ministry of Steel, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6294/07]

- (9) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited and Ministry of Steel, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6295/07]

- (10) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited and Ministry of Steel for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6296/07]

- (11) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and Ministry of Steel, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6297/07]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2007, which was passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th April, 2007 and transmitted to Rajya

Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 7 - Shri Prabhunath Singh - not present.

Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan - not present.

Item No. 8 - Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.

12.02¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Eighteenth Report

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence (2006-07) on 'In-depth Study and Critical Review of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)'.

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Statements

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir I beg to lay on the Table of the House a copy each of the Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs showing further action taken by Government on Chapter-I of the 12th and 13th Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs respectively for the year 2006-2007.

12.02³/₄ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Statements

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): I beg to lay on the Table two Statements (Hindi and English

versions) showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women:—

1. Seventh Report of the Committee on 'Economic Upliftment of Scheduled Caste Women through National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)'.
2. Ninth Report of the Committee on 'Working Conditions of Women in Handloom Sector'.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (I) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in 11th and 20th reports of Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2005-06) and (2006-07) pertaining to Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 11th and 20th Reports of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries) in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker's Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin - Part II dated September 01, 2004.

The Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture was presented to Lok Sabha on 20th April, 2005. The report relates to examination of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries) for the year 2005-06.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 18.07.2005.

There are 18 recommendations made by the Committee in the Eleventh report where action is called

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—6298/07.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

for on the part of the Government. These recommendations, *interalia*, pertain to issues like plan allocation, infrastructural development in Central Cattle Breeding Farms, feed & fodder development, assistance to cooperatives, Delhi Milk Scheme, development of fisheries sector, rehabilitation of Tsunami-affected farmers/fishermen, setting up of Indian Council of Veterinary Research & Education, etc.

The Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture was presented to Lok Sabha on 19th May, 2006. The report relates to examination of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries) for the year 2006-07.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 23.08.2006.

There are 13 recommendations made by the Committee in the Twentieth report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations, *interalia*, pertain to issues like plan allocation and expenditure, National Project for Cattle & Buffalo Breeding, Foot & Mouth Disease Control Programme, Livestock Insurance, Conservation of Threatened Livestock Breeds, Bird Flu, Milk Productivity, Delhi Milk Scheme, welfare of fishermen, setting up of National Fisheries Development Board, etc.

The present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee in both these reports is indicated in the Annexures to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.04 hrs.

- (ii) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in 18th report of Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation***

[English]

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

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT—6299/07.

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg to lay this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 18th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2006-07) in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker's Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin - Part II dated September 01, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture examined the Demands for Grants of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) for the year 2006-07 and presented to Lok Sabha on 19.05.2006. The report contained 19 recommendations. The Action Taken Replies of the Government were sent to the Committee on 5th August, 2006.

The present status of the recommendations of PSCA is indicated in the statement enclosed.

12.04¹/₂ hrs.

- (iii) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in Thirteenth report of Standing Committee on Labour pertaining to the Ministry of Labour and Employment***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): I beg to lay this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 13th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, as per Direction issued by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, on 1st September, 2004.

The 13th Report of the Committee concern the Ministry of Labour and Employment, which was laid on the Table of the House on 17th May, 2006. I would like to mention that the Ministry had submitted to the Committee, the Action Taken Report on this Report on 7th July, 2006 which has been taken note of by the Committee in their 18th Report. Our Action Taken Report on their 18th Report has been sent on 29th March, 2007.

The status of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee, contained in the 13th Report, is

*Laid on the Table, and also placed in Library. See No. LT—6300/07.

indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, circulated among hon. Members. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this might be considered as read.

12.05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Handique, you have to apologise for not being present when I called your name.

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): I apologise for not being present.

I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited 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—6283/07]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 529 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2007 directing the manufacturers specified in the Notification to sell their fertilizers to the registered fertilizer dealer in the State or the Union Territory mentioned therein during the Kharif season, 2007 issued under section 6 of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—6284/07]

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabunath Singh, you have to apologise.

[*Translation*]

Express your regrets for not being present on the time.

[*English*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my regrets ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: For the first time, you have expressed regrets, Shri Prabhunath Singh!

12.05½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Twenty-Fourth to Twenty-Sixth Reports

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports of the Committee on Petitions (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Twenty Fourth Report on the petition presented by Shri Basudeb Acharia or regularization of contract workers of Bhojudih Coal Washery, a unit of Bharat Coking Coal Limited under the Ministry of Coal.
- (2) Twenty-fifth Report on the representations concerning with the Ministries of Agriculture, Communications and IT and Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- (3) Twenty-sixth Report on the representation concerning with the Ministry of Coal.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, item No. 13—Calling Attention.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You know that procedure. After Calling Attention, I will come to that subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, yesterday, Shri Balu Saheb mislead the House claiming that the issue was sub-judice ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

The issue was not sub-judice...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It was not yesterday.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am prepared to accept the Calling Attention on this. You give a notice of Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No, Sir. You called me day before yesterday. But the Ruling Party had not allowed me to say anything. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, you can raise the issue by giving notice of Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by him is a matter of privilege. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the Calling Attention matter which is listed in today's Order Paper and which is due to be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday was a holiday.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The issue of Ram Setu.....(Interruptions) The construction of Ram Setu (Interruptions).

[English]

Razing of Ram Setu ...(Interruptions) It cannot be done ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can discuss it by giving a notice for Calling Attention. There is a suggestion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can give a notice for Calling Attention for tomorrow itself. Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what you want.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow. Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want?

...(Interruptions)

12.08 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Somabhai G. Patel and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want, please tell me. I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise this subject in Calling Attention tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not agree for Calling Attention tomorrow?

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to raise?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can only appeal to you. I am repeating my appeal to all of you. Please go back to your seats. I am even ready to allow a Call Attention on this matter, that Prof. Malhotra wishes to raise. But he is not prepared.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your issue?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can it be discussed now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening here?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. Do not stand here. You cannot do that. Shri Goyal, please go back to your seats. No. You cannot do that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.12 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at
Fourteen of the clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I have been given notice on the Gujarat issue for the last five days ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, since the last three days I am giving notice to raise a very important issue. ...(Interruptions) Our people are suffering a lot. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please keep quite, I will give you time in the evening for this.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please give me two minutes time. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you two minutes time in the evening rather I will give you four minutes in stead of two minutes.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I will not take more than one minute. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I have also given notice ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will take only two minute time. I will conclude in two minutes. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you time in the evening during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, it is a very important issue ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will be given time during zero hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been giving notice on this issue. It is a very important issue *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will be given time for it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 13.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been giving Notice continuously for the last five days. Such incidents are against the people of minority community are taking place *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will definitely give you time.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistri ji, you are from the ruling party.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down, you are from the ruling party.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhansiarpur): Sir, notice is being given to raise this issue for the last three days *...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, it is a very important issue, please listen to it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shailendra ji, I will give you time in the evening.

...(Interruptions)

14.02 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seats. You will be given time in the evening.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please listen to me. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

14.03 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, please listen to me. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My problem is that if I give time to any one hon'ble Member then I have to give

time to hon'ble Members of other parties also, therefore, I will accommodate everyone. I will give time to everyone in the evening during zero hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please listen to my view point in two minutes..
...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, we have been regularly giving notice, please listen to us.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, allow us to raise our issues.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If I give time to any one Member then I have to give time to everyone.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give me two minutes time, I will conclude my speech in two minutes.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistri ji, nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, you are from the ruling party and you are behaving like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude my speech in two minutes.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give chance to everyone in the evening during the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I assure you that I will give you time during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please go to your seat.

[Translation]

If you want to speak then first you go back to your seat.

[English]

Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistry ji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down, I have not sought your opinion. It is not a convention of the House to take up special mention after lunch hour.

[English]

But just to run the House smoothly, I will give two minutes each to two-three speakers. Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Then everyone should be given a chance to speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. As per the concept of evolution of state, the objective of creation of the State is that it should protect the life and property of the people. It seems that whatever happened in Gujarat, has been done at the behest of the State Government... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Sumanji.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you first ensure order in the House. (Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever happened in Gujarat. (Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): This matter is pending in the Court. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Why is this issue being raised here (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m.

14.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fifteen of the clock.

15.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, you have promised that you will allow me to speak. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will definitely be given time to speak in zero Hour.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 will be treated as laid on the Table of the House and they will form part of the proceedings of the House.

15.01 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (i) Need to approve the proposals submitted by Karnataka Government under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): The Karnataka Government had submitted the following proposals under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana to the Union Government:—

- (i) To create marketing infrastructure facilities on 02.02.2004. Cost of project is Rs. 3 crore and assistance sought is Rs. 3 crore.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

- (ii) For employment creating among BPL families in agriculture and allied activities in Challakere Taluk on 23.05.2005. Cost of the project is Rs. 22.32 crore and assistance sought is Rs. 14.53 crore.
- (iii) For dairy activities in Bangalore Rural on 09.02.2005. Cost of project is Rs. 16.52 crore and assistance sought is Rs. 14.96 crore.
- (iv) Infrastructure Development of dairy farmers of BPL in Mandya Milk Union jurisdiction on 11.04.2005. Cost of project is Rs. 10.78 crore and assistance sought is Rs. 9.76 crore.
- (v) For dairy activities in Bangalore Urban District on 02.04.2005. Cost of Project is Rs. 5.68 crore and assistance sought is Rs. 5.28 crore.
- (vi) Developing infrastructure of 7 RUDSET institute centre in Karnataka on 19.01.2005. Cost of project is Rs. 1.99 crore and assistance sought is Rs. 1.49 crore.
- (vii) For developing own infrastructure of Deshpande Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute, Haliyal on 16.08.2005. Cost of Project is Rs. 2.95 crore and assistance sought is Rs. 1.55 crore.
- (viii) Dairy activities in Bellary Milk Union jurisdiction on 16.10.2006. Cost of revised project is Rs. 6.72 crore and assistance sought is Rs. 2.52 crore.
- (ix) Promoting Dairy Development, Procurement, Processing and Marketing by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services on 31.01.2006. Cost of project is Rs. 5.05 crore and the assistance sought is Rs. 2.53 crore.

As these proposals are pending for long, I urge upon the Union Government to kindly expedite these proposals immediately.

(II) Need to withdraw Value Added Tax (VAT) on Tobacco and Tobacco products

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Tobacco is an important agricultural product in this country. It is fetching very good income to Government of India by way of export. The tobacco growing farmers are also getting good income through this commercial crop. Lakhs of workers are directly involved in manufacturing, curing tobacco

leaves and other allied tobacco products. Thousands of major and small industries are running in this field throughout the country.

In the recent Enactment of Taxation Laws (Amendment Act) 2007 by Union of India the tobacco has been shifted from the list of "Declared Goods" and thereby the State Governments are empowered to levy Value Added Tax on tobacco @ 12.5%. This proposal affects the various exemptions already granted by the Government of India to un-manufactured and manufactured tobacco products. By notification dated 1-3-1979, the manufactured tobacco was completely exempted from the whole of duty of excise leviable under the Central Excise Act 1944 and the Additional Duties of Excise Act 1957. The above age old exemptions given by Government of India for the welfare of poor agricultural families is withdrawn by imposing Value Added Tax on unmanufactured tobacco which is an agricultural produce.

The Small Scale Industries involved in this field were granted exemption for their survival from the payment of all types of duties but now these are subjected to the levy of 12.5% VAT, by the State Governments.

The imposition of Value Added Tax on tobacco and allied products in all forms will affect poor farmers, labourers, dealers and others involved in this field.

Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to issue suitable direction to all State Governments not to impose Value Added Tax on Tobacco and its products.

(III) Need to take steps to release adequate funds for Goalpara district under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and include Dhubri district under the scheme

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was implemented in Goalpara District, Assam w.e.f. February, 2006. During last more than 1.5 years, it was supposed that all job-seeker families would be given employment for 150 days. But in practice, Government did not provide even 50 days employment during last 1.5 years. There are many card holders who do not get even a single day's employment. Many families were not given even the job-cards.

On being enquired it was explained that the Union Government did not give required funds. If funds are not

[Shri Anwar Hussain]

provided in time, how the job-card holders would be given employment. No explanation was given as to why the job-seekers were not provided job-cards. The Government must seriously look into the performance of NREGA in Goalpara district and take prompt action.

Secondly, Dhubri district with 69% of population being B.P.L. and most backward in education and social condition, deserve most for inclusion under NREGA. I appeal the Government to include Dhubri district under NREGA at the earliest.

(iv) Need to provide adequate budgetary support to Indian Council of Medical Research

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the apex body for planning, organisation, implementation and coordination of medical research in our country. ICMR has earned national and international recognition for innovative research projects in past ten years. Government of India has agreed in principle to create a new Department of Health Research within Health Ministry. However, it is amazing that plan allocation to ICMR has been drastically cut this year. Research cannot be done without massive funding. It is, therefore, requested that Finance and Health Ministry should see that proper budgetary support is given to ICMR and this year's allocation should be reviewed and increased.

(v) Need to increase the production of groundnut in the country

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, earlier groundnut used to be produced in abundance in Saurashtra region of Gujarat and the groundnut produced here was of very high quality. But over the period of time, the production is declining at an alarming rate. The National Groundnut Research Centre located in Rajkot, do not have much to boast of in respect of groundnut research. Due to shortfall in production of groundnut, country is facing shortage of edible oil and hence edible oil is being imported in the country in large quantity.

Through this House, I request the Government to take steps to increase the production of groundnut and conduct an inquiry to find out the reasons for declining production of groundnut.

(vi) Need to start work on Ahmedabad-Dandi route (National Highway No. 228), declared as a 'Heritage Route'

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): The Government of India has declared Ahmedabad-Dandi route as National Highway No. 228 on 1st June 2006. The total length of this route is 386 Km, out of which 345 Km length is existing road and length of 4.1 Km is a missing link. It is urgently required to construct road in missing link as well as widening of existing single lane road. As this route is to be developed as "Heritage Route" the road should be of at least National Highway Standards and requires widening/strengthening/renewal, construction of new road in place of missing link, construction of bridges/culverts/CD works including major bridges on rivers Mahi, Narmada and Tapi. The State Government has already conveyed the consent for transfer of State road on the Dandi Route to Government of India.

I urge upon the Central Government to start the scheme immediately, in time bound, planned manner to ensure timely completion with adequate provision of funds for the scheme.

(vii) Need to augment manpower in Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): The Himalayan belt in India is the most difficult terrain and making roads in that area is most challenging. The Border Roads Organization (BRO) is the only organization, which has been entrusted to build and maintain roads in the border areas. BRO has successfully carried out the job with full dedication. Their thousands of precious lives were lost while doing work in the service of the nation.

The yeoman service particularly in the very high altitude region from Ladakh of Arunachal Pradesh rendered by the BRO personnels is unparalleled despite shortage of manpower.

I would like to request the Ministry of Defence to strengthen the BRO with adequate capacity increase and provide better recognition to the brave members of BRO who have been under-recognized since Independence, as the great souls are remained, as unsung heroes of the nation.

(viii) Need to set-up coconut oil extraction/food processing plants and Coir Industry at Ghatgaon in Keonjhar Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Ghatgaon in my Parliamentary Constituency is famous in Orissa for the place of worship of Ma Tarini. She is worshipped as the presiding deity of not only Keonjhar but the whole of Orissa. The people from across the State send thousands of coconut as their offerings to the deity every day. In the process thousands of coconut are offered to the deity. After offerings the coconuts are piled up in the temple complex. In view of the huge stock piling of coconut, there is a vast scope for setting up food processing plant and coconut oil extraction plant at Ghatgaon. Even there is a scope to promote coir industry at that place. If these plants are set up there, thousands of unemployed local people most of whom are SC, ST and OBC, will get employment. These plants will resolve the unemployment problem for the local people to a large extent.

As such, I demand that an oil extraction plant and coconut-based food processing plant and coir industry be set up at Ghatgaon with the 100% Central assistance without any further delay.

(ix) Need to set up an airport in Ajmer, Rajasthan

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, now the Government and the private sector are trying their best to develop and promote air traffic like land and water traffic in the country. In order to promote tourism industry in the country and provide air traffic facilities to pilgrims and tourists, there is a need to connect all the important pilgrimage sites of the country by air traffic.

From this point of view important pilgrim sites, Ajmer and Pushkar are deprived of air traffic facility even today for the tourists visiting the country. The tourists and the pilgrims coming from abroad and the various parts of the country feel pride in visiting Ajmer and Pushkar. The foreign tourists and lakhs and crores of religious people of the country crave for visiting Ajmer and Pushkar at least once in their life. At present though, Ajmer and Pushkar are connected by rail and road, however, in the absence of air connectivity for these places the foreign tourists and well off tourists of the country face difficulties in visiting there.

The people from the countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Maldives, Dubai, Africa etc. remain eager to visit Ajmer, however, it is painful for them to visit Ajmer from Jaipur by road after landing at Jaipur. Airport survey teams have surveyed several places in Ajmer and have also identified some of the places and despite several Government announcements; the airport has not yet been constructed there. Ajmer is an important place from educational, geographical, historical, religious and archaeological point of view.

So, I would like to request the Government of India to bring Ajmer and Pushkar on the world tourist map and Ajmer should be connected with air traffic for the promotion of tourism by way of constructing an airport at suitable place at the earliest.

(x) Need to take steps for need based supply of chemical fertilizers in the country

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, while presenting the Budget for 2007-08 for promoting agriculture sector and increasing the agricultural production in the interests of farmers, the hon'ble Minister of Finance had said that the subsidy on fertilizers has been increased from Rs. 17,000 crore to Rs. 22,000 crore. However, as per the information given by the Indian Fertilizers Union Rs. 10,500 crore of subsidy for the previous year 2006-07 is outstanding and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India has demanded to make the provision of Rs. 34,000 crore for the year 2007-08. The subsidy on fertilizers has always been a hurdle in the way of production of fertilizers in the country for the last several years and it paves the way for import. Presently if a provision of subsidy of Rs. 34000 crore is made, even then in view of the DAP or the required raw material in the prevalent international market, a subsidy of at least Rs. 48,000 crore will be required to maintain adequate supply of fertilizers for Indian agriculture.

Therefore, it is necessary to take required steps in time. 80 per cent of the small and marginal farmers who cultivate 40 per cent of the cultivable areas are deprived of means of agriculture. The condition in rainfed or unirrigated areas is even more pitiable. It is essential to give priority to the production and supply of fertilizers to maintain foodgrain reserve and to ensure self-reliance of the country so that the people may be able to produce foodgrains in rural areas. Along with that consumers may get foodgrains through civil supply at fair price. The production of foodgrains, pulses and edible oil may decline

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

on account of shortage of fertilizers. The problem of short supply of fertilizers witnessed by Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for last two years cannot be solved by the limited provision of grants made in the Budget.

Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should ensure the need based availability of fertilizers and take necessary steps in this direction.

- (xi) **Need to constitute a separate Directorate for Cashew with its Headquarters at Kollam, Kerala**

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Kollam District in Kerala State is known as the Capital of the cashew industry of the Nation, as the cashew processing industry of the nation is concentrated in the district. The workers employed in processing the cashew kernels are renowned for their skill and agility. Cashew kernels processed and marketed from Kollam have special market all over the world. The annual export of processed and value added edible cashew kernels from Kollam has crossed 50,000 MT, fetching a foreign exchange of more than 1000 crores per annum. The cashew industry of Kollam comprises of direct exporters; large scale manufactures, small-scale processors employing more than two lakhs of labourers. The potential for growth in the cashew Processing Section is very high, provided adequate common facility centres, raw material bank, and market facility are provided. Government of India implements several projects through various agencies for the uplift of the Cashew industry. The Directorate of Cashew nut and Coca Development under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture, administers the schemes for the cashew development of the Government. It will be more appreciable if the Government take immediate steps to constitute a separate Directorate for cashew, with its Headquarters at Kollam.

- (xii) **Need to expedite the establishment of Joint venture of Indian Railways and Steel Industries Limited Kerala (SILK) to manufacture fabricated Railway Bogies**

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Steel Industries Limited Kerala (SILK) is a Public Sector Undertaking which is a pioneer in foundry industry. It is manufacturing iron castings, fabricated steel and other allied components. In order to meet the bogie requirements of Indian Railways Hon'ble Railway Minister has announced in the Railway

Budget for the year 2007-08 that a Joint Venture would be established with Indian Railway and Steel Industries Limited Kerala (SILK) to manufacture fabricated railway bogies and Rs. 85 crores have been earmarked for the same. Government of Kerala is working on the proposal mooted by the Railways. I would urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to expedite the proposal so that the impediments in the establishment of Joint Venture could be resolved.

- (xiii) **Need to give assistance, financial and otherwise and other agricultural facilities to the betel leave growers of Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Sir, the cultivation of betel leaves having medicinal qualities is being done for centuries in my parliamentary constituency Mahoba in Bundelkhand which is an extremely backward area of Uttar Pradesh. The soil of this area is world famous and suitable for betel leaves cultivation, but it is on account of drought condition occurring for last three-four years that the betel leaves crop spreading on nearly 500 acres of land in and around Mahoba have got destroyed. The betel leaves of Mahoba are liked and preferred in the country and abroad for its taste. These betel leaves are exported to foreign countries and from that we get foreign exchange. However, the wells made for irrigation of Barekha (a garden for the cultivation of betel plants) have dried up and it is on account of this that the leaves of medicinal Deshawari betel have got damaged and the livelihood of five thousand farmers engaged in cultivation of betel leaves is at stake. The betel crops have got damaged due to hailstorm, frost and excessive rainfall in last four years. 90 per cent of the crops got damaged due to extreme cold and dense fog in 2003 and 80 percent crops got damaged due to hailstorm occurred on 12 February 2007.

The betel growers are regularly meeting the local people's representatives to make them aware about their (betel growers) problems and there is discontent among them. They are completely unable to support their families.

Through the House, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that the Government should take necessary steps to provide financial assistance to betel growers (chaurasia) at the earliest to ensure the construction of modern scientific permanent 'Barekha' and availability of means of irrigation so that the cultivation of betel leaves may be protected.

(xiv) Need to improve the quality of food served to passengers by Railways

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, UPA Government is engaged in making world-wide publicity of huge profit earned by the railways. But the quality of food being served by it to the passenger is so poor that the High Court directed constitution of an Expert Committee which raised serious question the poor quality of food being served, terming it dangerous from health point of view and it further found that the private caterers were openly violating safety norms while preparing food in their kitchen. Not only this, the catering staff is not even aware of basic knowhow of catering. 6-7 hours stale food is served to the passengers in trains. There is no proper arrangement of refrigeration for keeping the food items safe.

Earning profit is a good thing, but playing with the health of passengers can't be justified. The Government should immediately identify contractors/officers/employees involved in such a gross negligence and take strict action against them so that none dares to do so in future.

Therefore, I urge the Government to ensure that hygienic food is served to the railway passengers and action is taken against guilty persons.

(xv) Need to check mining activities in Taj Trapezium Zone and 'Brij Parvat' Bharatpur, Rajasthan

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Sir, Brij Parvat having historical and cultural significance is located in Taj Trapezium Zone in Deeg and Kama Tehsils under district Bharatpur in Rajasthan. Dynamite is being used for mining in this mountainous range, whereas, the hon. Supreme Court in an order has totally banned mining, stone-crushing etc. that leads to pollution. I have also learnt that Central Pollution Control Board in its report in 2005 to the Government of India has asked to ban any kind of pollutary mining on this mountain. But illegal mining is being done on these mountains in Taj Trapezium Zone in open violating of the rules of Central Pollution Control Board. At the same time it is in open violation of order of the hon. Supreme Court. The hon. High Court of Rajasthan has permitted the declaration of Brij Parvats as national heritage.

It may be mentioned that the sentiments of crores of people are attached to this Lord Krishna era Brij Parvats.

So, its mining will definitely hurt their sentiments. Several organizations have launched peaceful agitation to protect the Brij Parvats, the life-sport sites of Lord Krishna. It is the responsibility of the Central Government to protect said historical and cultural heritage.

In the end, I would like the Central Government to interfere in this matter and take measures to stop mining activities on divine Brij Parvats in Taj Trapezium Zone so as to protect this historical and cultural heritage and declare these mountains as national heritage and prepare an action plan to develop it as a tourist spot.

(xvi) Need for take over of Amravati-Murtizapur-Yavatmal Railway line by Indian Railways

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Sir, Amravati-Murtizapur-Yavatmal is a narrow gauge line. Though 60 years have elapsed since our country became independent, yet maintenance and repair of track on this route and stations is done by Igraj company. Indian Railways merely runs its trains on this route. This is the line of farmers of Vidharbha. Mostly poor farmers and tribals travel on this route. Since it is under the control of Igraj company no regular repair and maintenance is carried out on this line. I urge the hon. Minister of Railways to take over the said line so that the passenger could be benefited.

(xvii) Need to expedite revision of Royalty on Coal

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Despite the States being the owner of the mineral resources falling within their jurisdiction, the revenue receipts from the royalty are too meager to undertake developmental activities in the mineral areas. The royalty rates on iron-ore are ridiculously low in comparison to the market price of iron-ore and profits accruing to industries and mining companies. Hence the rates of royalty for all the scheduled minerals should be calculated on ad volorem basis and implemented at the earliest.

The rate of royalty on coal was revised w.e.f. 16 August, 2002 and is due for revision w.e.f. 16 August, 2005. As Central Government has not yet taken any steps to revise the rate of royalty on coal, Orissa is losing substantial revenue. Orissa Government has alleged that due to delay in revision of royalty on coal, the loss sustained from 11.10.1997 to 15.8.2002 is estimated at Rs. 750 crore.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

I would urge upon the Government for early revision of rate of royalty on coal and to fix the rate of royalty on ad valorem basis, so that the State could get adequate revenue to address the infrastructure and environment concerns apart from getting a fair compensation for depletion of the non-renewable sources. The Planning Commission and the 12th Finance Commission have categorically recommended to switch over to the ad valorem basis for royalty. It is high time that the rates of royalty of all minerals including coal be calculated on ad valorem basis and be implemented as early as possible and in case such revision does not take place, Orissa should be fully compensated through grant-in-aid as suggested by the 11th Finance Commission.

(xviii) Need to devolve powers to Panchayats and Municipalities in Puducherry

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Local bodies in the Union Territory of Puducherry were defunct and in a state of suspended animation for 38 years. They were revived only on 14.7.2006 when elections to them were held. Today, about 1138 local body members have taken position in these Bodies. But the powers, functions, functionaries and funds to these bodies have not yet been devolved as per the Constitutional requirements of 73rd and 74th Amendments. The Minister of Panchayati Raj, Government of India and the Chief Minister of Puducherry have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding in January, 2007, creating a Panchayat Sector window in the Budget. But this has not been done. The Government of Puducherry has only announced that it would constitute a committee to recommend devolution of powers. Already the State Finance Commission has clearly laid down detailed guidelines on devolution of power to village Panchayats and Municipalities. The Government has already delayed devolution for about 10 months which has created frustration and disenchantment among the local body members. They have already expressed their displeasure by organizing bandhs and hunger strikes. They are planning to come to Delhi and resort to agitation. Since the process of devolution is being delayed, the funds and other facilities from the Government of India are not likely to be transferred to Puducherry which may impede the process of development. The question of political and economic democracy are at stake in Puducherry which is against the Constitutional aspirations and requirements. Therefore, it is urged that the Government of India should order the devolution of powers immediately to local bodies.

(xix) Need to construct an alternate highway from Qazi Gund to Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Widening of National Highway is an important agenda of the National Highway Authority. In J&K from Qazi Gund to Baramulla all the important towns of the valley are situated on the National Highway. So widening as per schedule involves the displacement of all the business establishments situated on either side of this road. The rehabilitation of all such displaced inhabitants and business establishments including thousands of retailers is a colossal job, involving a huge money on one hand and creating a dissatisfaction and uneasiness of all the business people, running the market of very important towns of Kashmir valley, on the other. To build an alternate highway is a practical suggestion of some of the experts. We demand that an alternate highway be build up alongside the newly laid railway track that can give a world class connectivity without any hazards. There will be no problem of compensating and rehabilitating the big markets of all the important towns situated on the road and purpose of connectivity to northern border of Kashmir valley shall be achieved without any hassle of land acquisition and litigation of displaced business class.

15.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need to increase the interest rate of small Savings in Post Office and bring it at par with the interest rate in Banks

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The need to increase the interest rate of small savings in Post offices and bring it at par with the interest rate in Banks so as to prevent the out flow of deposits and safeguard the interests of depositors of small savings." ... *(Interruptions)*

*THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, the basic philosophy of small savings instruments offered through Post Offices is to

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 6301/07.

encourage the habit of thrift among small investors by providing a secure avenue for their savings and risk-free, assured returns. Post Office Time Deposits are more akin to bank deposits. National Savings Certificate, Kisan Vikas Patra and Public Provident Fund are medium to long-term instruments. Placed in its historic perspective, such instruments were introduced at a time when the banking and capital markets were relatively underdeveloped and the reach of banks through branches was limited.

While most of the interest rates relating to banks and financial institutions and debt market have been deregulated, the interest rates on small savings continue to be administered by the Government.

In 2001, a Committee on Administered Interest Rates and other Related Issues chaired by Dr. Y.V. Reddy, the then Deputy-Governor, RBI, had examined the issue of benchmarking the administered interest rates on small savings instruments to align them more closely to market determined rates and, *inter-alia*, had recommended that the administered interest rates including those on small savings schemes should be benchmarked to the average annual yield on Government securities of comparable maturity in the secondary market, with a suitable spread suitably to a maximum of 50 basis points over the benchmark yield, depending upon the maturity and liquidity of the instrument. Interest rates on small savings schemes were revised with effect from March, 2003 based on these recommendations. In 2004, the Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan, the Deputy-Governor, RBI, recommended continuation of average G-sec yields as the suitable benchmark.

Currently, the benchmark yields for Government securities of shorter maturities (1 year/2 years) are higher by 69 basis points and 61 basis points respectively, compared to the rates on 1 year/2 years Post Office Time Deposits. However, three-year time deposit rates are on par with G-sec yields; and in the case of medium and longer maturities of five years and above, the small savings rates still enjoy a spread ranging from two basis points to 152 basis points. In so far as senior citizens are concerned, their deposits under the 5-Year Senior Citizens Scheme enjoy a spread of 152 bps over G-sec yield for comparable maturity.

Collections under small savings schemes constitute a significant portion of revenue for the States. Any increase in the small savings deposit rates will require a concomitant increase in the on-lending rate to the States.

The State Governments have not been comfortable even with the existing rate of 9.5 per cent for 25 years (including a moratorium of five years) and any increase thereof will be resisted by them, as the higher debt servicing cost would undermine their effort at achieving fiscal correction.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anil Basu, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Statement of the hon. Finance Minister.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): The Finance Minister is a very intelligent man. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Whether I am intelligent or not is not the issue. I am reading a Statement and you want to interrupt me! I am answering to a Calling Attention Motion.

State Governments have also expressed their inability to avail of 100 per cent of the net collections from the respective States.

Notwithstanding a more competitive market offering a wider menu of savings instruments, the net collections (i.e. gross collections minus withdrawals, which includes redemptions on maturity in each financial year) under the Small Saving Schemes still remain positive. There is no evidence of any net outflow of deposits from the Small Savings Schemes. Moreover, from the trends in the Small Savings deposits, it is observed that administered interest rates alone do not necessarily drive the demand for Small Savings instruments.

Since the National Savings Fund is part of the Public Account of the Union Government, the interests of the depositors are fully safeguarded.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, may I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister not to make the State Governments the scapegoat. According to the Finance Minister, the reason why the Central Government is not increasing the interest rate because the State

*Not recorded.

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

Governments are of the view that they cannot pay more interest if they avail loan out of this small scale deposits. Let us not make the State Governments the scapegoat.

It is a nicely and innocently drafted Statement. But the innocence of the language cannot hide the main intention of the hon. Minister, who is the most vociferous campaigning Minister for the liberalization of the economy.

What is the main intention of not increasing the interest rate on small savings? The main intention, according to the Statement, is:

"Placed in the historic perspective, such instruments were introduced at a time when banking and capital markets were relatively under-developed."

Since the secondary market has developed now, the innocent intention of the hon. Minister is to ensure that small savings flow into the stock market or Mutual Funds. It means small savings should be part of the speculative adventure, which the hon. Minister would like to promote in order to see that the stock market is booming. The hon. Minister is very unhappy that the Small Savings Scheme is not negative. It is a negative Statement. It is not a positive Statement. But what is the trend that we look at? In 2003-04, the withdrawal from MIS was Rs. 6,383 crore.

Next year, the withdrawal increased by Rs. 4,000 crore and became Rs. 10,504 crore. In 2005-06, the withdrawal was Rs. 15,770 crore which means, withdrawal was increasing at a galloping speed. Then again the hon. Minister speaks of the net saving. What are the figures? I am speaking of net collection. Net collection means deposit minus withdrawal—repayment. In 2004-05, the net collection was Rs. 96,788 crore; in 2006-07, it has dwindled down to nearly half—Rs. 45,191 crore. If the scheme is not negative today, if the policy that has been formulated, if allowed to continue, it will be negative within a short period of time. The entire community of small investors will be forced to withdraw their money and go to the mercy of the speculators, that is, the stock market. It is not negative today. It will be negative tomorrow or day after. May I ask most respectfully why the small saving scheme is being killed gradually by the hon. Minister of Finance?

Sir, the point is that the Post Office is the largest bank in the country, larger than the State Bank and it

has a well spread out network throughout the country and because of the well spread out network; poor, semi-poor, not so affluent middle class, used to put in their funds under the small savings scheme for a safe and steady return. That is how the scheme was brought out. They used to save money as a provision for the future. They used to save money to meet the contingent liability—for the marriage of the daughter or for the education of the son. The main reason is the wide accessibility. There may not be a bank in the rural areas, but there is always a post office. Therefore, it was in the post office that the hard-earned savings of the working peasantry, school teachers, small businessmen in the rural areas—not in the urban area where the five-star culture is shining thanks to the liberalization of the hon. Minister—used to put in their funds for safe and steady income. For years together, the interest rate on small savings and interest rate on deposits in the bank, maybe long-term, was identical and there was stability. Now the stability has been upset. There has been an increase in the interest rate on deposit in the nationalized and private banks. Moreover, the earnings out of small savings have been eroded thanks to the policy of the hon. Minister of Finance that inflation cannot be controlled. It is inflation which has further resulted in the erosion of the income out of the small saving.

What has been the result? The result has been persistent and consistent outflow. This outflow has undermined the Scheme itself and jeopardized the interest of the small investors. The Postal System is deeply affected. Mobilization of Small Savings is one of the most important functions they perform. Their other functions have been diluted thanks to the policy of privatization. Nowadays, there are not numerous letters. Nowadays, there are a very few registered parcels. Nowadays, there is not much post-card business. Therefore, the major function that the Postal System does in India today is to mobilize the Small Savings. Therefore, if you kill the scheme - that is the intention of the hon. Minister - then the post office will turn sick, the Postal System in the country will turn sick. You may close it down or you can privatize it. That is, of course, your option if you still remain in power. That is not for me to question. But sickness of the bank is not the issue. The loss of employment is not the question. The employees will fight that. But the basic question is: Why is the Small Savings Scheme being killed? The cat is out of the bag because of the Statement that he has issued. He wants to promote small investment in the stock market. He would like to promote small savings investment in the private Mutual

Funds. It will undermine the interests of the State Governments also. Whether the Statement of Shri Chidambaram is right or wrong, I have no evidence. But out of the Small Savings, it was the State Governments which used to take large loans. If the Scheme is killed, the most important source of borrowing of the State Governments will be closed.

It is most perplexing and startling. The Government does not intend to increase the interest rate on Small Savings. From 8 or 8.5 per cent, it has not increased. But it is under the direction of the Finance Ministry that the nationalized banks - you will be really startled to know - are procuring bulk deposits from big corporate houses. Can you imagine what is the interest they are being offered? Reliance, Tatas, Dalmias, the friends of the political patrons of the country, the friends of the important personalities in the corridor of power are being offered 13 to 14 per cent by the nationalized banks. The Tatas will get 13 per cent offered by the public sector banks under the guidance of the Finance Ministry. But the small peasants, small artisans, the petty primary school teachers will not be offered more than 8.5 per cent interest. For the benefit of the hon. Minister, I can inform him that according to the estimate of our Union, Rs. 1,20,000 crore has been procured by the nationalized banks from the corporate houses at the interest rate of 13 to 14 per cent! What is the system? This is growth with equity! This is growth with social justice!! This is the beneficiary of the economic policy being pursued by the Government!!!

This is inclusive growth! The corporate sector, for unloading Rs. 100 crore in nationalized banks, will be given 13 to 14 per cent rate of interest. But the poor, semi-poor and not so affluent middle class will be denied more than 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent. Is it justice? Is it Common Minimum Programme? Is it tears for the poor? Is it sympathy for the downtrodden? Every piece and every bit of the economic policy that the Government is pursuing shamelessly patronizes the rich and cynically this favours the rich. This is another example of that.

Sir, I want that the Small Savings Scheme should not be killed. They are talking of market economy. What is the problem in offering them either market or semi-market interest rate? Why can they not increase it to 10 per cent at least? What is the problem?

Secondly, the Government is making the postal department sick. I can tell you one thing while concluding.

All the misdeeds of the Ministry of Finance is going to affect the political fortune of the present political regime of the country, either no tears today, maybe tears for tomorrow. The bulldozing that is being done by the Finance Ministry to bulldoze all criticisms, may not be of the enemy or the Opposition but of the friends led me to believe that whatever may be the public reaction, they will carry on their policy irrespective of whatever popular impact that policy will have on the people.

Sir, Punjab has given no political lesson to this Government, Uttaranchal has not been able to bring them to sense, maybe Uttar Pradesh will. I will appeal to the Government to reconsider the rigid, inflexible interest policy so far as small savings is concerned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, although the rule does not permit, as a special case I am giving chance to four other hon. Members to ask questions. They are requested to seek only clarifications for one minute each and not make lengthy speeches.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now my senior colleague Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has spoken at length and he has rightly said that majority of account holders in the post offices are farmers and other poor persons. Sir, through you I would urge the hon. Minister that depositors in post offices should be given incentives on the lines of Banks and the rate of interest on deposits in the post offices should be increased akin to banks so that customers can be attracted to open more and more accounts in post offices. It would lead to more investment in post offices making them economically strong.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will just ask one question in three or four parts.

The savings rate in our country has gone up to may be 32 to 33 per cent. Of this, the majority is the household savings. Out of this, more than 70 per cent is small savings. As far as interest rate is concerned, there is a big difference between the bank rate and the small savings rate because of various steps that have been taken by the Reserve Bank of India.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Sir, is it not a fact that a huge amount of money from the postal savings has already been transferred to the banking system? If that be so, how much such transfer has taken place during the last seven-eight months?

Secondly, is it not creating a sort of discouragement to the savings? Why I am saying this is because the postal and small savings, which can be mobilized to the length and breadth of this country, to the remote parts of the country, and there is hardly any such arrangement in the banking system, although, the micro-finance is there and even the multi-national companies are trying to mobilize resources? That is a different story. So, I want to know whether this is creating a sense of rather disincentive to savings amongst the common people, amongst the lower middle-class and other people.

Lastly, what is the Government's savings encouragement policy, if they have discontinued the already existing encouragement to savings policy? Earlier, it has been stated that the Government has been encouraging people to go to the capital market. I would like to know whether this is another step to push the common people, the small investors, to the capital market to, once more, be looted by the operators and manipulators in the country.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, the hon. Finance Minister, in his reply, has mentioned that there is no evidence to any net outflow of deposits from the small savings schemes. My question is, does he not want to increase the savings rate up to 32 per cent for a GDP growth rate of 9 per cent per year?

Secondly, should the stock market or the mutual funds be the only savings avenues for the poor and the middle-class people?

Lastly, can the small savings not be utilized by somebody other than the State Governments?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Thank you Sir. In the Statement furnished by the hon. Minister, there is a mention about this outflow, but there is no evidence of any net outflow deposits from the small savings schemes. I do not know how do they got the information. That is for the hon. Minister to answer.

One thing has happened that there no inflow because nobody is prepared to deposit in small savings schemes now. According to the hon. Minister, it must be a mistaken

notion, but the common notion is that people are not prepared to deposit in small saving schemes because the banks offer much higher rate of interest and there is a feeling among the common public, especially among the senior citizens, that it will not be in their interest to deposit in small savings schemes.

As a matter of fact, one thing is certain that there is security. That is all right. But the feeling is otherwise. So, I would request the hon. Minister to consider all these basis points, 152-points and all that and the benchmark position is also there. So, withdrawal may not be possible in the present context. The outflow may be less due to other restrictions. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is increasing. The outflow is also increasing at a violent rate.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I do not dispute that fact. I only say that inflow is not there.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The hon. Minister's answer is there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The outflow is restricted due to many other reasons. This benchmark, the basis and the security arrangement of all these factors are there. But the inflow is less.

I would request the hon. Minister to consider it, as an experimental measure, at least, by raising 0.5 per cent interest for small savings schemes so that the, common people, the senior citizens may come into the field of small savings schemes.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thought my statement was quite elaborate as well as self-explanatory. The figures are there for any one to see. Gross collections in NSSF are the investments made by investors every year. Withdrawals does not mean that people are abandoning the small savings schemes. Withdrawals, as I said in the Statement, include the redemptions on maturity.

15.31 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

Suppose, five years ago, a large proportion of gross collections had come in a five-year instrument. There will be corresponding redemption at the end of five years

and that will be reflected in the withdrawal column. Likewise, three years ago, if there had been a large inflow into the three-year instruments, three years later that will be reflected in the redemption which will be reflected in the withdrawal column....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. Let him complete. Kindly cooperate. We cannot force the Minister; let him speak as he likes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He made a speech and asked questions. I am answering the questions....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dasgupta, kindly cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Let us know the truth....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is untruth, you have your right to privilege.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Unlike what Shri Radhakrishnan said, withdrawal does not mean that people are abandoning NSSF. Withdrawal is the withdrawals from the scheme as well as redemptions which would be reflected in the withdrawal column. The question is whether there is a net outflow from the NSSF. As I have said, the answer is: 'No'. The gross collection minus withdrawal remains substantially positive. In fact the NSSF is a very large account today and from the figures that I have, I do not envisage any situation now or in the near future whereas one hon. Member alleged that NSSF will wither away and die; that simply will not happen. That is an alarmist description of the situation. There is no evidence of that happening. ...*(Interruptions)*

Questions have been asked and I am answering....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This is only calling attention.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Give me the figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He can give the figures. Figure is not the problem.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I can only answer in my own way....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dasgupta, allow him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record if this dialogue is going on. He is not yielding. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If the idea is to provoke me, I am not going to be provoked. My learned friend can be provoked....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly cooperate. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In 2006-07, up to February 2007 - we do not have yet the final figures for March - the gross collection was Rs. 1,56,755 crore. The withdrawals including redemption was Rs. 1,11,564 crore. Therefore, the net collection in 2006-07, up to February 2007, is Rs. 45,191 crore. To my mind, it is not evidence of any net outflow from NSSF; it is net accretion to the NSSF.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Comparatively it is declining.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if I am interrupted, how do I answer?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him reply.

*Not recorded.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think the intention is to interrupt and to provoke; and not listen to the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Dasgupta, kindly cooperate. You are a senior Member; you are a learned Member; you are a competent Member. He cannot go beyond the figures and can say what he thinks. I cannot compel him to reply as you think.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Secondly, as I have said in the statement, these instruments were introduced at a time when the banking system as well the capital market were undeveloped. Leave the capital market alone; I know of political parties which invested in UTI mutual fund. Leave alone capital market; let us take the banking system.

Today, in the banking system, unlike 10 or 20 years ago, Public Sector Banks have 48,098 branches; Regional Rural Banks have 14,488 branches, Cooperative Banks have 13,811 branches; and other banks, including private sector banks, have 6,805 branches.

We have a huge banking network. Since the UPA Government took office, in the last three years we have emphasized financial inclusion. In fact, we have a Committee under Dr. Rangarajan, which has given an interim report on financial inclusion. Banks are opening no frills account. Many banks today allow accounts to be opened with Rs. 5 as an opening balance, and some even with zero rupees as an opening balance.

There are banks, which have, in one or more districts, achieved 100 per cent financial inclusion. For example, in one district in Kerala, Palghat, there is 100 per cent financial inclusion. In Puducherry, one bank has achieved 100 per cent financial inclusion. So, people are investing in bank deposits also, opening bank accounts and putting their money there. Now, I cannot tell a person: "Listen. You should not put your money in a bank account and you should put your money only in a Post Office account." He has a choice today, a wider choice than what he had a few years ago. He has a choice of Post Office account; he has a choice of bank account; he has also a choice of mutual fund including UTI mutual fund, which is a public sector fund; LIC mutual fund, which is a public sector fund. Are we saying that he should not put his money in a mutual fund? A wider menu of savings instrument today is available.

I am very happy that Shri Rupchand Pal has correctly pointed out one thing. If our policies are such de-generative policies as is alleged, how has the savings rate in the UPA Government increased by four per cent, and how has the investment rate increased by three per cent? If we are so dimwitted that we follow wrong policies, how does the savings rate move up by three per cent? One half of the savings is financial savings. Is that good or bad? One half of the savings is financial savings, and financial savings includes today postal savings, bank savings, and savings in other instruments. This is the only way in which savings will grow and our policies are encouraging savings as will be clear if anybody cares to read the *Economic Survey* or the Reserve Bank's Report on Monetary Development. We, in fact, take pride in the fact that the policies that we are following are encouraging savings in a wider variety of instruments including Post Office instruments.

Sir, it is this Government which introduced, for senior citizens, a nine per cent Savings Scheme. It was not there earlier. This Government, having regard to the need for senior citizens to have an attractive savings scheme, introduced a nine per cent Savings Scheme.

Sir, some questions were asked. Let me quickly answer those questions. One question was that I am shifting the blame to State Governments. I am not. NDC appointed a Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee was asked to report on NSSF. The Sub-Committee made unanimous recommendations. In the Sub-Committee, States said: "Interest rate on borrowings by State Government from NSSF should be reduced to as low as 7.5 per cent." They wanted a reduction in the rate at which they borrow from NSSF.

There were five recommendations made unanimously by the Subcommittee which included the Finance Ministers of States. The first recommendation was that the States should not be obliged to borrow—let me repeat that the States should not be obliged to borrow—100 per cent of the net collections from that State, their responsibility and liability should be limited to 80 per cent. They say: "We cannot afford to borrow 100 per cent of the net collections from our State because the interest rate of lending is high." Then, after debate, I agreed that old loans would be consolidated, and the interest rate would be reduced to 10.5 per cent on old loans from 1st of April, 2007, and for new loans, I agreed to reduce the interest rate to 9.5 per cent. Today, the interest rate at which they

borrow is 9.5 per cent, and they wanted 7.5 per cent. And then, the State Governments made a request that additional open marketing borrowing will be allowed, and they made a request for pre-payment of NSSF loan. They want to pre-pay NSSF loan.

They do not want to borrow; they want to repay the NSSF loan. This will also be considered on a case by case basis. This is the Report of the NDC Subcommittee. These are the five recommendations. There is no recommendation by the State Finance Ministers, who constituted the NDC Sub Committee; this Report is approved by the entire NDC composed of the Chief Ministers and the Finance Ministers. There is no recommendation that the interest rate on NSSF should be increased. On the contrary, the demand is, reduce the interest rate at which NSSF will lend to the State Governments. And, therefore, we have reduced it to 9.5 per cent. If you increase the interest rate on NSSF deposits, you would have to correspondingly increase the interest rate at which they will borrow, and they do not wish to borrow. They do not wish to borrow 100 per cent; they do not wish to borrow at even 9.5 per cent; and they want to repay the NSSF loan.

Therefore, Sir, the policy that was recommended by Dr. Y.V. Reddy Committee, the policy that was affirmed once again by Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee, is a correct policy, namely, benchmark the interest rate to the G-sec rate. And that is precisely what we have done. I have said in my statement that G-sec rate at the shorter end, one and two years, is slightly higher than the NSSF rate. But G-sec rate is a function of the current monetary situation. If the RBI moderates the bank rate, G-sec rate also at the shorter end will moderate. But at three years and above, the NSSF rate is competitive, is comparable to the G-sec rate. In fact, at the highest point, it is 152 basis points above the comparable Government security rate.

Sir, there were questions asked. Well, Mr. Shailendra wanted me to answer: "Will I bring it on par with bank rates?" I regret; the recommendation is to keep the NSSF rate on par with G-sec rate; and that is the effort. That policy continues.

Shri Rupchand Pal asked me. It is very easy to answer each of his four questions. Has money from the post office flowed to the banking system? Possibly, yes. But if money flows from the post office system to the banking system, that is not necessarily bad. In fact, that

should be welcomed. Then, he asked whether there is discouragement to savings. The answer is 'no'. Is the Government discouraging savings in the post office? The answer is 'no'. Is the Government pushing the small savings to the capital market? The answer is 'no'.

Sir, Shri Swain wanted to know: should not savings rate increase? It should. But it has increased. It did increase in the last year of the NDA Government, but in the three years of the UPA Government, it has increased sharply. Should capital market be the sole avenue? No; capital market should not be the sole avenue. That is why, we have a wide variety of savings instruments, one among them being capital market instruments. Capital market instruments are equity instruments, debt instruments and mutual funds. A wide menu of instruments must be available. We have, in this country, a wide menu of instruments, and we will introduce more instruments. Post office savings is a very important instrument, and people should save through post offices also. Should not somebody else access NSSF? Correct. In my Budget Speech, I suggested, I proposed that, if the State Governments do not take even the 80 per cent they are obliged to take, then what happens to the NSSF? Therefore, I said that IIFCL may be allowed to access NSSF funds. The details are being worked out. But I am confident that with the reduction in liability from 100 per cent to 80 per cent and the reduction in interest rate to 9.5 per cent, the State Government will, I hope, fully avail of all the net collections from that State to the NSSF.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will go to Item No. 15.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the Finance Minister not honestly has bypassed my question. I do not say anything else. I told him categorically that while for the bulk deposit, for the corporate depositors, the banks are allowing 13 per cent to 14 per cent, economically, how is it justified that the small depositors will be allowed only eight per cent to 8.5 per cent?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the banker's business. What can he do?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have explained the policy by which we administer the interest rates on post offices. Banks have accessed bulk deposits at higher interest rates in the months of February and March, and if anybody had cared to read the Press report on what I told the bankers in the last meeting that the Government

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

has taken a very serious view of banks accessing bulk deposits at very high rates.

This is a legacy issue. If you did it last year after 12 months, you will be forced to do it this March. If you do it this March, you will be forced to do it next March. In fact, the public sector companies are asking banks to quote bids for interest rate to deposits for 15 days and 20 days in the months of February and March. This is a legacy issue. This has been going on for many years. I have taken a serious view. I have told banks that they should not outbid each other by bidding for bulk deposits at high rate. After I took a strong stand, IBA has appointed a Committee through which they will evolve the policy, by which banks will not access bulk deposits for 15 days, 20 days and 30 days in the months of February and March just to make up for the deposit they have to redeem which they took in the previous year, which is for deposits they took in the previous year. This is a legacy issue and I am trying to break that legacy issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank you all.

15.46 hrs.

ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item No. 15.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I welcome the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 brought by Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, the hon. Minister.

Sir, it is known that the direction of the National Common Minimum Programme is to supply electricity to all the villages and hamlets. By virtue of the Bill of 2003, the onus rests only with the State Governments to bear that expenditure. It is our common experience that when we go to the villages, particularly to the areas where poor people live, they ask for power supply. They say they do not have power supply; they do not have streetlights. Then, if we call the State Government's officers, they say that about 12 poles are to be laid and wire is to be drawn and we do not have fund for it. That goes on for years together. So, naturally this Act by

providing subsidy to an extent of 90 per cent on the capital outlay is really a boon, particularly to the villages and to the hamlets. It is also a common practice that whenever a facility is to be created in the urban area, be it power supply or communication or water supply or any other thing which is needed for the people, the concerned organization will jump and do it. The reason being the number of customers in those areas is substantial and the *per capita* investment would be less.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is economical viability.

SHRI K.S. RAO : But when it comes to the rural areas, if there were 100 houses, 100 families, living in a village and the area is far way from the main supply, then the cost of providing that supply is substantial. So, nobody will come forward. The State Government will say they do not have money. That is the pathetic condition that is going on in the rural areas. It is our responsibility to provide that when we say the country is growing and growing. If it means that the growth is only in the urban areas, it is a shame on us. So, the entire people, particularly the poorer sections and the rural areas, should grow. Unless the supply and the facilities are increased there, naturally all the people will flock to the cities. That is the reason why the population in the urban areas is growing phenomenally and people are leaving the rural areas. In most of the villages, when we go to the houses, be it the houses of poor or middle class, they are deserted because there is no facility there.

So, this Act provides all those things, eliminates this migration and creates an impression that we do not need to migrate from rural areas to urban areas. If the basic facilities like power supply, education and health are provided, nobody would be bothered to go to the urban areas. Here, some of the provisions, which the hon. Minister has made, are very good. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, an amount of Rs. 16,225 crore is allocated from the Consolidated Fund of India. Out of which Rs. 14,750 crore is only for subsidising the line which is a good thing. The first phase began in 2005-06 with Rs. 5,000 crore subsidy provided from the Consolidated Fund of India. All that I would request the hon. Minister is to ensure that this fund is utilized properly and economically.

It is because the organizations who are implementing it invariably are only the State Governments. We must ensure that they utilize it properly. A proper monitoring also is to be done by the Government of India and not to be contented only by providing subsidies to them.

The second thing is that invariably we find that there is a lot of theft, very unreasonable theft. Sometimes, it is 30 per cent or even 40 per cent. The transmission losses are also very substantial. These things are also to be curbed. To curb that, particularly the theft, there must be a stringent provision for punishing those people who are resorting to that. Earlier, the Police had no authority to investigate into the case and take immediate action on them. Now, with this amendment, that provision also is being made. Apart from that, some special courts are also created to see that the culprit is punished immediately.

Normally, only when there is a fear of stringent punishment for a person who is committing a mistake, there will be a check on him. Otherwise, even under the law of probability, they will think and calculate that even if they were to be found or caught once in ten times, they are prone to commit the mistake regularly. My opinion is that the punishment should be still more substantial, not at Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000. When it is found that a person is misusing the power intentionally, he must be punished substantially.

But there are certain cases where, without intention but because of ignorance there can be some mistakes in the sealing of the meter or something of that kind. In such cases, they should not be punished. The corrupt officials should not be made to punish the innocent and then leave the real culprit. This is what is going on there. Some provision has to be made in this regard.

On the availability of power, unfortunately the statistics reveal that for domestic consumption it is 79 kilowatt-hours, that is 79 units in a year. That means, one bulb used for five hours in a family is the order of the day today. It is very pathetic. One bulb of 40 watts capacity, utilized for five hours is the average consumption. Obviously, we can understand how many people are left in this country in rural areas without power supply at all.

Earlier, it was difficult because power generation was completely in the Government sector. Then we used to say that the Government has no money to invest and that is why the power generation could not be done. But today, with globalization, with bringing in a new Act empowering the private sector to enter into power production, we must encourage them more and more to generate more and more power. There are enough number of people to generate power in this country. It is only that the Government has to motivate them and then

amend the law in a manner that it encourages all the people.

Sometimes what is happening is that in collusion with the Government officials, they are increasing the cost of the power plant. Sometimes they are saying, it is Rs. five crore per megawatt of production. Initially, when it was open to the private sector, some of the people have misused it and then they said that the capital investment is about Rs. four crore, or Rs. 4.5 crore or Rs. five crore per megawatt and then based on that they arrived at the price of the unit of power. That means it is a burden on the people. Privatization should always be to bring down the cost of generation and supply of power, but not to increase the cost of power which is very unfortunate.

That is why, my humble request to the hon. Minister is to motivate the private sector to compete with each other and to bring down the cost of generation which is possible now. More particularly, with the dollar value coming down substantially, the capital cost of the power generation can be brought to Rs. two crore per megawatt, that means half of the present cost. All that they have to do is to encourage more and more people to come in. There, only red-tapism is playing a very bad role. If red-tapism is reduced and if it is given through a single window, then a lot of people will come and generate power and power will be available in surplus throughout the country and then we can make it available to the poor people also in the rural areas.

With these words, I support this Bill and extend my thanks to the hon. Minister for bringing this amendment now.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, our hon. Minister has presented this Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 in this House. There was a Bill in 2003 also. There took place a number of discussions and many States had given their views. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I think, it is the turn of our party Member to be called to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the discussion started, Shri Kiren Rijju had spoken on behalf of the BJP last Friday. After him, Shri K.S. Rao had started speaking. We are going by rotation. Do not be in doubt on this issue. We are very much in line with the practices. We are not

[Mr. Chairman]

over-ruling the practices. Do not worry. We will take care of this.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Many States had given their views. The Bill had also gone to the Standing Committee and it was discussed in detail by the Standing Committee. After the Report of the Standing Committee containing their suggestions, I think, some of the positive amendments have been included in the Bill. So, to that extent, I really welcome this Bill.

One of the major objections that we had raised to this Bill was the elimination of cross-subsidy. It was really a matter of repeated discussions in Kerala and in almost all the States and many States have really pointed out this issue, but it is partially solved. We find that elimination of cross-subsidy is not seen in this Bill. The cross-subsidy is admitted, but at the same time, reduction in subsidy is not eliminated and is still there. So, in the course of time, I think, the Minister may move for the elimination of the cross-subsidy because reduction of subsidy is still there. So, I would request the Government that for the sake of the common man, that subsidy has to be given to many sections. So, that aspect also has to be included in the amendments. I think, the Standing Committee has given its unanimous suggestion for elimination and reduction of subsidy. That also should be taken into consideration.

Now, I come to the other amendment that has been given in this Bill. It was the authority of the State Governments to take the responsibility for the rural electrification, especially distribution of electricity. In this Bill, it is the joint effort of the Central Government and State Government. I think, we can present the matter in a better way that the Central Government can consult the State Government and the Central and State Governments can do this work because State has the responsibility for production and generation of electricity and distribution of electricity and creation of infrastructure to a large extent. The State has to do this work.

The other amendment to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister relates to theft, as stated by hon. Member, Shri K.S. Rao. Of course, we do agree that in many places, there are thefts of electrical materials, lines or wires and that has to be addressed. At the same time, in this Bill, there is a doubt relating to unauthorised usage and theft as both these are having identical definitions. I think, unauthorised usage and theft are not equal. Of course, if there is unauthorised usage,

it has to be taken into account, but theft has to be dealt with serious punishment. But I would submit that unauthorised usage and theft are entirely different things. There is an identical definition or interpretation of the two in this Bill. So, that has also to be changed. Hon. Minister can use some other words.

The other thing which I want to make clear is about captive generation. When we discussed the Bill last Friday, there were not many amendments from the side of the Government, but now a number of amendments have come from the side of the Government. One among them is that a captive generator has to secure a license for supply of electricity. This clause can create a serious loophole in the law. As it stands, any group can claim that they have set up captive units for their requirements anywhere in the country and demand that the power produced can be wheeled to them *via* open access. This, in itself, is an anomaly in the Act and can lead to generators who can claim that they are actually only captive units supplying power to a group of industries. Sir, we can admit that captive generators are needed, but at the same time, they are not coming within the purview of any law. They are free from all obligations.

16.00 hrs.

Therefore, they can really misuse the loopholes or misuse some of the clauses of the Bill.

I do not say that there is any intention in the mind of the Minister about some litigation presently going on in the court, but there is an ongoing case of Bhushan Steel against the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. It is really because of captive generation that the power of Electricity Board is questioned, but they are arguing for their own capacity. But I feel that the prescribed amendment may be utilized in favour of it.

As regards utilization of electricity, electricity has become an essential item nowadays. We are in need of more and more electricity for almost all the items. It is true. The hon. Minister while mentioning about the total power generated in the country regionwise and Statewise has stated that there is a Government pool or the unallocated pool, and the Central Government can assist the States where there is shortage of electricity. In this regard, I would like to point out that the Government of Kerala has been getting 148 MGM, but now it has been reduced to 13.6 MGM. We tried to get an answer in this House during the Question Hour about doing it, but we

could not succeed. What is the reason for doing it? There is no justification at all for doing it. The share of 148 MGM has been reduced to 13.6 MGM. At the same time, the share of some of the other States has been increased. This decision of the Central Government has really upset the plan made by the Electricity Board and the Government of Kerala to share electricity in different parts. This issue should also be looked into by the Minister. I think that the Minister is convinced with this fact. Therefore, a decision should be taken by him in this matter also.

We have one major thermal plant in Kayankulam. Still we are short of electricity because we are not able to use it as the cost of production in Kayankulam is high. We get about Rs. 6 per unit of power from there, which is because of Naphtha being used for generation of electricity. In the initial stages there was concession in the price of Naphtha, but I think that the total tax now comes to about 30 per cent including excise duty, etc. Therefore, the Minister should take initiative to solve this issue in the Ministry, and reduce the excise duty on Naphtha. Otherwise, the electricity produced from there cannot be used by the State, and the common people.

Kerala had requested 200 MGM from the mega-power project of NTPC. The discussion of the power-purchasing agreement is going on. The Central Government gives financial assistance to these mega-projects or ultra mega-projects.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I am concluding in a couple of minutes. It is cheaper because the Central Government gives assistance to them, but at the same time one of the restrictions or one of the norms that the State has to follow is that the distribution in the town-areas should be privatized. How is it possible? The distribution is done either by the KSEB or the Government side. Now, if we want to get some electricity, then all distribution systems would have to be changed. I think that the Government has to reconsider these types of norms too.

As regards the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), it is a very ideal scheme as has been pointed out by other Members. But I want to raise one issue before the House. India has a federal set up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. You have already taken more than 10 minutes.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I am concluding my speech. I just want to place a very special point before the Minister. There is 100 per cent electrification as far as Kerala is concerned and this fact was stated in the House itself in one of his replies, but there may be places in every village or Panchayat like colonies or some houses, etc. that have not been electrified.

When we have to get the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme Fund, we have to follow the franchise system, that is, private agencies have to be introduced. It may be true in the case of some States but as far as Kerala is concerned or as far as many other States are concerned, where the KSEB or the concerned SEB is the whole agency either in the generation, or transmission or production, they can do all these works for a long time. So, in some areas it is not possible for the private parties to come and put their lines there as their administrative structure is under the KSEB; billing system is there. So, it is not possible. We have met the Electricity Minister in Kerala. Now, it is settled by the NCPT. At the same time, I want to make it clear not only from the electricity side but also from many other sections. Special features that exist in many States may differ. So, there should be flexibility in regard to utilization of the Central fund. It should be in accordance with the needs of the State and the demands of the State. But we are taking it uniformly in almost all the States. It becomes really very difficult for the States.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Please conclude. You have already taken more than 12 minutes. There are a number of Members to speak.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Only one more point, which is my last point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no end to it. You would say every point as your last point.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: As far as scarcity of electricity is concerned, there is a 'power block' which the Government of India has introduced. It is a good decision. I think, the Government has declared it in Orissa and Assam. I would request that Kerala can also be included in the list because you know that we do not have much resources for the production of electricity.

There was a Silent Valley. During the time of Indira Gandhi, it was true that due to environmental issue, we had rejected it. Then came Patrakadal and Adirappally

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

projects where environmental issues were raised. They are not going to be implemented because of these environmental issue. Considering all these factors, I would request that Kerala should be included in the 'power block'.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as hon'ble Minister of Power has mentioned at the outset of his speech, the objectives of Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 is to make power sector a financially viable sector alongwith rationalizing the power tariff and checking power thefts which has become a curse in power sector. For this purpose, setting up of a Court and giving more powers to police has been mentioned here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the consumer in our country has to pay more tariff as compared to other countries. So far as penal provision is concerned, being a political activist, I would like to state very humbly that the consumer alone is not responsible for power thefts rather I think consumers cannot be involved in power thefts without the sinister alliance of employees of Department of Power. Therefore, when we try to impose stringent punishment on the consumers for the power thefts, officials in the administration should also be dealt with strictly so that power thefts could be checked. It will not serve the purpose if we confine to consumers only. All are involved in it from top to bottom and there is a need to take effective action against them.

One of the reasons for the power theft is that consumers are not provided with adequate supply of electricity in our country which compelled them for power thefts. Therefore, the need of the hour is to maintain adequate supply of electricity to consumers as per their demand.

So far as tariff is concerned, India has the highest rate of power tariff in the world. In India this rate is 26.13 cent for commercial use, 14.77 cent for domestic use though in America it is 5.00 and 9.60 cent respectively. In China, it is 5.00 cent for commercial use and 6.90 cent in domestic use whereas in England and France it is 10.00 cent & 11.94 cent and 4.80 & 13.60 cent respectively. What I mean to say is that power tariff is very high in our country as compared to other countries. Therefore, the hon'ble Minister should pay attention in this regard.

Sir, there is shortage of electricity in the country and this shortage is increasing from the beginning of 10th Five Year Plan. I would like to submit that in the year 2002-03, this shortage was 12.2% in peak hours and average short fall was 8.8%. It was 11.2% and 7.1% respectively in the year 2003-04 and 11.7% and 7.3% in 2004-05. In the year 2005-06, the shortage in peak hours was 12.3% and average shortfalls was 8.4% whereas it was 13.8% and 9.6% respectively in 2006-07. It is 14.00% from the year 2007.

Small electricity consumers are entirely dependent on Government supply. Big electricity consumers generate electricity for themselves, therefore, it is necessary to protect the interest of small electricity consumers. Through you, I would also like to submit that average tariff rate of electricity was Rs. 2.15 per unit in January and March 2004 which was increased to Rs. 5.75 per unit in September 2006. It is Rs. 7 per unit in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. A requirement of 57 thousand Megawatts of additional power was estimated during 10th Five Year Plan but so far only 17 thousand megawatts of power has been generated. We fail to generate power in proportion to the target fixed. The country has the capacity to generate 1,88,000 megawatts of power at present but we generate only 74%. The power sector has always been neglected. We could achieve only 54% and 47% of the targets fixed for 8th and 9th Five Year Plans respectively. A similar situation is prevailing in 10th Five Year Plan. Earlier the target was 41 thousand megawatts of Power but in between the Government reviewed the situation and a target of generation of 30641 megawatts of Power was fixed. However, that target was also not achieved. Sir, I would like to submit through you, that the small projects which were supposed to generate 5727 megawatts of power by March, 2007 are still incomplete. The average loss of commercial power is still around 33%. It is 18% to 62% in various parts of the country. I would like to request that we should make efforts to remove all these shortcomings as the average percentage of power loss is between 6-7 in other countries. Our country suffers power loss on a very large scale and there is a need to put a check on it. At present, Power is generated through Naphtha at the production cost of Rs. 7.20 per unit though we have decided to charge Rs. 5.75 per unit from consumers. Hence power generation from Naphtha is also not economical.

Delhi Government has submitted an affidavit in High Court recently stating that it is not their duty to provide electricity to consumers. It means Government has no

responsibility. I would like to say that the attitude of the Government is totally irresponsible. Power is being supplied by Public Sector in the entire country except 5-6 major cities. The Government is responsible to supply power to the entire country and I think that the issue of power is a very serious matter. Therefore, there is a need to pay more attention to it.

16.16 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

We should strive hard to achieve the targets fixed on the basis of power tariff all over the world, we should ensure that consumers may not bear the additional burden. If the hon'ble Minister really wants to check the power theft, he should start to check the officers of the department first. It would create a psychological effect on the consumers and they will hesitate to indulge in power theft.

[*English*]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, this Bill seeks to amend the Electricity Act, 2003, which I had the good fortune of introducing in the Parliament as the Minister of Power in the previous Shri Vajpayee Government.

This Bill was drafted with a lot of consultations, deliberations and thoughts to address some of the crucial problems that the country is facing in the power sector. Of course, any law that is passed by the Parliament can always be reviewed, changed and amended. If we can amend the Constitution, we can also amend the law. When the UPA Government came to power it had said in its National Common Minimum Programme that the Electricity Act, 2003 is going to be reviewed. My good friend Shri K.S. Rao was saying that we need private participation in power sector. The Act was basically designed, among other things, to address that concern as well. When the Government said that it was going to review that, there was a lot of nervousness in the power sector thinking that the amendment would mean that the Government would be going to roll back some of the very progressive provisions in the law.

First of all, we would like to be assured by the hon. Minister that now we can say that the review, as was envisaged under the UPA's Common Minimum Programme, is complete. The uncertainty that was always

hanging in the minds of the investors should disappear and we should say, 'yes, the review is complete and the Act, as amended by the Parliament - when the Parliament will amend - is the finality of the Electricity Act, 2003'. This is something which I think we should finally tell the country.

There are some provisions in the Electricity law to which there are four or five major proposed amendments. One deals with rural electrification. It is true that Section 6 of the Electricity Act, 2003 talks about the appropriate Government which will actually be responsible for rural electrification. If you go by the spirit of it, the Central Government has always been supporting steps to do rural electrification through budgetary provisions and through instruments like Rural Electrification Corporation. In fact, I recall as a Minister. The Chief Ministers were constantly called for meeting the State Chief Ministers encouraging them to avail more resources from the Central Government and do electrification. It is good. If you are now going to provide resources, and maybe provide grants if not even loans to the States to go for rural electrification, it is a good thing. While doing that you must be clear about a few things.

Today, the figures for peak level shortage and energy shortage are astonishing and we are all concerned about it. Therefore, if you provide more electricity, give more electricity to more consumers, it would only mean that from the limited electricity that is available to us, which is causing this type of shortage because of the mismatch of demand and supply, we are providing more electricity to the consumers and that may result into more shortages. This is more important and you should take care of it. In the process of doing that if more number of people are going to draw electricity from the available scarce resources, it should not even affect the quality of electricity.

We have seen in India, in addition to availability, the quality of electricity is a very fundamental issue because normally it should be 49.99 HTZ. As a result of which the consumers can be assured that this is the quality he is going to get and therefore he can run his electrical gadgets and electrical systems on that frequency. But today, if you provide more electricity to consumers without augmenting the capacity — if you can do that simultaneously, it is very good — then the quality of electricity will really suffer. I would request the Minister to take note of it.

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

India probably is the only country in the world which has got voltage stabilizers at the consumers' end for providing stability to voltage. Providing stability to the grid is the responsibility of the grid supplier and the manager of the grid. So, it is an additional cost that we are putting on the consumers. But this is not a problem which Mr. Shinde has created. This problem has come up over a period of time. My concern is that when we are doing the electrification of this magnitude, we should be very clear that quality of the electricity should not suffer and in the process we should not put more burden on the already over-burdened infrastructure.

The other important issue is reliability because the fundamental foundation of the Electricity Act is on three things, namely, quality, reliability and affordability. So, reliability is also an important thing because now in several States including the home State of the hon. Minister as well as mine, we are not getting electricity for 18 hours. Sometimes when the load shedding cycle changes, it extends to more than 24 hours because if it changes then another cycle would start which can really affect the supply. So reliability is an important issue and affordability is the most important issue. It is because in the case of Enron, which has now become Ratnagiri Power Company, at that particular time, when the hon. Minister was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, he wanted to provide electricity but because of the high cost of electricity that was generated from Enron, the Maharashtra Electricity Board could not buy that electricity. So, affordability of electricity is also one of the important considerations. Therefore, I think while framing the policy, we should be very clear about it. Now, this Bill is trying to amend Section 6 of the Electricity Act, 2003. While welcoming that, I would like to caution the Minister that we should definitely take into consideration these three important aspects.

The other issue relates to cross-subsidization. In my opinion, this issue was deliberated upon for a long time. So, let us look at the historical situation. The industry is actually paying for all others. They are actually paying more. The agriculture is not paying at all or somebody else maybe paying less. But the situation that we thought was that in India we definitely need subsidy because electricity cannot be purchased by everybody at market price. So, we definitely need subsidy. There is no question about it. The Indian poor cannot afford to buy electricity and then the provision of electricity is directly related to removal of poverty and improving the quality of the living

standard of the people. Therefore, electricity is important. But how should we provide subsidy? In fact, in the Electricity Act, there is a specific provision to give subsidy which was not there in the earlier Act. We deliberately provided it and in that form. We said that we must give subsidy but the subsidy must be given by the State Governments which want to give subsidy to the utility by a transfer amount which is equivalent to the difference between the tariff that is fixed by the regulator and the amount of subsidy which you want to give. So, it is the most transparent way of giving subsidy. As a result of which, poor can get power at subsidized rates and at the same time the distortion that goes into the system will disappear. Today, by making an amendment like this, what are we saying? We are saying that the same regime of cross-subsidization which was existing before is going to come back. So, the consumer will not get it because we have always seen that the industry which is supposed to pay higher charges for electricity because of cross-subsidization will go for captive generation because the cost is high. So, you will lose good industrial consumers in the process and the ability of the industry to cross-subsidize will also go down. So, who will suffer? Again, the poor will suffer. The subsidy will not reach the target group and therefore the distortion will again come back. So my request is that this type of provision will not be really helping the cause for which we are trying to introduce this amendment. If the idea is to help the poor you can do it as it has been provided in the Electricity Act by transfer of subsidy amount from the State Governments to the State Electricity Boards or whoever is the utility in a transparent and in a very clear manner.

This is an important thing which we are now trying to bring in through cross-subsidy. But my personal request would be to look at this issue more closely because this is something which could again create some problems. As you would know, today the situation is that there are not many workers who work in the manufacturing sector because we want more blue collared workers to be created and this is because the manufacturing sector accounts for only 23 per cent of the GDP. Unless we have manufacturing sector account for around 53 per cent of GDP, as is the case in China, we would not be able to call ourselves as a new world power. We cannot call ourselves a world power only by prosperous service sector which accounts for more than 60 per cent of our GDP. We want more in the manufacturing sector. If we have more manufacturing, then we have to also see that manufacturing cannot survive or thrive unless the costs

that goes into manufacturing are at international level because it is now a globalised world. A worker who works in Kolkata, or in Mumbai or in Hyderabad has to compete with a product that is manufactured with the producers in the USA or in China or at some other place. Input cost is important. If the manufacturing cost is going up, then we would lose the competitiveness that India has in the manufacturing sector.

Sir, the second point in regard to this amendment relates to theft. This is welcome. We have to arrest power theft. It is because when I was the Power Minister we had calculated the amount of money that is involved in theft and it was calculated to be Rs. 20,000 crore every year. That was a very conservative estimate. I do not know as to what is the amount today. We are losing around Rs. 20,000 crore every year as a country by way of theft of power. By losing this amount of money, this sector cannot be commercially viable and because it is not commercially viable, capacity addition is not possible. These are related to one another. It is good that now it is being sought to be treated as a cognizable offence. It is also required. Along with that, my request to the Government would be to look at some two to three other parallel measures that are required.

The first is the managerial measure. Theft is an issue which is related to lack of accountability at a level at which the power is supplied to the consumer. If the Government could make a provision whereby any distribution transformer that becomes a profit centre and also a cost centre in which we can actually fix the responsibility, then that would be good. Suppose, if the power that has come into the distribution transformer to the extent to which it is supplied to the consumer, if we can actually identify that and say that this is what has come and you must have to account for it, then the person who runs the distribution transformer would be made accountable and theft will be greatly reduced. This is something which the Government must do. There is a parallel to this. In the telecommunication sector theft has gone down because of certain measures of this type.

The second measure is technological.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may conclude now because there are a number of speakers to speak on this Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: There used to be one Shri Tata Rao from Hyderabad who was one of the most renowned and celebrated engineer in the power sector. He used to always say that if you have a high tension distribution and transmission network, the amount of theft that are carried out can be greatly reduced. It is a technological solution which we are trying to use wherever possible. It is not possible everywhere. But the Government may have to use such solutions along with the type of fixing of responsibility that I was talking about.

Take for example the agriculture sector. Now if the Government could think of providing feeders for supply of power only to the agricultural users, then that itself will help. Some States are doing it. We are trying to do it under the Accelerated Power Reforms Development Programme which the Government had launched and we want to go ahead with that. This is something along with theft control on the lines suggested and what the Government should try to do and also make sure that these parallel measures are taken along with the legal provisions. Those are all welcome. But without these things we would not be able to achieve any success, because by having only the law what we would end up in is having hundreds and thousands of people being in jail for theft of electricity and the police would have no other job to do than this. Therefore, the Government must also introduce some other provisions that are required.

Sir, the other provision talks about amendment to Section 9 of the Electricity Act for captive generation. In fact, the Central Government has always been saying that they have, by law, delicensed captive generation. Anybody can now put up a captive power plant. Unfortunately some of the States are not supplying electricity to the consumers and also at the same time not allowing anybody else to create more capacity. It is a dog in the manger policy that they are following - neither are they themselves doing something, nor are they allowing others to do it. It is a serious issue. The Government is bringing about this amendment, I think, in pursuance of the order of the Supreme Court, but my request would be that the Government, if required, may bring in even more stringent amendments whereby the States should not be allowed to flout the spirit of this amendment.

Otherwise, it will be really counterproductive. We have done this very deliberately. In fact, in India, all generation

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

is delicensed, except hydro, in certain cases. Otherwise, generation is delicensed. Captive capacity is welcome because we have huge power shortage but the State Governments have started charging excise duty which is something highly objectionable. I would therefore, request the Minister to make sure that he will look into it.

My last point is about open access. In fact, this is a very important issue. In telecom, open access has brought down tariffs and has improved the quality and it is a prerequisite for competition. In this case, I have said in the Electricity Act that open access will be for more than one megawatt to begin with as it was done in UK also. It was done very deliberately. I think we should try to find out how soon we can introduce open access. I would request that all the Central Government funding to the States should be linked to this now. If you can link it to this and if you can make sure that the States will have more and more open access, probably, this will result into more capacity to be created at the generation end. The generator should not only ask for a PPA with the State Electricity Board but he should also try to sell electricity directly to the consumer whereby there will be more competition, more capacity will be created and more bankability for the projects can be established. If you want all this, then you must introduce open access in a very big way and I would request you to do that also.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, I extend my hearty thanks for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

Sir, as you know, electricity has become one of the necessities of man and electricity has achieved thunderous results in the economics of modern life. You know that the dream to illuminate rural India has been reflected in this Bill. The main object of this Bill is to electrify rural India and take power to the common people of the country.

In this context, I would like to highlight before the hon. Minister some important points. He is well aware that Orissa is a surplus State so far as production of electricity is concerned. The reformative measure which you have adopted is also unique as regards the achievement of the entire country till today. But this State has been discriminated against as regards to financial assistance.

I would like to highlight a few points for your kind appreciation. I want to know whether safeguards that have been provided in the Bill to ensure availability of cheap, environment friendly and good quality of power to the common people of the country. This is the most important aspect. An assurance was given that by 2009, all villages will be electrified under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana. Now, we are going to achieve it in 2012. We may presume that by 2012 we can achieve our goal. But unless some real approach is given to this Bill practically, the dream to illuminate rural India cannot be fulfilled. My earnest request in this regard is that the country can ill afford leakages and wastages of energy in the system to the extent of Rs. 28,000 crores a year. How to overcome such an alarming situation? The amendment which has been reflected in section 151 relates to individual customers. I want to know the measures provided in this Bill to prevent pilferages and wastage of electricity by big industrial units. This is very important for all of us.

Unless it is checked, our dream will remain a dream. Even after sixty years of Independence the common man, especially those who are in the remote areas, which are dominated by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, have not seen electricity. It has remained a dream for them till today.

So, in this context, I would like to highlight the other aspect, that is whether we can add capacity and at the same time address the issue of distribution reforms. This alone can make it commercially viable, improve quality, stop theft and improve revenue. This will also be an incentive to add capacity.

The other aspect is the transmission loss, which at present is forty per cent in our country. Unless it is reduced to ten or fifteen per cent, our dream to electrify rural India will not come true. The Bill, no doubt, is a good one to achieve our goal. But unless the provisions of the Bill are implemented in their true spirit, we may be far away from fulfilling our objective, though we shout and cry in this august House that this Bill is for *sam admi*, for the poor people, for the downtrodden, for the *adivasis* and for the Scheduled Castes. *Adivasis*, Scheduled Castes and *dalits* are far away from enjoying the fruits of these nice programmes.

Seventy-five per cent of the energy is being consumed by industrial units. Those industrial units collude with the officials of the Electricity Department, like inspectors and meter readers. Tampering with the meters

has become the order of the day in order to deceive the Electricity Department. There must be a mechanism to monitor the entire system, failing which, in my humble opinion, the dream to eliminate darkness in rural India will remain a dream.

That apart, I would like to further highlight before your honour, Mr. Chairman, that cross subsidy should continue. Subsidies must be available to the poorest in the country. It should not be enjoyed by the privileged ones, like the owners of industrial units, etc., which has become common in the country.

I would like to further state that our State adopted electricity reforms in the distribution system of the entire State, which was handled by the State-owned Utility, Grid Corporation of Orissa from 1996 to 1999. They were entirely privatized in the year 1999 through disinvesting of 51 per cent of the shares in favour of private sector investors. This pro-active action of the State Government was to make it more efficient through private sector participation.

The hon. Minister of Energy is aware that we have got a very dynamic Chief Minister. The main objective of the hon. Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik is to see that every village of the State is electrified. His aim is that the poor and the common men should get the benefits of the modern India. That is why he introduced Gopa Bandhu Grameena Yojana. Shri Gopa Bandhu was a social reformer and was the architect of modern India.

Sir, I would conclude within a few minutes. The Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Finance have declined to sanction the grant on the ground that the distribution companies in Orissa are private Companies and not State owned. In fact, the Distcoms are in joint venture as the GRIDCO holds 49 per cent and the Private Sector Investor holds 51 per cent with management control.

Orissa State Government has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Power in June, 2005 in the prescribed format claiming incentive to the tune of Rs. 264.94 crore for the year 2003-04. This is 50 per cent of the actual loss reduction achieved by the Utilities with 2000-01 as the base year based on loss reduction achieved by GRIDCO, a State owned Utility and the four distribution licensees engaged in the retail supply of electricity in the State.

Such an approach by both the Ministries amounts to penalizing the State Government for its pioneering effort in reforming the power sector.

Mr. Chairman, Sir ours is a surplus State so far as energy is concerned. We suffer from environment due to different diseases and environment is being polluted. As you know, Talcher where thermal power is being produced, the heatwave is so high that even the birds are falling down from the trees. It is due to the installation of thermal power plant in those areas. If we contribute a lot for the upliftment of the modern India, we equally expect more support from the Central Government. Such an approach by both the Ministries amounts to penalizing the State Government for its pioneering effort in reforming the power sector and also defeats the very objective of the Orissa Electricity Reform Act 1995 and the Electricity Act 2003 which intends to promote competition in the electricity industry through private sector participation in the power sector.

Sir with regard to the institution of special court, there must be some stipulation to conclude the trial within a specific period failing which cases are being filed and the trials are being continued for years together. As a Senior Advocate of Orissa High Court, I have got my own experience. I find that cases are pending for years together and there is no able prosecution from the side of the State to prosecute the case properly. So, a time-bound period must be fixed. That apart, an independent investigating agency should undertake the investigation of those cases and how these big industrial units will come under the purview of this Act is also most important. Unless that is looked into, the very purpose of amendment of this Act may be frustrated.

Sir, as you know, my Party is Biju Janata Dal which is named after Biju Patnaik, a great social reformer and his contribution is also immense for the social upliftment of modern India. I represent the holy State of Lord Jagannath which is spreading real light to the common people of the country and my State should be given equal priority in the field of development of electricity.

Sir, with these few words, I extend my hearty thanks to you.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda):
Sir, I would like to thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

At the very outset, I feel that the proposed amendments to the Electricity Act are good and necessary. I welcome the amendments. While supporting the amendments, I would like to bring a few points to the notice of the hon. Minister. The point is that cross-subsidies cannot be eliminated. Of course, we all agree to that. But, however, in the objectives, it is said that it will be reduced in a phased manner. It will take some time to reduce it. I think it is also a statement that is to be rectified. It has to be continued for quite some time in future also.

I believe it is linked with the economy of our country. Without the alleviation of poverty in our country, you cannot totally eliminate the cross-subsidies if you want to supply power to all the needy people in our country. In this connection, I would like to say that the entire power reforms are to be reviewed once again. The power reforms that were brought forward in our country were, of course, to bring out the State Electricity Boards from a crisis. It is true that many State Electricity Boards were in the red. But the very purpose of the reforms is under globalization. Electricity and power supply is commercialized. I do not say that power should be supplied in this country free of cost. But there is a section of the people in this country who are very much below the poverty-line and there is a responsibility of the Government that they should also be given power with subsidy.

One of the most important points in this Amendment Bill is, for the rural electrification, we need more responsibility from both the State and the Central Governments. A big subsidy is also announced. It is a very good intention. I welcome it. But I would like to ask one question. While power supply is getting costlier and costlier, what is the use of supplying electricity to the remote areas where the people cannot afford to pay the electricity bills? You are trying to supply electricity to the tribals, the dalits who are in the remote corners of this country. I am coming from the State of Andhra Pradesh where several *dalitwad*s, where the Scheduled Caste people are living now, are living in dark conditions without power. For months and months, they are unable to pay electricity bills because the power tariffs have gone up very high.

In the last few years, privatization of electricity generation is taking place. This privatization is costing the power Boards. I would like to say that maybe, it is

shown with innocence that competition is necessary, more efficiency is to be brought into the Electricity Boards and all that. I would like to ask this question. What is the experience of Dabhol Project in Maharashtra? Mr. Minister, you wanted to bring out the Maharashtra Electricity Board from a serious crisis. Because of the Dabhol Project, the Maharashtra State Electricity Board has gone into deeper crisis further and further. Everybody knows that they cheated the entire nation. Instead of helping them, whatever the help that is given to the Dabhol Project, if that help, financially, had been given to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board, I think they would have come out of the crisis. Instead of trying to help a private electricity company which was a cheater at the international level, instead of trying to help such organizations, we should have helped our own State Electricity Boards. There is a feeling that privatization or private-public joint venture in electricity is going to help faster generation and all that.

But we have a feeling that in the last few years step-motherly attitude is taken by the Government financial organizations towards State-owned generation companies. The same type of facilities like bank guarantees and other financial help that are given to private companies are not being given to the State-owned electricity generation companies. This attitude should change.

Now, even after bringing Electricity Regulatory Commissions, I do not think the situation has improved. There is a crisis in the power sector now. I would like to ask whether there is any improvement in the power situation in Delhi after privatisation. The Government is giving subsidy of thousands of crores to them and still they are demanding more subsidies. There is no use of this subsidy. In fact, there is a big loss to the Government and bigger loss to the people. When the Electricity Regulatory Commissions were brought, it was looking as if they were being given more autonomy and they were taking proper decisions and all that. In several States, the Electricity Regulatory Commissions are giving licences without proper basis. In Andhra Pradesh, we argued against licences being given to private companies in power sector without adequate guarantee of gas supply. I myself appealed against this, but they gave permission, but there is no gas supply for them now. They are demanding that either fixed charges are to be paid or they would be given naphtha, as the hon. Minister has stated while replying to questions the other day. But naphtha is very costly and naturally all this additional expenditure is to be borne by the consumers.

Sir, I believe that electricity reforms in our country are a necessary, but these reforms which have been brought are not properly used for our country at this juncture. I think the entire policy is to be reviewed. When these amendments are brought, I appeal to the hon. Minister to take these experiences into consideration and review the National Electricity Policy. A new policy should come and electricity should not be seen only from the commercial angle. We have a responsibility towards the 30 per cent of the population who are living below the poverty line. They should be supplied with drinking water, they should be supplied with electricity and everything should not be privatized. The new reforms in the power sector and the new National Electricity Policy should take care of these things.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 23rd of December, 2005 and was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee, in their wisdom, discussed the Bill in detail and presented a Report to the House in May, 2006. I hope the Power Minister is not new to the Power Ministry any more, but when the Report of the Standing Committee was presented, he was not the Minister of Power. But the Power Ministry has taken one year to bring the Bill for passing in the Lok Sabha.

What I am trying to really say is see the importance given to this Amendment Bill. My predecessor has very rightly said that a review is required of the Act of 2003 and I will stress that point very vividly because what happened in 2003 was that a very good Act came about and the 'Ambedkar' of that Bill was no other than Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam and Shri Suresh Prabhu followed it up.

But after four years, when we look at it, what are the reasons? Have we done any assessment? What really Shri Suresh Prabhu was talking about is the fact that open access should have been really implemented. Has it been implemented at the State level? Have other provisions really been implemented? If we see the results, then we can say that we are lagging behind.

Now, the target for the Ninth Five Year Plan was something like 41,000 MW and actually we were not be able to achieve more than 8,500 something MW. In the

Tenth Plan, it was 41,000 MW and we were not able to achieve more than 19,000 MW. In the Eleventh Plan, we are saying that we will not be really achieve the target again and the ultra mega power projects was a dream that we will have ultra mega power projects and that too ten of them. That was announced by the hon. Prime Minister. But what has really happened? We have knowledge that these will not be coming in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. If that is all happening then the assessment of the Electricity Act 2003 is a necessity and that is what I am stressing, like my predecessor had done.

May I also say that there were 126 recommendations of the Standing Committee? That was the time when the UPA Government came into formation. They had said that we will review this and I feel a review is necessary to find out if there are any faults, if there is anything more to be done. I can point out the tariff. We had the new clause in the Electricity Act 2003 where we said that we will have trading done by the companies. Now, the States have formed their own trading companies and the States are selling that electricity at Rs. 6 per unit. Now, if the States start doing trading themselves, then where is the regulation? What are the CERC and the SERC doing?

The trading was introduced in this Electricity Act 2003 for the simple thing that we must usher in a competition so that prices come down. But the trading has been taken in a different light and prices are going up. If that is what is going on, then, assessment is very necessary.

Let me also talk about the availability based tariff. There are so much litigations going on between the NTPC and the CERC. All those are in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. Does that not need a review of the Electricity Act 2003?

One of the things in the Electricity Act 2003 was that we would get private participation. What is the private participation really that has come about? If we look at the original target of the Centre, it is 22,000 MW. The States' target is 11,157 MW and the private target is 7,121 MW only. If that is going to be the state of affairs, if we thought that private participation will really come in from the Electricity Act 2003 and also because of the open access, which Shri Suresh Prabhu was talking about, then that is really not taken up. That is what the point is.

17.00 hrs.

Why do not you do a reassessment of the whole thing? What new amendments are required, please usher them in. These three innocuous—if I can say—amendments are important in their own right but there are more important amendments which are required.

The UPA Government has announced a very ambitious scheme and that is the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. Let us say that one of the reasons that the amendment has come about in this Bill - proposed in the Section 6 - is that the onus is not just on the State Government but also on the Central Government to jointly endeavour and provide access to the villages. It is a fact that after 60 years of independence, there are hundreds and thousands of villages which are still not electrified. This very ambitious plan was launched. We thought that you would be able to provide the funds. What is the status of this scheme?

17.01 hrs.

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH *in the Chair*]

You have provided only Rs. 3000 crore. Now you have provided another Rs. 4,500 crore. In fact, it is only Rs. 8,500 crore, while the requirement is in hundreds and thousands of lakhs of crores of rupees. You have not even done an assessment of how many villages are there; how many hamlets are there. If the assessment had been done, they would have gone to two lakh villages including the hamlets. But you have said that there are only 1,16,000 villages. In the 1,16,000 villages, what have you really achieved? You have achieved only 18,000 villages in the two years. If that is done, I do not know when you will be able to really complete the electrification of the villages. Where is the electricity when you cannot meet the targets?

Madam, let me also come to another point. We talk about cross subsidy. I support this because in the Electricity Act 2003 it was said that there should be total elimination of the cross subsidy. The total elimination of the crossed subsidy should not be there; it should be reduced. I support this amendment very much.

The other thing which is very important is this. Why is it that we have not been able to import the super critical technology? We are dependent only on BHEL. They have their limitation. I know BHEL is doing a very

good job. Nobody denies that. But, we can have international bidding and get more technology. It is because when you say BHEL has a limitation, they cannot supply more than that, and that is one of the limitations of not meeting the generation targets in the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans, then why do we not import that, why do we not have international bidding?

The other thing is regarding the States. You have not been able to really encourage the States and promote them to put up their own generating power plants. NTPC is doing a great job; NHPC is doing a great job, but what is required is this. At the State level, you have also started the Ultra Mega Power Projects. Those are not going to come for another six years. That means nothing is going to come in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Why cannot we have more of them in the States and for that why do you not give the States also the same concessions that are being given to the Ultra Mega Power Projects? Also the same should be given to the private projects that are coming up. Then only we will be able to meet the demand. There is shortage and if we have to have a GDP growth of more than 9.2 per cent in the country - because it goes in line with the requirement - electricity growth should be along with 9.2 per cent GDP growth.

For that, you will have to do a lot of things. One of the most important things is that you have to re-assess as to why the Electricity Act, 2003 is not able to give us the impetus and give us all the growth that was required.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Madam Chairman, first of all, I am thankful to the Chair for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

I would like to congratulate and thank the hon. Minister of Power, Shri Shinde ji for the introduction of this piece of legislation to further amend the Electricity Act, 2003 as per the commitment made by UPA in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Ours is an age of scientific inventions which have made life easy and comfortable. The most useful of all inventions is electricity. Electricity is one of the wonders and blessings of Science.

When Lenin came to power in Russia after the success of the Revolution in October 1917, his message to his people was: "The Revolution means socialism and

electricity. If a country has capitalism and electricity, its people will be happier, more prosperous and more advanced than the people of a country which has socialism but no electricity."

Madam, the Indian Electricity Act was promulgated in the year 1903, it was then amended in 1910 and lately in 1959. The Rules thereunder were first framed in 1937 and then in 1956. The Indian Electricity Supply Act was promulgated in 1948 for the purpose of providing rationalization of the production of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to the development of electricity in this country. It was slightly amended in 1959.

Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1988 came into force on 30th December, 1988. There had been drastic amendments in the Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity Supply Act, 1948. The object of these amendments is to provide for transmission as a distinct activity under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 and the Electricity Supply Act, 1948. The law relating to generation, transmission, distribution, trading and use of electricity is enunciated in the Electricity Act, 2003.

The present amendment provisions are based on the Electricity Act, 2003. The present Bill paves way to amend Section 6, Section 38 and other Sections.

Section 6 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the appropriate Government shall endeavour to supply electricity to all areas including villages and hamlets. As per this provision, rural electrification is under the purpose of the State Government. The present amendment in Section 6 provides that the concerned State Governments and the Central Government shall jointly endeavour to provide access to electricity to all areas including villages and hamlets through rural electricity infrastructure and electrification of households.

As per Census 2001, only 44 per cent of the rural households have access to electricity infrastructure. Improvement of rural electricity infrastructure is essential to empower rural India. For the improvement of this, our UPA Government, under the leadership of Madam Sonia ji, implemented the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana in April 2005 for providing access to electricity to all rural households over a period of four years.

It has been estimated that this Scheme would have a subsidy component of Rs. 14,570 crore with an outlay of Rs. 16,255 crore funded from the Consolidated Fund

of India in two phases. Phase I started from the year 2005-06 with sanction of Rs. 5,000 crore.

The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is the nodal agency for the programme. Under the new scheme, till 9th February, 2007, 28,241 villages have been electrified, and 5,14,141 connections to below poverty line (BPL) households have been released. The target for the year 2007-08 is for electrification of 40,000 unelectrified villages and offering electricity connection to around 40 lakh unelectrified BPL households electricity connection free of charge, as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme in all rural electrification. Therefore, the present amendment in Section 6 is a welcome step taken by our hon. Minister.

Another important amendment is with respect to the Section 151 of the present Act, 2003. According to Section 151, the police cannot take any action directly against the persons involved in the theft of electric energy or alteration in the meter. If they want to take action, they have to include it in the provision of the Indian Penal Code. According to the present amendment, and the inclusion of Section 151(2)(3) in Section 151, it would pave the way for the police to investigate and take cognizance of the offences as per provision of the Criminal Procedure Code. It will reduce offences and the police would be able to take action against the culprits. For, for example, Section 39 of the Electricity Act. If any case is registered, police is using Section 379 of the IPC. So, all such cases are being ended in acquittal. But by this amendment, we would get more conviction, and the offences would also be reduced. This is another important and good amendment in this proposed Bill.

It is proposed to constitute special courts for speedy trial without committing the offences to special courts under Section 153 to try offences under Sections 135 to 138. But, in this proposed amendment, I am having a small reservation. Based on this amendment, the State Governments are directed to constitute special courts. It is an unnecessary burden on the State Governments. Moreover, in all subordinate courts, a large number of cases and even in a small magistrate courts, more than 2,000 cases are pending there. Therefore, the Government of India has to allocate more funds to the States to be able to constitute the special courts, special prosecutors and the infrastructural facilities. Then only, we can try the offences of the electricity. This is my humble submission.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

Madam, while concluding my speech, I would mention about the situation in Delhi. The power situation in this country is alarming. Delhi, the Capital City of this country, is short of 800 MW. Each 100 MW shortage means an hour of cuts. The Financial Capital of India, Mumbai, is also facing the power shortage of 400 MW, and same is the situation in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Our country generates 1,29,000 MW of power, and there is a shortage of 70,000 MW. Usually, electricity production capacity would be increased as per increase of demand, but I am sorry to mention that in the last 10 years, there has been no electricity capacity addition. Those who were in power since 1996 to 2004, had failed to concentrate on "power" to help the public. But now, our hon. Minister of Power, Shri Shindeji, who is a very efficient Minister has taken a number of steps to produce more electricity and to solve the problem of public of this country, I am appreciating and congratulating him. I am supporting this Bill.

With these words. I am supporting this Bill and concluding my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Aram Bagh): Madam Chairman, first of all; I would like to thank Shinde ji for having accepted all amendments. This Bill was first referred to the Standing Committee of Parliament. The said Committee considered all the points and gave its suggestions. Since he has accepted all their suggestions that's why he deserves thanks.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to certain specific issues. Hon. Suresh Prabhu ji had referred to subsidy, but, I feel it is inapt on his part to say so. They have to run the Government. Be it India or any other country of the world, subsidy is unavoidable. The amount of subsidy given in America on agriculture is beyond our imagination. They dole out huge amount on subsidy which our Government can't even think of. He had been the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and is quite experienced to have joined the Union Cabinet. When the issue of large scale suicides committed by farmers in Maharashtra made headlines, the hon. Prime Minister rushed there and announced a package of Rs. four thousand crore. That is also one kind of subsidy. Subsidy did not help mitigate the farmers' miseries, therefore, they committed suicide and still the Government have to give subsidy. Giving subsidy in the form of a special package is good. If the Government is committed to ensure economic upliftment and also accelerate the growth of

GDP to 9-10 per cent the subsidy will have to be given. Therefore, I oppose the idea of cross-subsidisation as propounded by Shri Suresh Prabhu ji. He has made a point about corporate houses and he has not made any reference to the rural areas. He suggested the ways to bail out corporate houses. Therefore, I oppose what Shri Suresh Prabhu has suggested. The community projects such as Swajaldhara Project is a scheme of the Deptt. of Rural Development which aims at providing potable drinking water in rural areas. Under the said scheme a committee of beneficiaries is constituted and after approval from the Panchayats the beneficiaries pay 10 per cent contribution and 90 percent expenditure is borne by the Deptt. of Rural Development. In my district, more than 200 Swajaldhara schemes are nearly defunct as they are not getting power connection because after withdrawal of subsidy the high charges for electric connection have rendered them unviable. We make use of crematory run by power as it saves forest wood. If power charges are increased, people will again resort to use of forest wood which will destroy our forests. I, too, undertook an irrigation scheme through MPLAD scheme which cost Rs. 33 lakh. It will irrigate 107 acres of land and help conversion of single crop into multiple crops. It will lead to development but since power tariff is too high, so, it has become difficult to run it. Therefore, my submission is that there should be cross-subsidization for community based projects, like those run by cooperative societies, panchayats and other Government projects.

Secondly, launching of Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme is a very good step. Amendment of a Section and insertion of a new one in lieu thereof is also a welcome step. Those sitting on the other side did not do it. On the contrary, they took the nation backward. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rana Singh Rawat ji, no discussion please.

Do not disturb please.

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU: They never visualized such a scheme. Madam, they were very senior leaders, but none of them ever bothered about the country.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Anil Basu, please address the Chair. Do not respond to them.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Madam, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme will involve an expenditure of Rs. 16,225 crore which includes a subsidy component of Rs. 14,750 crore. It will be implemented in two phases. Phase-I started in 2005-06 and its subsidy component in 2005-06 was Rs. 5 thousand crore. The hon. Minister should apprise the House as to out of Rs. 5000 crore subsidy component - how much money was released by the Government in the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and how much they propose to release in year 2007-08. What is the reason for not allocating anything for my State under the said project? Electrification of rural areas is essential for the whole country but why the Government did not allocate funds to West Bengal under the said scheme? Please tell how much money is proposed to be released to my State during the current year.

My third question is relating to power generating capacity about which I had raised a Starred Question but he did not reply to that. I had asked as to how many megawatts of power will be generated by the State Govt.'s outlet power generating station and what progress had been made in this regard and the modus operandi adopted by the Government therein? The generating capacity of power station, being an outlet, will be diminished. Is there any scheme to replace it? If so, the allocation made for the same? The quality of power is an important issue. Keeping in view the affordability of different categories of users of electricity the tariff should be rationalized. The quality of electricity in case of high tension has improved. Regulations of grid is necessary in case of high tension, but what is happening in case of low tension? More theft of power takes place in low tension. Once I had talked to the Planning Commission with a view to bring improvement in low tension line in the country. I was told that it will involve an expenditure of Rs. 70 thousand crore. If we want to check the theft of power in low tension lines and improve quality of power, we need to spend Rs. 70 thousand crore. No commitment has so far been made in this regard. Shri Prabhu ji has rightly suggested that responsibility should be fixed for any variation in input and output of power

from transformer, then only power theft can be checked. It can be ensured by the Central Government only.

Madam Chairman, everybody needs electricity. Any kind of problem arising in transmission and distribution system is not tolerable. I congratulate Shri Shinde ji. He is an experienced Minister and whatever he has done, has done good, yet, there is a lot to be done. He should take steps to accomplish the left over task. I will lend total support to him. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Madam Chairman, a discussion on Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2005 is being held. I would like to give some suggestions in regard to this Bill. It is seen that we are paying very less attention to power generation as compared to demand. As far as this amendment is concerned, it relates to generation and distribution. It is very unfortunate that we are not able to generate power. We are continuously enacting legislations and making amendments in these Acts. We have enacted so many legislations and carried out so many amendments, that our attention has been diverted from generation. I would like to request to pay special attention to generation. Earlier also I had said that 1500 MW Dadri Project in Uttar Pradesh based on gas is ready, but due to nonavailability of gas it still remains inoperative. Once it is made operational, Uttar Pradesh, which is the heart of country, will get power round the clock and we would be able to supply power to other States also.

In Uttar Pradesh, there are a number of old projects like Anpara, which have been going on for years. If the Government provide financial assistance and put them in operation, shortage of electricity, in my view, can be met. In the present Bill, the hon'ble Minister has made a mention of Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojna, which is a welcome step. He has also said that electrification of rural areas is being carried out with joint efforts of Union Government and State Governments. It has been seen that the population of villages is on the rise. It is often asked that we should provide some funds from MPLADS for poles and wire. Keeping in view the increase in population there is a need of extension of already electrified villages. Alongwith this, the main villages have been electrified but the hamlets and settlements which are equal in size of villages have not yet been electrified. Therefore, I would like to demand that all hamlets and settlements should be covered under Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana so that they could be saturated fully.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar].

As Shri Ranji Lal Suman has said the power tariffs are very high in India, they need to be reduced. A long discussion was held on subsidy. I would like to state that the Government should not only take care of urban areas, but subsidised electricity should be provided to farmers in rural areas, who are axis of development of the country. If possible, free supply of electricity should be made to the farmers. Only then our country can make progress.

It has been provided in the bill that inspectors would be appointed. Inspector Raj should be weeded out totally. In Uttar Pradesh, Inspector Raj has been abolished totally. If Inspector Raj is included in the Bill, in my view, this will kill the spirit of the amendment. All Members have demanded that special attention should be paid to privatisation. Where electricity is being supplied under privatisation as in Gujarat and many other States the system is working properly. The electricity supply over there is very good and electricity is also being supplied at proper time. As far as, theft is concerned, it is done by making changes in metre reading and tampering the metres. I would like to suggest in this regard that plastic coated wires should be provided to check the theft of electricity. This will help check theft of electricity to a great extent.

More power to the police has been provided in this Bill but I think it will further increase theft and crime. Therefore, an amendment should be made in this regard. It has been seen that the power department has very less control, but much control has been given to Police Department. Strictness on this account is putting people in a lot of difficulties. As far as outstanding bills are concerned, I would like to draw your attention towards Uttar Pradesh. Electricity dues amounting to crores of rupees are outstanding against big industrialists and big factory owners but it cannot be realised from them. They are influential people and escape by paying bribe, whereas RC is issued against farmers from Tehsil and they are arrested and put behind the bars. I think there is a need to pay special attention towards this double standard because electricity is the main means of production for poor farmers. They run their small business with the help of electricity only, therefore we should try to boost it. Electricity should be provided at subsidised rates in rural areas, by doing so, our country can make progress.

While proposing amendments on this Bill, I would like to conclude and support this Bill. Alongwith this I would like to congratulate hon'ble Minister for bringing

this bill, therefore he should pay special attention towards it. Alongwith this, I would like to make one demand and then conclude. I had written two-three letters to the hon'ble Minister about my constituency. It is a backward and reserve area, therefore, instead of 212 villages, 500 villages of this area should be covered under Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana, so that medium sized villages also gets electrified. With this, I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Through you, I would like to express my views on Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005. Just now, my colleague was putting all blame on the former Government? Through you, I would like to ask the Government as to which party was in power for last sixty years since independence, if those ten years are excluded?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please speak on the Bill. The time is very short, you are allotted only five minutes.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The hint is sufficient. They paid as much attention as was required for electrification of the country, made as much efforts required for making country self-reliant in the power sector, but they did not achieve success. The NDA Government had enacted the Electricity Act, 2003, which was very effective. Through this amendment the present Government is doing away the lacunae in that Act. The hon'ble Minister must be grateful to the former Government for bringing a comprehensive Bill by including earlier bills and legislations in it, and now he is just making a few amendments in it. These kinds of allegation and counter-allegations are being levelled. Through you I would like to say that "na idhar-udhar ki baat tu kar, yeh bata kafil kyo luta, mujhe rahjano se guraj nahin, teri rahbari ka sawal hain", means the Government should not try to deviate from issues by putting blame on former Government, but should straightaway cite the reason for its failure. I would therefore like to say that India is a country of villages. Our economy is based on agriculture and unless all the villages are electrified, there will neither be light, energy, means of irrigation nor development of agriculture, therefore, all the villages should be electrified. But I have to say with great regret that targets set for Ninth or Tenth Five Year Plans have not been achieved and as a result of that we are lagging behind the targets. Though efforts were made, whether through NTPC or hydro-electric power, there are atomic power plants in Kota and Rawatbhata in Rajasthan, but their reactors

often go out of order the reason for which is unknown, was there lacunae in its five phases, or America did not transferred the technology or there was any shortcoming in its construction, as a result, it goes out of order once or twice a month. There is acute shortage of electricity in Rajasthan and we have to buy electricity at higher rates from other States or the Union Government and have to distribute at lower rates. Today, subsidy has taken shape of disease, it appears very nice, when somebody says subsidy should be provided to rural areas. Russia collapsed and other countries took lesson from it. But we people have a habit "Male muft, Dile Beraham" means when one gets things free of cost, he becomes heartless. 'Muft ka maal, kun kamave re la' (an open door will tempt even a saint) is a Rajasthani saying which means that when one gets doles he is no longer willing to put in hard work. Subsidy should definitely be provided to the poor States, to the poor and weaker sections of the society till the time they achieve the targets or reach better condition. But everybody is treated in the same manner and millions and billions of rupees are given away as subsidies due to which bad habits are developed. All the State Electricity Boards are running in losses. Keeping in view this loss and other circumstances the Electricity Act, 2003 was enacted and provisions, rules and bye-laws were enacted regarding generation, transmission, distribution, trade and utilization of electricity. This was a good step. However, wherever private companies are in operation, they are offering very good service and are ensuring uninterrupted power supply. But there is no guarantee of the electricity provided by the Government agencies, one cannot predict when the supply will be on or when it will get interrupted, some times only a single phase is operational and some other times all the three phases will remain non functional. Besides, television and other electrical appliances get damaged due to voltage fluctuations. I feel that the Government should also look into this matter as it is the job of the Government to rule, their job is to put in place the systems, it is their job to formulate the laws and make sure that the laws are strictly followed. But when the Government itself ventures into commercial activities and gets involved in such matters the mindset of the employees become such that they feel that even if they do not work any longer, at the most they would be transferred or some minor punishment will come their way without affecting their salaries. Owing to which they do not work any more. Why is that in Gujarat and other States the supply of electricity is prompt and everything is in order, because it has been privatized there. Similar

system is in place in Mumbai and in some other locations. They were instrumental in bringing Dabhol Company to Maharashtra, but later on due to some reasons best known to them they forced the company to wind up their operations. That's why I am of the opinion that the Union Government, State Governments, Private Companies and all the competent authorities should make endeavours to solve the electricity crisis prevailing in the country.

Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme. There is shortage of electricity in Rajasthan. While replying, the hon'ble Minister should talk about it. The State Government needs gas for the operation of the gas based power plants which have been established in Antha and Ramgarh. Now Jaisalmer and Barmer are not getting supply of gas and the area adjacent to Antha, Uttar Pradesh or Bharatpur also needs gas. But the supply of gas is under the jurisdiction of Union Government. If gas is not supplied, the thermal power plants which have been set up, cannot run and as a result we have to face crisis of electricity. On one side we have the North-Eastern States which are power surplus the Government should make arrangements for transmission of electricity from there. This work definitely entails one time investment, but it will solve the problem of shortage of electricity in Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab.

Madam Chairman, I seek your protection. Now-a-days State Governments are vying with each other to provide electricity free of cost. Government, in order to appropriate cheers and garnering votes say that they will lower the price of electricity and we know that what kind of a situation will be created by giving low priced electricity and what kind of a turn the habits of people will take. But in this regard we should not involve ourselves in the race to gain cheap popularity and in national interest, efforts should be made to generate more electricity, to ensure its proper utilization availability to the farmers and we should invoke a feeling among them that they have to pay its full tariff according to their consumption, a feeling should be instilled among them that they would jointly share the cost of electricity. So arrangements should be made for transmission of electricity from power surplus to power deficient States. Besides, power failure occurs in the places where power grids of the centre are located, as a result of which the entire north India gets steeped in darkness. After all what is the reason behind it, what is the lacunae in this regard? Please furnish information

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

in this regard. About rural electrification I would like to say that a number of villages are yet to be electrified in Rajasthan. The basic village has been taken up, but a number of hamlets are lying scattered at the village panchayats level. The electric posts have been installed in the village bulbs also have been installed and these bulbs are showering light also but the all hamlets are larger than the original village. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Rawat ji, the hon'ble Minister will now give reply. He will talk about Rajasthan.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Whenever one enquires about the Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Project, it is said that it has been completed. But it is not the case. Therefore, through you, I would like to say that maximum number of villages of Rajasthan should be taken up for this purpose. The rules which have been amended by them are in the interest of the country and therefore, I support the beneficial amendments. But there is no need to appropriate applauses in the case of the policy regarding the subsidy. With these words I thank you.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Madam Chairman, with your permission I rise to support the Electricity (Amendment) Bill and I would like to offer a few suggestions. I would like to say that today electricity has become an integral part of a man's life. Whether we view it from the angle of development or on account of the individual difficulties confronted, man has become quite dependent on electricity and without electricity he could not lead his life. There are certain matters of which I have practical knowledge. I belong to a hilly State where water is available in abundance. There are a number of rivers in my State and it has to bear losses due to water treaty signed with Pakistan. I would like to say that the circumstances prevailing at that time were very different from that of present times. Hence keeping that in mind and also considering the stance of Pakistan I am of the opinion that the said treaty should be abrogated. That treaty is no longer needed. We have to obtain permission for generating our own electricity. If we get the nod, the project will be implemented. Therefore, while replying, the hon'ble Minister should mention about the treaty and along with this I will say that we have got certain rivers which have water in abundance and a few projects also have been identified and are pending with the Government of India. Therefore, the Government should pay attention towards these projects like the project of our Panchthar ji the project of Kathua district and on the one to be

implemented in Ujaripur, all these projects also should be considered. Some of our projects pertain to Doda district and when NHPC, a Union Government undertaking, invites the tenders and these tenders are submitted further. You will be amazed to learn that the company which submits tenders with regard to the project shall definitely keep its margin of profit in mind and enters into agreement with the people of the region from where land has been acquired from the farmers, which has been submerged due to the project and the farmers of the area are promised that one member of the family will be given employment under the said projects. But what actually happens is that once the project is completed like Rajiv Sagar dam, another one nearing completion like Bagalehar project, the promise to offer jobs to the people has not been fulfilled till date and the people who have been offered jobs or whose turn come during the stages of completion are either retrenched or transferred to other remote States.

The affected people are sent far away from their native places. I would like to know why people from other States are deployed in these projects? The situation is such that there are vacancies in those projects, they face no difficulty in discharging their duties in shifts. It is my suggestion that the locals should be hired for this job. Attention should be paid towards it. The alternative route of the project is changed subsequently. One has to travel long distance, cross rivers or lakes. The distance of 40 kilometres becomes 140 kilometres. It is not on account of rural areas. I would like to know that what is the alternative, what he has in store for those people. The Ranjit Sagar Dam in Basauli which was at a distance of 40 kilometres from District Headquarter Kathua has now become so distant that one has to cover 97 kilometre distance in that area. The poor have to pay more fares. What is the condition of alternative route? There are 467 sanctioned posts which have not been filled. Jobs on projects were promised but nothing is being done.

Madam Chairman, the Government should rehabilitate the project affected people. I have seen it practically that a line man has to cover 4-5 kilometre area in a hilly region. If power fails at some particular place then people have to search for him. This way one faces power failure for several months. A system should be put in place for this problem. How many linemen should be there in an area? If transformer gets tripped, there is low voltage. The Government claims to have electrified the area but ironically it is so dark due to low voltage that the old

man would summon his son to check if there is power supply or not. When power supply is shown on papers, tariff is also being charged then at least electricity should be provided. A system should be evolved to provide electricity on a regular basis.

Madam Chairman, the daily wagers hired for a project do not get wages for several odd months. It is not only in regard to Dulhasti project, but complaints have been received in regard to several such projects also. It is correct that there are maximum number of hydel power projects in our State. If we write for the transfer of those, whose land has been acquired in our area, they are transferred to remote areas like Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and other remote areas. When their lands were acquired, they were offered jobs. If we write them letters they write that there is no such provision in law. They were given assurances of huge benefits in lieu of their land when their lands were acquired. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that he is not alien to these problems. So he should pay attention towards it. He has done the groundwork, so it would not be proper, if he acts in ignorance.

Madam Chairman, I would like to conclude my speech by raising one more point. The Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme was launched in April 2005. It has been found that there is power supply in Delhi but my area has not yet been electrified. There are so many villages which have not yet been electrified despite the completion of the said scheme in the year 2005. Not even a single pole has been erected. I would like to know what becomes of these schemes as my constituency is Spread over 17 thousand kilometer but not even a single pole has been erected? I would like to know where these poles have been erected when not even a single one has been erected in my constituency? When electricity was proposed to be provided under the scheme then certain districts were entrusted to the locals since my constituency is militant infested. Some one told that this work would be done by N.H.P.C. The people of N.H.P.C. came and conducted a survey some three-four months back. Since then they have not reappeared, no one knows when electrification would begin? If funds have been provided and are not utilized for the purpose for which they were given then it becomes the duty of the Government to take action. Otherwise, it will not work. With these words, I support this Bill and request the Government to pay attention to the issues raised by me.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Madam, Chairperson, I rise to support the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005. I appreciate the hon. Minister for bringing these three important amendments through this Bill. Originally, the Electricity Act, 2003, was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August 2001. Then it was referred to the Standing Committee and then the legislation was passed by both the Houses of Parliament. It came into effect on 10.6.2003. So, we have completed four years. Has the objective of the Act fulfilled in the last four years? Was there any review? If so, the hon. Minister has to clarify it.

Based on the Act, we have framed a National Electricity Policy. The main objectives of this Policy aim at accelerated development of power sector, providing supply of electricity to all areas and protecting interest of the consumers and other stakeholders. The other objectives include - access to electricity for all household in the next five years; availability of power; demand to be fully met by 2012; energy peaking shortages to be overcome; spinning reserves to be available; supply of reliable and quality power of satisfied standards in an efficient manner and at reasonable rates; *per capita* availability of electricity to be increased to over 1000 units by 2012; financial turnover and commercial viability of electricity sector; and protection of consumer interest.

We have introduced such reforms in the telecom sector, airline sector and in electricity sector also. After the introduction of reforms in the telecom sector, we have given licences to the private people. With the competition, there is drastic reduction in the tariff. The consumers are very happy after the introduction of reforms in the IT and even in telecom sector. Now with the announcement of Open Sky Policy, so many private players are there in the airlines sector also. Now there is a lot of reduction in the air fare also. Even the common man is travelling by flight due to cheaper rates.

We had introduced this Act four years ago and we had framed a National Electricity Policy. But the tariff is increasing year by year. We have not achieved the desired results in this field. The Government of India and the Ministry of Power should take initiatives to reduce the tariff. It should be affordable to the poorest of the poor. Then only there is some meaning of the reforms process. But that has not happened. Therefore, the Minister should take necessary action.

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

Previously, there was no mention which Government has to take care of the village electrification as well as household electrification. Now there is an amendment to Section 6 saying that both the Government of India and the State Governments should take care of this. I appreciate it. So, a lot of money is being provided by the Government of India to the States for the rural electrification and also for household electrification.

Regarding theft, in the year 2002, there was 50 per cent theft.

Now, it has been reduced to 33 per cent. Even the 33 per cent is not comparable to world standards. In some countries, the losses owing to distribution, transmission and theft is just around 7 to 10 per cent. If we could achieve that target, then only we would be able to provide cheap power to the consumers. Even after having introduced these measures, the Government is providing a subsidy to the tune of Rs. 15,000 crore to the States. I would like to request the hon. Minister that instead of giving subsidy in this form, it would be better if the subsidy is given directly to the farmers by way of providing ISI pumps and such things. By using such tools, the farmers can do their farming activities with lesser consumption of electricity and in this way, it would help save a lot of power. Some companies are now producing bulbs that consume less power, but the common men are not able to purchase them owing to higher costs. The Government can think of subsidising such bulbs which, in turn, would help in lesser consumption of power. The Andhra Pradesh Government was awarded the highest CRYSL rating for the steps taken for reduction of distribution and transmission losses. The reforms that were introduced in the power sector during the TDP regime has yielded good results. Andhra Pradesh was the first State to take the initiative for reduction of losses owing to transmission and distribution. The hon. Minister is now proposing an amendment to Section 151 of the present Act. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have already introduced these reforms to curb theft and preventing losses owing to transmission and distribution. Heavy penalty has been suggested for thefts. This is one reason as to why we have got such a good CRYSL rating.

Sir, different States have different footings in regard to the Rajiv Gandhi Grammen Vidyutikaran Yojana. Some States have electrified more villages and some States have electrified lesser number of villages. The amount of money to be given to a State should depend upon the

need of the State. The distribution of fund under this Scheme should not be erratic. The backward States like Bihar, Orissa would have to be given more funds. The States like Punjab and Haryana have electrified 80 to 90 per cent of the villages; whereas in States like Orissa and Bihar not even 50 per cent of the villages have been electrified. Therefore, the amount of money that has to be allocated should depend upon the number of villages electrified. Something of this kind should be devised for releasing money to the States under this programme and then only the States will endeavour to electrify more villages.

With these words, I support the amendments proposed to the Act.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Respected Chairperson, I rise to support the Electricity Amendment Bill, 2005. It tries to address some of the issues confronting the critical electricity sector in this country. I should appreciate the hon. Minister for bringing this amending Bill before this august House.

As you would know, electricity is an essential ingredient not only of individuals but also of the economy. The development of an economy depends on uninterrupted supply of electricity and it is the duty of the Government to provide this supply of electricity to agriculture, to industry and also to various other sectors. But unfortunately, in this country, supply has always been lagging behind demand. Therefore, there are a number of issues. But all the issues cannot be solved by the amendment of a Bill. As has been mentioned by our learned colleague, the National Electricity Policy has got laudable objectives but these objectives are not sought to be achieved by this Bill. But this Bill has got only a limited objective. So, keeping this objective in view, we should see that this Bill tries to address some of the major limitations confronting the electricity sector.

18.00 hrs.

As many hon. Members have indicated, one of the most important objectives of this Amendment Bill is to spread electricity to rural areas and hitherto, the State Governments were given the responsibility of providing rural electricity. But, in spite of all the efforts of the Central Government in canvassing for electricity in rural areas, the State Governments were not able to do much in this regard.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is 6 p.m. now. I have a list of eight more Members to speak on this Bill. If the House agrees, the time of the House may be extended by an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Madam, what about zero hour then?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We will extend the time of the House by an hour and then let us see to it.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Therefore, the state of rural electrification is awfully bad. Statistics show that there is inter-State variations in the availability of electricity. According to statistics as on May, 2006, the percentage of electrified villages in the country is only 79.5 and the percentage of households electrified in the rural areas is only 44 per cent. But when you take States like Bihar, only 5 per cent of the households have electricity and that too, for an hour or two and totally, there is no reliability of electricity in such areas. In States like U.P., Jharkhand, Assam, Orissa and West Bengal, only less than 20 per cent of the households have assured electricity supply for some time. Therefore, the State Governments are unable to ensure the supply and hence, the Central Government will have to step in. That is why, the Common Minimum Programme has said that the Central Government would increasingly participate in the rural electrification programme and thus, they have brought about the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikarn Yojana providing for Rs. 16,225 crores with a view to supporting the States to increase the electricity infrastructure and electrification of households with a provision of 90 per cent capital subsidy. But even after all this, it has not been possible for the Government to achieve its target. Therefore, there needs to be a constitutional commitment on the part of the Central Government that it would also associate with the State Governments in the pursuit of the supply of electricity and this is being achieved accomplished by this Bill. This is the major advantage of this Bill.

The second point is with regard to subsidy. In a poor country like India, most of the consumers are unable to bear the increasing cost of electricity and they will have to be provided subsidy. But who will bear the subsidy is the question. The State Governments cannot provide subsidy and therefore, the affluent sections will have to bear the burden of the electricity cost on their

shoulders. But then it was felt that if you put this burden on some of the manufacturing sectors or industrial sector, their development will also be curbed. We are living in a competitive society where electricity is an important input and therefore, the cost has to be reduced and the subsidy has also to be reduced. Although we thought of eliminating the subsidies, the Standing Committee felt that it should be reduced and the Bill tries to seek this objective also. But, at the same time, the Government should attempt to target the person to whom the subsidy has to be given. It should not be indiscriminatory but targeting of subsidy is essential. Secondly, the State Government, through Regulatory Commissions, should evolve a proper cross subsidy policy so that the entire burden of subsidy does not fall on the industrial sector which is now zooming up. We have got 13 to 14 per cent growth in the manufacturing sector which is because of the various dynamic forces operating and these dynamic forces should not be curbed on account of this.

The third important objective is, this Bill gives wider powers to police to enforce law by curbing theft of electricity. It is stated that 18 to 62 per cent of electricity loss is occurring at the distribution and transmission stage. Only 10 per cent is caused by natural factors. The remaining percentage is caused by unnatural factors which includes theft of electricity which is a major factor. Therefore, hitherto, the police has to intervene and has to come to the Central Government to get the permission. But today, we provide suo motu authority to the police. We are constituting a special court for this purpose. Theft of electricity will become non-bailable and there will be disconnection of electricity and all that.

Therefore, this is an important and salient feature of this Bill. In all these respects, anyone would be able to appreciate and accept it. But at the same time this is not going to solve the problems that we are facing. Therefore, the Government will have to be very careful in one aspect, namely the generation of electricity.

Although the Government, with electricity reforms, is embarking on the course of augmentation of electricity supply in the country, still a large number of restrictions and controls are confronting this industry. Therefore, licence raj still continues in the power sector. Therefore, the hon. Minister should take earnest steps in this regard. Otherwise, the process of rural electrification, providing cross subsidy, preventing theft become meaningless. Unless there is electricity generation, there is no point in providing subsidy, and there is no point in increasing the rural coverage.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

Therefore, the basic point is we have to augment the supply. We have to invite the private companies by giving them incentives and by creating conducive climate so that generation of electricity becomes possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

The demand for power is accelerating today because the economy is surging at the rate of nine per cent. Electricity is required by the industry and by the agriculture. But the supply is woefully inadequate. So, whatever power is available, it will go to non-agriculture and non-rural areas. Therefore, generation will have to be taken care of.

As our learned friend, Shri K. Yerrannaidu said, tariff structure should be clearly earmarked by taking into account both direct and cross subsidies.

Conservation of electricity is as good as producing electricity. So, we should evolve modern methods of conserving electricity and ensuring accountability at the level of Electricity Boards so that this precious input is distributed to everybody and it becomes an essential aspect of the development of our country. I hope that our dynamic Minister would be able to take all the initiatives required in this regard.

The National Electricity Policy may also be reviewed in case it is warranted.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Madam Chairman, I may please be permitted to speak from this seat.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam, I support the Bill. I would like to make some suggestions to the hon. Minister.

The salient feature of this Bill is now the Central Government is going to be in joint venture with the State Government to provide electricity to all the villages and hamlets. So, I support it. I support the other provisions, like the gradual reduction of the cross subsidy, empowerment of policy to deal effectively with power theft, etc. We intend to provide electricity as an infrastructure to all the villages and to all the houses. But how to do this? Where is the electricity? In the last Budget, I think, only Rs. 300 crore have been provided for electricity

generation. It is a pittance. Probably, the Government must have thought that private sector will pitch in for generation of electricity. I shall like to have a reply from the hon. Minister, while he replies, as to how he is going to generate electricity so that it could be provided to all the villages and all the houses.

I am having the Report of the Standing Committee on Energy with me. It cautions the Government thus:

"The system of distribution of funds to States not necessarily be the same for the States' rural electrification needs are widely varied because the well developed and industrialized States may need more power for infrastructure development rather than purely for rural electrification."

So, my point is that only the BPL families should get the subsidy. At the same time, the entire cross subsidy burden should not be put on the head of the industrial houses. If you do that, then the industries will become uncompetitive and will become sick.

The Standing Committee on Power has recommended that the percentage of cross subsidy should not be more than plus and minus ten per cent by 2010-2011. This percentage should be fixed in consultation with the Central Regulatory Commission. It has also been recommended that the Regulatory Commission should set year-wise target for the reduction of cross subsidies or should ensure effective implementation of these targets. Mr. Minister, where is the provision in this Bill as to what have been recommended by the Standing Committee on Power? So I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why you have not set any targets like this.

Sir, there is an FRBM Act which has been passed. The FRBM Act says that every year the fiscal deficit and the revenue deficit should be reduced by 0.5 per cent ultimately it should come to zero. Mr. Minister, can you have any law on the transmission and distribution losses just like the FRBM Act so that the transmission and distribution losses would come almost to ten per cent or something which is manageable?

Sir, with regard to the theft of electricity, the State Governments of West Bengal and Karnataka have passed Bills for controlling the theft of electricity which are pending for Presidential assent. Mr. Minister, Sir, can you make it mandatory for all the States to pass such laws just like in the case of West Bengal and Karnataka so that there should be some control on the theft of electricity.

Now I come to my State. Now the Bill says that you will provide electricity to all the villages through Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. Through the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana how much money the Government has provided to the State of the Orissa. Only two districts have been provided 25 per cent of the required money and another six districts have been selected on principle that they will be provided money. A State like Orissa very dearly requires that the rural areas should be electrified and unless the Central Government provides us money, we cannot do it. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he is going to provide us funds.

Now Orissa is going to have mega thermal power plants. But the Government of Orissa has signed memorandum of understanding with many promoters for setting up of mega thermal power plants. But the Central Government says that it has directed the States that such ultra mega thermal power plants should be selected through competitive bidding. But when the State Government has signed MoUs with the promoters for setting up such mega thermal power plants, the private promoters have agreed to many terms and conditions. What are the terms and conditions? First, they would give concessional power to the State Government. Secondly, they will provide money to the State Government for dealing with environmental degradation. But here you say that you go in for competitive bidding. The competitive bidder will come, but he will have no responsibility. He will not give any concessional power to the State Government neither will he provide us any money to save the State from the environmental degradation. Shri Brahmananda Panda who is a prominent lawyer in our State was saying that there is a place called Talcher in our State where in the month of May and June, the temperature goes up to 50 degree. Why? It is because there is a thermal power station. That is the only reason. Madam, before that thermal power station was there, the temperature did not rise that high. Now if you will have so many power plants, what will happen to fly ash, and who will dispose of it? We will have to suffer the heat-wave. Now the Central Government will have 10,000 megawatts of thermal power generated in Orissa. Orissa barely requires 2,000 megawatts of thermal power.

The rest of the 8000 MW power will be sold to the other States. They will have no responsibility. Only, we will be having the heat. We will suffer the heat and dust. We will have all the negative impact. We will just face all

the problems whereas we will not get any benefit. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister that he should go through it. What will happen to the MoUs which the State Government has signed with others?

The *Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana* is only for the new habitats. What about the old habitats? Madam, you are a Member of Parliament. The hon. Minister is also a Member of Parliament. You please go to any village. The first demand the people would make is "provide electricity to our villages." Wherever electricity is available, there you will find the transformer has been burnt and it is outdated. All the people are coming to us saying: "From the MPLADS, you provide us the transformer, the pole, the wire." How can we provide it?

Orissa is the first State which has privatized electricity. All the private parties have only brought in some equity. Besides that, they are not going in for any reforms. They are not providing any money for the transmission and distribution loss. They are not providing any money for bringing in any changes in technology. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister that he should create a Fund like the Central Road Fund which is for repair, replacement and improvement of the roads. For the improvement of electricity infrastructure, he should have a Fund at his level so that he can provide it to the State Governments whereby the old electricity infrastructure could be changed. The private parties will never change it. Mr. Minister, only you can do it. The other point is about the coal blocks. They should also be provided to the thermal power plants. You are giving captive iron-ore mines to the steel plant promoters. Unless you give it, they will not be able to do it. If you give it, they will produce electricity.

Further, the promoters of the thermal power plants anywhere in India must be forced to bring in the zero emission of heat technology. They should develop the nanotechnology which must be introduced, which will transfer all the carbon-di-oxide to the earth below. Otherwise, if you allow them to emit the heat into the atmosphere, naturally, we will be going to face very sever crisis. So, it must be made mandatory on them whenever there is any thermal power plant to be set up, they should go in for the technology which will not increase the heat.

With these words, I conclude. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Madam, I rise to support the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

First of all, I would like to thank the hon. Power Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde for accepting all the suggestions made by the Committee under the dedicated leadership of Shri Gurudas Karnat.

Without power, nobody can live in the world. Power is very much essential for the general public, the industrial sector, for health-care sector, for any production activity etc. Agriculture is a most viable sector which needs more power. Normally, the agricultural sector has been denied power opportunity. Many people are waiting for many long years like five years or ten years to get electricity connection.

Madam, I would feel that the Government should consider this. Through you, Madam, I would request the hon. Minister that power connection should be given to all the agricultural people who need power. Without power, without water, they cannot produce anything to the hundred-crore people of this country. So, it is a must.

In 1989, the DMK Government led by Dr. Karunanidhi gave free power to the agriculturists. The same should continue. After that, new power connections have not been given to the agriculturists. If a family has parted into two, by having five or ten acres, the other person could not get power connection.

Those lands have become waste lands now. So, the Government should appoint a committee to go into this matter and give power connection to all the farmers who are waiting to get new connection.

Then, in villages, the Government had earlier given one-lamp connection to huts. Now, that has been raised to two-lamps. I would request the Government that they should give concessions in power tariff to panchayats and other local bodies and also small-scale industries.

Now, many new power projects are coming up in our country and they need more land near the sea ports for the same so that they can import coal from other countries. The Government has given them some concessions to such power companies for importing coal, but land is not available to them. So, the Government should consider allotting waste lands to these power producing companies near the sea ports. Then, quick clearance and financial support have not been given to new entrepreneurs. The Power Finance Corporation and other financial institutions are giving a lot of difficulties to new entrepreneurs with the result Power Purchase

Agreements could not be finalized on time. So, I would request the hon. Minister to give suitable instructions to the Power Finance Corporation and other financial institutions to offer all the support and help to these companies. Then, these companies should be given subsidy to import coal from other countries.

Now, a small country like Bhutan is giving power to the people at the rate of 50 paise to Re. 1 per unit to commercial units, but we are charging up to Rs. 5 per unit to commercial organizations. In Bhutan, they are having a lot of potential for hydro power. In our country, we are also having huge potential for hydro power in North Eastern States, but due to lack of security, many companies have not set up their projects there. The Railways have a separate police force like the Railway Protection Force to safeguard their facilities. There is CRPF and various other Central para military forces. In the same way, the power producing units should be given a Central police force to guard their facilities and people working there. Otherwise, anti-social elements in the North Eastern States are taking ransom from private power producers. As a result, new projects are not coming up in North Eastern States particularly in Meghalaya, Sikkim and Nagaland. So, the Government should provide security to these companies so that we can produce more electricity from the North Eastern States.

Madam, in our country, we now need 2 lakh megawatt of power, but we are producing only 1,25,000 megawatt now. We need another 75,000 megawatt. Recently also, a tender has been floated in which Lanco Globeq and other companies have quoted very low price, but Power Purchase Agreement has not yet been concluded with them. The bigger players - I do not want to name any company here - are using their influence and they are not allowing smaller companies to come up in the field of power generation.

Many new private power companies have come up in our country and it is said that the sons of land owners who have given land to these companies are being given jobs, but in reality they are not giving them jobs. When the Standing Committee visited Jammu and Kashmir, many people were agitated that they have given their lands but their sons have not been given employment there. The Government has to take steps to see that all the existing employees should be regularized first and also the poor people who have given their land should also be given jobs. The Government should give

instructions to all the States to give electricity connections to our agricultural producers—Madam, once again I tell you that it is most important because agriculture is the main occupation of this country—on war footing basis so that bumper agricultural produce like wheat, rice, maize, etc. can be produced by these people.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Then, I would like to lay the rest part of my speech on the Table of the House.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can give it to the hon. Minister.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: All right, Madam. I will conclude by saying that under the auspices and guidance of Madam Sonia Gandhi, the hon. Minister is doing very well. I congratulate him on behalf of the Standing Committee and on behalf of the Chairman of the Standing Committee, Shri Gurudas Kamat.

18.26 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thirty-seventh Report

[English]

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): Madam, I beg to present the Thirty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

18.26½ hrs.

ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005—

Contd.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar): Madam Chairperson, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005. I also congratulate the Hon. Minister for Power, Shri Sushil Kuniar Shinde Ji, and Hon. Member

*English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Shri Gurudas Gupta for introducing this Bill in this House. It is really a very important Bill. I would like to associate myself with my colleagues who have already expressed their views on this Bill. I am of the opinion that the power, water, light, air - these are all part and parcel of the human life and very essential to lead life for any human being. India is a vast country with more than 110 crore population and demand for electricity is increasing day by day. Due to lack of electricity supply, our country is suffering a lot. Except for a few States, more than 90% of our States have been facing electricity crisis.

As far as my State Karnataka is concerned, it is lagging behind. We do not have big power projects. My State is facing acute power crisis. But in North India big rivers enable generation of more power. For example, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and some other States have been selling off excess power after fulfilling their own requirement. But in my State we are not in a position to generate power for our own requirements. Apart from this, there are many obstacles in taking up any new power projects. I would like to cite the example of 'Mekedhatu' the place where Cauvery and Arkavati rivers are joining in Karnataka. It is the best place to set up a hydro power plant which can generate 100 MW electricity. But the Government of Tamil Nadu raised objections to taking up this project. Now, due to the water dispute, it has been kept pending. My concern is, we are people of one country, ruled by one Government. If we do not cooperate with each other, how can we solve the power crisis? Therefore, the Centre should intervene in this matter and support the Government of Karnataka's stand to set up hydro power plant in Mekedhatu. Also the Centre should come forward to identify the places to set up hydro power plants in the country.

I come from a backward village. In our country 70% people are living in rural areas. There are good number of villages which are not electrified even after 60 years of India's Independence. It is really unfortunate. My constituency is a hilly area. You might be aware that Ivory Smuggler Veerappan was staying there in the forests. So many villages are still not being electrified due to thick forest cover. Forest Department has been raising objections to the electrification of these villages since it would affect the animals of the forest. They are not allowing to villages to get electricity supply either through underground lines or through overhead poles. Due to this, those villages are still not electrified. Therefore, it is my earnest requisition to the Hon. Minister to look into this matter.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

As far as Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme is concerned, it is a very good programme of the Government. It aims at providing power to the people below poverty line without any discrimination. But only 5 districts in Karnataka have been selected to provide this facility. Therefore, I would suggest the Government to extend this programme to all the districts in the country. So, the Government should ensure that all the people living below poverty line are benefited by the scheme. Along with this, I would like to suggest that power must be supplied free of cost for agricultural purposes. As my colleague Hon. Member, Shri Aaroon Rashidji, has stated Tamil Nadu Government has been providing power for agricultural purposes free of cost. Likewise, the Government of India must take steps to provide electricity free of cost for agricultural purposes in all the States. So that the condition of the farmers will be improved. For example, in Karnataka, we are not able to get power even for 3 hours a day. So, unless the Government takes steps to generate more power, it will be very difficult to meet the demands of people. Apart from this, in urban areas, power theft by the industries and factories is a major problem. Many officials are also involved in this power theft. If the Government brings stringent laws to check power theft, almost all the villages could be electrified. The officials involved in such activities should be punished. I would like to point out that even at the time of school and college examinations power failures are quite frequent. It would seriously affect the performance of the students. It should be looked into by the Government and ensure proper power supply to Educational Institutions during the period of examinations. Finally, I would like to suggest to the Government the need to introduce power supplying model of Belli Bellu, Bhagya Jyoti, which have been introduced already in Karnataka. It must be introduced all over in India by the Central Government.

Once again I support this Amendment Bill on behalf of the Janata Dal (S) Parliamentary Party. With this I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil):
Madam, Chairman, thank you very much. I presume that I will be the last speaker.

I rise to support this Bill because the aim of the Bill is undisputable. The first point is with regard to making power available to every section of the community both

rural and urban. That is the common programme of the UPA Government. To achieve that purpose, an amendment is brought.

My second point is with regard to the elimination of cross subsidy. The cross subsidy, as such, is not to be eliminated at the present stage. It can only be reduced. Otherwise many States will be in difficulties. So, I would request the Central Government not to do away with the cross subsidy immediately.

Considering the other aspects of the issue, it may be continued.

Thirdly, with regard to cognizance of offences, now the Police get an authority to investigate crimes committed under the Electricity Act. That is also good.

Fourthly, the Special courts which are functioning now can *suo motu* take cognizance of offences committed without being referred to it. These matters do not require any explanation and they are quite justified.

Now, in this context, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister in certain matters. I remember that while taking part in the discussion on the Electricity Bill, 2003, which was introduced in this House, I had pointed out certain facts.

The primary object of that statute, the Electricity Act, 2003 was to dismantle the system of Electricity Board, which was available for the States in India. So, all the State Electricity Boards would be dismantled and in that place, smaller units would be instituted. Secondly, it was to allow the private sector to enter into the field of power generation. These were the two main objectives. At that time, I had specifically mentioned in this House that this was a hasty legislation.

We all know that power generation is a concurrent subject included in the Constitution. So, due consultation and also consensus are required when we enter into a concurrent subject. Unfortunately, we did not have any such discussion with the States at that time because we all know that the abolition of the Electricity Board, which was still in existence for decades, would create problems. In the first place, the employees are coming under different Boards, and not only the establishment but also the workers working in the Electricity Board would create certain problems. So, we must have a thorough discussion with the State Governments before we dismantle the

system, which was in existence for decades. Unfortunately, the Government did not take my advice into consideration. Now, the hangover issues are still pending.

Take the case of Kerala. They are not in a position to abolish the State Electricity Board till date. Why? It is because the issues are even now very acute. The State is also in a difficulty to abolish or dismantle the Kerala State Electricity Board, which was functioning for decades, in spite of the fact that there was a provision in the statute giving a specific date and beyond that it is not allowable. But what happened? We had to extend it. If there were due consultations with the States at the time when the Act was enacted, this could have been prevented. Still the hangover issues are there now. I think, the hon. Minister is aware of it. We are now facing crisis and difficulty to dismantle the system all of a sudden. That is the position.

Even, this Bill requires some amendments. This Bill was introduced in this House in December 2005. Sixteen months have passed. After passing the original Act, this amendment was necessitated because the Government found that the original Act was not sufficient. So, we have to make the amendment. So also we have come to a stage where further amendments would be required in the implementation of the Electricity Act, 2003. Sixteen months have passed. My learned friend and the hon. Minister will have to come before the House immediately with another amendment to the original Act. This dual process could have been prevented if the Government had taken due care and caution in dealing with power generation and power distribution, which they have not done.

This Bill, which was distributed by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, is now in the hands of the hon. Minister.

Madam, 16 months have passed. But what has happened? Now, there are new issues cropping up for the power generation. We have to answer those issues. That are still pending.

Kerala State is having a special experience. We have only hydroelectric projects, and all these projects are within the hilly and forest areas. There are two obstacles. One is the Forest Act itself, and the second is the environmental clearance. The Central Authority for Environmental Clearance will have to act promptly to clear the projects. If they do not take promptly, the projects would never get sanctioned. Now, such a situation has

arisen in Kerala in respect of Pachrakadavu Project. It is very near to Silent Valley, and the environmental clearance is not being given to it. The State Government has made it perfectly clear that they would be able to implement it only after getting the clearance from the Central Authority for Environmental Clearance. But that project is still pending. Like this, many projects are pending clearance from the Central Environmental Authority.

Therefore, Madam, the Ministry of Power will have to take prompt action in dealing with the Central Environment Authority and see that the clearance is given, if it is possible, at the earliest date so that many projects, which are still pending can be given effect to. Therefore, I take this opportunity to inform the hon. Minister of Power that he is a man of commitment and I appreciate him. But at the same time, I would request him to take strong action in getting these projects cleared without delay so that the people of Kerala are saved from acute shortage of power.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005. On behalf of my party, I support this Bill and would like to throw light on certain points during the discussion. The country has been facing a shortage of electricity for so many years. The generation of electricity has always fallen short to meet the requirement and at times it trails to a great extent. If we increase the generation and gear up the system, the gap between the demand and supply could be abridged. We envisage a day when there would be a balance between the demand and supply and the gap between the two could be abridged and there would be no slap. We hope that the scheme launched by the UPA Government for the generation and distribution of power as laid down in the Common Minimum Programme will be a success and would be able to fulfil this dream. This is not my dream alone but it is the dream of the people of this country whether they reside in villages or in cities. There has been an acute shortage of electricity in villages for the past few years and farmers are compelled to bear with the shortage of electricity. There have been complaints of pilferage of electricity for quite some time. On the one hand, we generate electricity and on the other hand, a major share of electricity is lost through pilferage or other

[Shri Alok Kumar Mehta]

wise. There is a need to consider these issues very minutely. By pilferage I mean where the loss in power transmission is on account of wear and tear or the ageing distribution system, it should be checked. Thus, the provisions made in this amendment Bill to check the pilferage of power are positive. More stringent measures should be taken in this regard and there should not be any shortage of power. However, there is a need to increase the subsidy given to farmers in the rural areas who are in need of electricity. In a country whose economy mainly depends on agriculture which is a major sector in terms of contribution to the GDP of the country, if electricity is not distributed at subsidised rates, then I think power will make very little contribution in the productivity of that sector.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you Alok ji, please conclude now.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Madam, I am the first speaker from my party and I may be allowed more time so that I can raise certain basic points. Thereafter, I shall take my seat.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is constraint of time you may raise one or two basic points.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Today there is a rat race for privatization. However, there is need to pay attention to the fact that the profitable segment of the electricity sector is easily taken over by the private sector and thus the profitable part of the system goes to them. But they do not accept those parts which are not profitable saying that they are not viable and the corporation has no option but to keep it with itself and we lament that electricity Board is running in losses. So, through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that an efficient policy should be formulated for privatization of power sector and the monitoring should be done with uniformity and homogeneity. If privatization is done in power sector then the responsibility and authority, both should be given to them and the monitoring power should be vested in the Government.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Alok ji, please give your suggestions in writing.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Madam, I am concluding in two minutes time. Few days back complaints were received that in those areas where privatization has been done, private companies are issuing inflated bills and nobody is there to control it.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please give your written suggestions to the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Complaints after complaints are being lodged. However, there is nobody to listen to those.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thanks, Alok ji, please send your written suggestions to the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: I would like to raise my last point that subsidy should be provided on electricity for agricultural works and subsidy on power should also be provided to agro-based industries in States like Bihar where there are very few industries. All the hon'ble Members of Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD) had demanded the hon'ble Prime Minister to set up a nuclear plant in Bihar. I would like to request that the process of setting up of nuclear plant in Bihar should be started at the earliest and efforts should be made to make the States like Bihar self reliant in the field of power. Bihar has been subject to injustice in the past.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now your speech will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Mani Charenmai, please try to conclude within two minutes because the Minister has to reply.

SHRI MANI CHARENMAI (Outer Manipur): Madam, I will try to conclude as early as possible.

Madam, first of all I would like to congratulate our hon. Minister for Power for bringing in this amendment to the Electricity Act, 2005. In fact, this is a blessing for the rural people, particularly for the rural people in a State like Manipur where 90 per cent of the total geographical area comes under rural areas. Many of the villages are still not electrified. The work of electrification in the hill areas is really a very difficult job. So, in spite of the efforts being taken, still many villages are yet to be electrified. Maybe, the problems were prevailing because the States alone were taking up the responsibility. Now we are very happy that the State and the Centre are jointly taking up the work of rural electrification.

*Not recorded.

Though Manipur is a small State, we have got a lot of potentialities in terms of natural resources and in terms of agriculture and horticulture products. But when people want to set up some projects in these rural areas, the first question that comes from the bank and that comes from the investors is whether you have proper electricity or what kind of quality of power supply you have. These are the main questions that were asked.

It is really difficult to say that there is regular power supply. This is in spite of the fact that we are having tremendous capability for setting up hydel projects. The Science and Technology Department of the State has identified around 90 potential sites for setting up hydel projects. We do not say that all these areas should be exploited or have these many hydel projects, but at least 3-4 mini hydel projects in the districts would really help in catering to the power needs of the power-starved rural areas of Manipur.

18.51 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The State has not been able to provide regular power supply to these areas. All the telecommunication facilities in the hilly areas depend on the basic infrastructure, mainly, power.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one important issue. There was a power-project proposed some time back known as the Loktak Downstream Project, which is a 90 MW project costing around Rs. 420 crore. This is a much awaited project, but the Power Ministry is trying to bulldoze the Tipaimukh Hydel Project instead of taking up this project. This step is very much opposed by the people. I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly expedite the implementation of the Loktak Downstream Project.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next speaker is Shri Ganesh Singh. I would be able to give you only two minutes to speak on this issue. He is the last speaker to speak on this issue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views in a few words on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 moved in the House by the hon'ble Minister. It has been mentioned in section

6 of the Bill that the Centre and the State Government together will make efforts for the electrification of villages. It is heartening to note that after 60 years the Government has woken up to the fact that it has to solve the problem of power in rural areas. It is a commendable step. However, though legal obligations of consumers have been covered in the Bill but the obligations and responsibilities of the power suppliers have been left undefined in the Bill. So, I feel that there is need to further amend the Act. This saying is apt in this context. "koi taras raha ujiyare ko, koi suraj bandhe firta hai". Even today, there are lakhs of villages which have no electricity. This priority should have been fixed much earlier that all the villages should be electrified. The maximum number of farming live in rural areas. The farmers need power as much as it is required for industries. However power is not supplied to the farmers at the time of the need and the voltage also remain low. No legal provisions were ever made to ensure full supply of power to farmers. So I would like to request that legal provisions should be made to ensure that farmer will get power supply for a certain period. Though power transformers are non functional and distribution lines are damaged, energy consumption charges are being collected from the farmers and that too on an exorbitant rate. As the country is predominantly an agricultural country, the farmers play an important role in the production of the country. So a provision should also be made that the farmers should get power supply for a fixed period. Today, if the farmers fail to pay the electricity bill, they have to land in jail. I would like to know the reasons for such harsh treatment meted to them. Crores of rupees of electricity bill is outstanding against big factory owners but there is no such provision for them but whenever marginal farmers or common consumers fail to pay electricity bill even if electric line is faulty and the bill is being issued to them, he or she has to go to jail and they also have to pay electricity bill. Why do they have to face two punishment for the same crime. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that such provisions should be made in the Electricity (Amendment) Bill so that farmers may get power on priority basis and power could be provided in the villages within stipulated time frame.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the end, I would like to submit that I fail to understand as to why all of a sudden Madhya Pradesh State was put in interfrequency category by the Central Government. Today, it is not only Madhya Pradesh rather many States of the country have been facing power crisis. In this situation the assistance of the

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

Central Government is required. The loadshedding will not serve the purpose. We have always submitted that the assistance of the Central Government is required to solve the problem of power crisis in Madhya Pradesh. We need the help of the Government to put the State out of the interfrequency category.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion on Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 is going on for the last two days. I was listening to the speeches of all the 30 hon'ble Members with rapt attention. There are very few occasions when a Minister or his Department is not criticised much. All the hon'ble Members have welcomed and appreciated this Bill, which increases my responsibility. Had any hon'ble Member criticised or opposed the bill, it would have been a different thing, but they have praised the functioning of the Department. This doubles our responsibility. It is a time for introspection. I understand that the hon'ble Members from both the sides have given very good speeches. I need not give much explanation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Members had raised a question that when the Standing Committee had already given its recommendations then why this bill was stalled for so many days? I would like to tell them that a Committee of Group of Ministers was appointed after submission of the recommendations by the Standing Committee in May, 2006. Then, consideration was paid to the good work done by many States in this direction. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal are the main States. When Group of Ministers met, those items were included. Besides that many good suggestions were also included. Then, all those suggestions had to be sent to the cabinet for approval. Then, a notice was issued in February 2007 and, today, the bill has been presented before you for discussion. It is a matter of pleasure that all Members have given their approval to the recommendations made by the Standing Committee. But there are some difficulties also. I liked the speech given by Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat because he did not speak like a Member of opposition. Rapid strides are being made under Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme and power must be made available to all. Sometimes, people feel uneasy if a scheme is named after Rajiv Gandhi but it does not appear so from what the hon'ble Members have expressed during their speeches. If a scheme is introduced after the name of a national leader, who also became a Prime Minister, to whichever party he may be, all people accept it. ...*(Interruptions)*

19.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to bring to the notice of the august House that today the time of the House was extended upto 7.00 p.m. After passing of this Bill, zero hour has also to be taken up. The hon'ble Minister too has to give reply to the discussion on the bill. Therefore, with the consent of the House, I extend the time of House till the hon'ble Minister's reply and zero hour discussion are over.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the hon'ble Members had cooperated a lot while speaking on this bill, therefore while not giving detailed replies to the questions raised about this bill, I would like to dwell upon three-four main points. A very senior Member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has said some thing. He had also been the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly. He has stated that the subject power is in the concurrent list. The fact remains that this subject concurrent list. It is all right to debate this; because it is the responsibility of the State Government, but it happens in the entire country that State Government owes responsibility to whatever supplementary works the Union Government undertakes. During the last 10 years there has been less power capacity addition in the country. The Hon'ble Members also made a mention of it and I am happy about it. Whichever party's Government has been in power, we have been monitoring continuously. I am not going to blame any party. Had we generated additional capacity, we would have had additional 78 thousand megawatt of power and would have been a surplus country in this matter, but we never gave a thought in this direction. Many mistakes have been committed in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I was taking a review, I observed that under the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan, if any State is showing a deficit of 5000 megawatt and asks for assistance and takes the approval for 3000 megawatt, only 500 or 1000 megawatt power is generated. If this state of affairs continues, how power generation target can be achieved? This way, backlog continued to increase. I have been making efforts for the last six months. I had called the Power Ministers of the States, the Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of the States and told them to make 5% upward revision in target vis-a-vis the deficit in the State. Just now, an hon'ble Member has spelled difficulties that emerge before the Union Government even after revising the target, States are

short of funds. Therefore, we have decided that loans and advances will be made available to States through Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the one side, we are working for increasing P.L.F. An hon'ble Member enquired about the plans for increasing the capacity of old plants. I want to inform him that in this regard there is a scheme called APDRP. For it, large amount of funds are made available. We have provided such huge funds to some States that they have not been able to fully utilise these funds. Today during the Question Hour, there was a question for reply by me. Its reply contained data as to which States could not utilise how much amount of allocated funds; but at this time those figures are not with me. We have increased PLF. We are facing shortage of power, therefore, we have announced 87.7 to 91% increase in P.L.F. by NTPC because we have to make power available to people during the summer season, but I have observed at many places and only yesterday I visited a place, I will not like to mention its name where the P.L.F. of machines operating there is only 15-17 percent. If PLF is between 15-17 percent, how can power be made available? It is necessary to make efforts in this direction. I, myself, alongwith the Secretary and officers of my Ministry and the PSUs are taking a review, so that electricity can be made available to all countrymen.

My Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are trying to electrify every village of the country by the year 2009 under Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme. At present, there are 1 lakh 25 thousand villages in the country and out of them, 25,000 villages are electrified by the Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources. He has quoted the figure of 16 thousand, but I would like to tell him that not 16 thousand, but 39 thousand villages have already been electrified. It has been done only in two years of Tenth Five year Plan and we had received a capital of Rs. five thousand crore. I have written a letter to the Minister of Finance and have also discussed the matter with him. I would ask the Planning Commission this week to immediately release required funds of Rs. 25,000 crore or more to my Ministry.

This is in the interest of poor people and the country. I also agree with you that though 60 years have elapsed since we achieved independence, but rural areas are yet to be electrified. I am also distressed, because they are

not able to enjoy the kind of independence, they dream of. Mahatma Gandhi used to say 'Bring unto the last', bring those who are living in the dark to light. But I am happy that the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme has been introduced, I will not go into much depth as to who enacted the Act, but somebody started it and brought it in the form of an Act. Earlier we were having many schemes like 'Kutir Jyoti' in the name of rural electrification, but even if a single electric pole was erected in the village, it was said that rural electrification has been done. Today, it is not so. Now electrification means that electricity reaches Gram Panchayat, school and dispensary of that village. Electricity connection should be provided free of cost to the BPL people of the villages. Unless 10 percent households of a village are provided with electricity connection, the 'Sarpanch' of that village does not sign and it is considered that rural electrification has not yet been done in that village. When certificate is given, only then we say that the village has been covered under rural electrification programme. I would like to submit that one percent of the budget is earmarked for placing signboards at the entry point of the village near transformer stating that so and so village has been electrified under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme. Such signboard should be displayed but it is not done. It is not so that there is no provision for this purpose. Rather separate allocation has been made for this purpose. Our Member Singh Saheb is laughing which is not fair

Just now my colleague was saying something about Uttar Pradesh. He said about Anpara and other projects. Gas based Dadri power project has not yet started. It is a private sector project. It is not going to have supply of gas for the plant in the near future. The company is negotiating with the gas supplier for agreement. Though the supplier assured the supply of gas but does not do so. Presently, there is no possibility of supply of gas till 2008.

All the gas based power projects, whether it is in your Andhra Pradesh or the Dadri project of Uttar Pradesh which I was refering to, have not yet been commissioned. The efforts are being made by the Government to allow the gas based plants to purchase gas from spot market for commissioning the plant. As soon as I assumed the charge, I gave orders in the month of May for purchasing gas, LNG from the spot market and run the plant. There are 6 such units located in different States like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and it is not that all those States are

[Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde]

governed by the same party. They are running the power plants, as everyone needs power. It is a fact that we have to provide clean, affordable and cheap electricity to the people. It is the important responsibility of the Government. That is why Ultra Mega Projects have been launched by the Government. Just now an hon'ble colleague was submitting that we would get power at the rate of Rs. 1.19 per unit for 25 years and today the cost of 4000 megawatt power project is Rs. 20 thousand crores. I am pleased that two projects have been commissioned and 8 are ongoing projects. Yesterday, I had gone to Bihar to inaugurate 500-megawatt power project. Dabhol project of Maharashtra was not functioning and there were several hurdles in the way but now the problems have been sorted out. Gas was not available for the plant so we are running it on naphtha. It is comparatively costly. The Government of India have condoned the tax on naphtha. Thus we are making all efforts to provide electricity at cheaper rates. I am thankful to the House that some discussions have also been held especially on the Bill regarding the cross subsidy. Hon'ble Radhakrishnan ji had also submitted in this regard that there are some difficulties. It is true. While I was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, I did not use the expression unbundling commonly in use, rather, I used the term restructuring as unbundling is in fact restructuring. There are some difficulties coming in the way, however, we have done it in Maharashtra, in West Bengal and also in Andhra Pradesh and it has proved beneficial. Some of the Members have asked about Delhi Government as to why the subsidy of the State is saved. Subsidy of Rs. 12 hundred crore has been saved after restructuring. Similarly, it has been implemented in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. When it is introduced afresh, it will certainly be inconvenient for us and we will have to bear with it. However, we have not put a full stop on it and we will continue to give them extension. If there is real difficulty, then we should ponder over it. It is wrong to demand extension on the ground that it is only given. Wherever there are difficulties we will certainly help them because we understand it and want to put in place a uniform system for the entire country.

Sir, when we look back at the history we find that President Roosevelt had started rural electrification in USA in 1925. Initially, there were some difficulties and they could not achieve significant breakthrough in this regard for 15 years, however, now franchise system has been introduced in rural department there. I am pleased to

inform that unprecedented work of franchise has been carried out under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme in Uttarakhand. A committee of women has been formed there. The committee have taken over the entire charge and the ex-servicemen, youths and widows have been engaged by them. The work of bulk electricity supply and the open access have been implemented on a large-scale there under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme. I am happy with this trend and we want to introduce it all over the country.

All the Members have expressed their views about power theft that power theft occurs in open access system. But in rural electrification power theft will get reduced after the introduction of open access system because in rural areas power thief can be easily identified. Similarly, the power thieves and their *modus operandi* can be detected in cities during the course of distribution. The work of power distribution has been given to private sector in Bhiwandi, Maharashtra. In the beginning the staff of the power distributors were assaulted and injured, however, now they are bravely facing the challenges. Now they are earning profit. It means that power was being pilfered there and nobody dared to prevent it and face them. We have made all such provisions in the Act. We have made provisions regarding the theft of power. Regarding the mentioning of unauthorized by the Members, I would like to submit that it is unauthorized if some one takes electricity connection in his house and then supplies power to the factory located beside the house. I would like to submit that such persons must be punished and they should not be spared. The provision of electricity connection to factories and houses is a much discussed issue and we have also covered these in the Bill. Thus we have made all those provisions in the current Bill which can improve the condition of the power supply in the country.

I would not like to go into details. It is suggested that the guilty officers of the administration should also be arrested and cases should also be filed against them. There is a provision of abetment in the law. If there is abetment then there is also the provision about it in the Bill. Earlier court cases continued for longer periods, however, under the new law a time limit has been fixed for the disposal of cases. It is a fact that punishment will be given within limited time. I was apprehensive that in several cases punishment exceeds the gravity of crime. If any factory owner is caught stealing power for two three times then he is punished. However, earlier he

used to give application for sanctioning of a power connection within thirty days saying that there is such provision in the law. Such lacunae in the law have also been corrected. Earlier those who committed power theft twice or thrice took recourse to law to obtain power connection. But now the provision is such that he/she cannot get power for six months. Our AT&C losses are drastically increasing. It is a fact that last year AT&C losses have decreased to 3 per cent in one and a half year. It is a good sign, however, we have to bring it to 15 percent. One hon'ble Member submitted that it can save the loss of Rs. 20 thousand crores. It is not Rs. 20 thousand crores rather it is more than that and we can protect ourselves from that loss. Time and again I have repeatedly mentioned about Hydro Electricity policy in the House. Hydro electricity is generated at remote and difficult places. Nobody is ready to go there. I was deliberating about the reasons as to why much headway could not be made in the field of generation of hydel power during the last 60 years as only 20 percent work has been done in this regard. If we want to involve private sector in this field then we will have to provide some incentives to them as banks give them interest on their deposits. Unless the entrepreneurs get more return on their investments, they will not go there to make investment. The Government is pondering over the proposal to provide concessions to such entrepreneurs to harness this potential. The potential power worth more than Rs. 1.3 lakh is lying untapped in Himalayan ranges and if it is tapped then we may have ample surplus power. Our colleagues have given correct assessment in this regard. The chairman of the committee is sitting here. He will also be pleased to see that his recommendations are incorporated in the present Bill. I am pleased that he has given a correct assessment. Presently, there is a shortage of 14 thousand megawatt of power. However, for this, we will have to generate 21 thousand megawatt power daily. We will have to do capacity addition of 78 thousand megawatt. Only then we will be self-reliant in the field of power.

In regard to captive power it has been said that the facility of open access has to be provided. The law is the same as stated by him. The Supreme Court gave a verdict in the case that came up in Maharashtra. We are providing for open access by law. All the loopholes have been plugged. There is nothing to worry about now. Now one can work just on the pattern of Pune in open access which will provide electricity to people at cheaper rates.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. But I agree with the Members' sentiments, the way they have been expressed in the House. Even now if you find something wrong.

[English]

I am open minded to accept it. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): In regard to what he said about competitive bidding in Orissa, I would like to state that we have already signed an MOU. Please give a reply in this regard. Secondly, I would like to know whether the funds being provided by him for APDRP are being provided for the replacement of transformers etc.? We know that those funds are meant for providing electricity to the villages. I also asked them to provide a fund so that the infrastructure for electricity could be developed.

What has the hon. Minister to say in this regard? Thirdly, by when, funds are likely to be provided to our State of Orissa? No funds have been provided to our State so far. He has given only 25 per cent of funds for the two districts. By what time the remaining districts are likely to be provided with funds?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me first reply to his question.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please reply to all the questions in the last.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, in my speech, I have pointed out that there is a sharp decline in power. It was 148.6 megawatt from the Central pool to Kerala and now, it is reduced to 13.6 megawatt. It is very sharp. Why is it so and will the Government take necessary steps to correct it?

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Hon. Minister, Sir, the ongoing centrally sponsored Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme is a very good scheme. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether certain villages barring the Harijan clusters have been electrified. Whether he proposes to

[Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma]

enforce this scheme even in these areas? Secondly, there has been no rain in my Bundelkhand area for the last three years owing to which the farmers are committing suicide. I would like to submit whether the hon. Minister would try to provide some relief to the farmers after looking into their problems such as in case of their having more outstanding bills or of those who have not been provided with adequate supply of electricity and have received inflated bills.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): The price of Central pool allocation has been raised from Rs. 7.45 to Rs. 9.45 and States like Kerala would not be able to bear it because the cost of buying power escalates. As my colleague Shri Karunakaran has put it, Kerala is in a very difficult situation now and the cost of generating power has gone up.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know the reason why the nuclear energy based power generating plants at Kota and Rawat Bhata seize up every now and then.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a very good reply. I would like to ask this much only that trading was referred to under the Electricity Act 2003. Per unit price should have come down owing to the competition but it is escalating. Individual States are selling electricity at Rs. six per unit by engaging its own trading company. He has also not given its reply.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): I want a clarification from the hon. Minister. Today, NTPC, in energy conservation, has saved money worth Rs. 37 crore. But they are not doing anything for the NTPC plants for their peripheral development and other works.

My constituency, Kalahandi, which generates about 600 megawatts hydro power and supplies nearly 150 megawatts to Andhra Pradesh and other States does not have a proper 400 KV sub-station. I have written to the Minister for a 132 KV sub-station at Bhavanipatna, the Headquarters of Kalahandi.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: As regards the grid problem, I have already told the concerned Chairman to look into the problem. He will be looking into it. I have received your application.

About unallocated power, we never charge to the extent of Rs. 7.45. I will have to inquire into it because both the Members of Kerala are putting this question. You must have snatched from the grid which is not allocated to you. You must have taken this power be over and above from that grid. ...*(Interruptions)* I will have to find that out. It is not for the unallocated or allocated power. I will inquire into it.

As far as Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana is concerned, I had already said that in the Eleventh Plan, which I am discussing, every village of the country will be taken into account and by 2009 every village will be electrified.

As far as the bidding procedure is concerned, the MoU route will be stopped as soon as this Bill is passed in the Parliament. Now, this MoU has not been accepted. The best way is to go for the bidding procedure.

Your Chief Minister is a very nice person, the one who has immediately agreed to join the ultra mega project. Two months after I became the Minister of Power, the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh had requested to give an ultra mega project. He understood what it means. The whole thing is going to come on the pit head side, which will be useful for the State. I think one should accept it.

We have a lot of money. The proposals are being sent by the States,

[Translation]

We examine the proposals received from the States and if they are O.K., funds are provided for them. Priority is accorded to slums of Harijans and Girijans (SCs, STs) and the people belonging to the villages as they are covered under the BPL Act that has been passed. It is true that the hamlets should also get electricity supply and we are making endeavours in that direction. Till date, slums with a population of 300 have been covered and in future we will include slums with lesser population also. There should not be any doubts in your mind in this regard. Regarding trading, it is a fact that there is the power trading corporation, but there are States where there aren't any trading houses, but they engage in selling.

There is a proposal before us, we will see to it as to what can be done in this regard.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Please tell us about the nuclear power plants of Rajasthan which are often closed down.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: The nuclear potential available with us is still comparatively less. As a result there is only 3% nuclear power in the country. This is true about CAG also. We will make efforts to accomplish this task as quickly as possible. Rajasthan has got nothing to worry. You implement Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme, we will provide Funds regularly.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity Act 2003, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its applications to Government amendment No. 3 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in

Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its applications to Government amendment No. 3 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 2A

Amendment of Section 9

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 6, insert -

2A. In section 9 of the principal Act, in sub-section (I) after the proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:-

"Provided further that no licence shall be required under this Act for supply of electricity generated from a captive generating plant to any licensee in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder and to any consumer subject to the regulations made under sub-section (2) of section 42. ". (3)

(Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 2A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 2A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 4 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 4 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 6A

Amendment of Section 43

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 20, insert -

6A. In Section 43 of the principal Act, in sub-section (i), -

(i) for the words "Every distribution" the words "Save as otherwise provided in this Act, every distribution" shall be substituted;

(ii) after the second proviso, the following *Explanation* shall be inserted, namely:-

"Explanation. - For the purposes of this sub-section, "application" means the application complete in all respects in the appropriate form, as required by the distribution licensee, along with documents showing payment of necessary charges and other compliances.'". (4)

(Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 6A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 6A was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok

Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 5 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 5 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 6B

Substitution of new section for section 50

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 20, insert-

6B. For section 50 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

"50. The State Commission shall specify an Electricity Supply Code to provide for recovery of electricity charges, intervals for billing of electricity charges, disconnection of supply of electricity for non-payment thereof, restoration of supply of electricity, measures for preventing tampering, distress or damage to electrical plant or electrical line or meter, entry of distribution licensee or any person acting on his behalf for disconnecting supply and removing the meter, entry for replacing, altering or maintaining electric lines or electrical plants or meter and such other matters.'". (5)

(Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 6B be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 6B was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 6 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 6 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 7A

**Amendment of
Section 126**

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 25, insert-

7A. In section 126 of the principal Act,-

- (i) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :-

"(3) The person, on whom an order has been served under sub-section (2), shall be entitled to file objections, if any, against the provisional assessment before the assessing officer, who shall, after affording a reasonable opportunity of hearing to such person, pass a final order of assessment within thirty days from the date of service of such order of provisional assessment,

of the electricity charges payable by such person.";

- (ii) in sub-section (4), the proviso shall be omitted;

- (iii) for sub-section (5), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-

"(5) If the assessing officer reaches to the conclusion that unauthorized use of electricity has taken place, the assessment shall be made for the entire period during which such unauthorized use of electricity has taken place and if, however, the period during which such unauthorized use of electricity has taken place cannot be ascertained, such period shall be limited to a period of twelve months immediately preceding the date of inspection.";

- (iv) in sub-section (6), for the words "one-and-half times", the word "twice" shall be substituted;

- (v) in the *Explanation* occurring at the end, in clause (b), for sub-clause (iv), the following sub-clauses shall be substituted, namely:-

"(iv) for the purpose other than for which the usage of electricity was authorized; or

- (v) for the premises or areas other than those for which the supply of electricity was authorized."'. (6)

(Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 7A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 7A was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (i)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment

[Shri Sushilkumar Shinde]

No. 7 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 7 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 7B

Amendment of Section 127

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 25, insert—

7B. In section 127 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2), for the words "one-third of the assessed amount", the words "half of the assessed amount" shall be substituted; (7)

(Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 7B be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 7B was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 8 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 8 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 7C

Amendment of Section 135

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 25, insert—

7C. In section 135 of the principal Act.—

(A) for sub-section (I), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

"135. (1) Whoever, dishonestly,—

- (a) taps, makes or causes to be made any connection with overhead, underground or under water lines or cables, or service wires, or service facilities of a licensee or supplier, as the case may be; or
- (b) tampers a meter, installs or uses a tampered meter, current reversing transformer, loop connection or any other device or method which interferes with accurate or proper registration, calibration or metering of electric current or otherwise results in a manner whereby electricity is stolen or wasted; or
- (c) damages or destroys an electric meter, apparatus, equipment, or wire or causes or allows any of them to be so damaged or destroyed as to interfere with the proper or accurate metering of electricity; or
- (d) uses electricity through a tampered meter; or
- (e) uses electricity for the purpose other than for which the usage of electricity was authorised,

so as to abstract or consume or use electricity shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both:

Provided that in a case where the load abstracted, consumed, or used or attempted abstraction or attempted consumption or attempted use—

- (i) does not exceed 10 kilowatt, the fine imposed on first conviction shall not be less than three times the financial gain on account of such theft of electricity and in the event of second or subsequent conviction the fine imposed shall not be less than six times the financial gain on account of such theft of electricity;
- (ii) exceeds 10 kilowatt, the fine imposed on first conviction shall not be less than three times the financial gain on account of such theft of electricity and in the event of second or subsequent conviction, the sentence shall be imprisonment for a term not less than six months, but which may extend to five years and with fine not less than six times the financial gain on account of such theft of electricity:

Provided further that in the event of second and subsequent conviction of a person where the load abstracted, consumed, or used or attempted abstraction or attempted consumption or attempted use exceeds 10 kilowatt, such person shall also be debarred from getting any supply of electricity for a period which shall not be less than three months but may extend to two years and shall also be debarred from getting supply of electricity for that period from any other source or generating station:

Provided also that if it is proved that any artificial means or means not authorized by the Board or licensee or supplier, as the case may be, exist for the abstraction, consumption or use of electricity by the consumer, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that any abstraction, consumption or use of electricity has been dishonestly caused by such consumer.

(1A) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, the licensee or supplier, as the case may be, may, upon detection of such theft of electricity, immediately disconnect the supply of electricity:

Provided that only such officer of the licensee or supplier, as authorized for the purpose by the Appropriate

Commission or any other officer of the licensee or supplier, as the case may be, of the rank higher than the rank so authorised shall disconnect the supply line of electricity:

Provided further that such officer of the licensee or supplier, as the case may be, shall lodge a complaint in writing relating to the commission of such offence in police station having jurisdiction within twenty four hours from the time of such disconnection:

Provided also that the licensee or supplier, as the case may be, on deposit or payment of the assessed amount or electricity charges in accordance with the provisions of this Act, shall, without prejudice to the obligation to lodge the complaint as referred to in the second proviso to this clause, restore the supply line of electricity within forty-eight hours of such deposit or payment.”;

(B) in sub-section (2), for the words “Any officer authorised”, the words “Any officer of the licensee or supplier, as the case may be, authorized” shall be substituted”. (8)

(Shri Sushilkumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That new clause 7C be added to the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

New clause 7C was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I beg to move:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 9 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 9 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 7D

Amendment of Section 150

Amendment made:

Page 2, *after* line 25, *insert*—

7D. In section 150 of the principal Act, after sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) of section 135, sub-section (1) of section 136, section 137 and section 138, the licence or certificate of competency or permit or such other authorisation issued under the rules made or deemed to have been made under this Act to any person who acting as an electrical contractor, supervisor or worker abets the commission of an offence punishable under sub-section (1) of section 135, sub-section (i) or section 136, section 137, or section 138, on his conviction for such abetment, may also be cancelled by the licensing authority:

Provided that no order of such cancellation shall be made without giving such person an opportunity of being heard.

Explanation.— For the purposes of this sub-section, "licensing authority" means the officer who for the time being in force is issuing or renewing such licence or certificate of competency of permit or such other authorization."'. (9)

(Shri Sushilkumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 7D be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 7D was added to the Bill.

Clause 8

Amendment of Section 151

Amendment made:

Page 2, *for* lines 26 to 44, *substitute*

8. In section 151 of the principal Act, the following provisos shall be *inserted*, namely:—

"Provided that the court may also take cognizance of an offence punishable under this Act upon a report of a police officer filed under section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973:

Provided further that a special court constituted under section 153 shall be competent to take cognizance of an offence without the accused being committed to it for trial. ". (10)

(Shri Sushilkumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (1)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 11 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment

No. 11 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 8A

Insertion of new sections 151A and 151B

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 44, insert—

8A. After section 151 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:-

151A. For the purposes of investigation of an offence punishable of this Act, the police officer shall have all the powers as provided in Chapter XII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

151B. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, an offence punishable under sections 135 to 140 or section 150 shall be cognizable and non-bailable. (11)

(Shri Sushilkumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 8A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 8A was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 12 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in

Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 12 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 8B

Amendment of Section 153

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 44, insert-

8B. In section 153 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), for the words and figures "sections 135 to 139", the words and figures "sections 135 to 140 and section 150" shall be substituted. (12)

(Shri Sushilkumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 8B be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 8B was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80 (I)

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 13 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates,

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

in its application to the Government amendment No. 13 to the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 8C

Amendment of Section 154

Amendment made:

Page 2, after line 44, insert-

8C. In section 154 of the principal Act,

- (i) for the words and figures "sections 135 to 139" wherever they occur, the words and figures "sections 135 to 140 and section 150" shall be substituted;
- (ii) in sub-section (5), for the words "Special Court may", the words "Special Court shall" shall be substituted.'. (13)

(Shri Sushilkumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 8C be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 8C was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short Title and commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line, for "2005", substitute "2007". (2)

(Shri Sushilkumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1, for "Fifty-sixth", substitute "Fifty-eighth". (1)

(Shri Sushilkumar Shinde)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up matters of urgent public importance.

[Translation]

*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram) : About 92% of the rubber production in India is from Kerala, and of this, about 87% is produced by the marginal farmers. Rubber is an agro industry based product on which about 10 lakh farmers are directly involved, and about 60 lakh farmers are indirectly depended upon.

19.45 hrs.

[SHRI VARAKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair]

If you look at the capital employment opportunity ratio, you can see that rubber provides 40% employment for

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

one crore rupees, while in the other sectors it is only 10% for one crore rupees. The rubber distribution and processing units in Kerala give the State Government about 50 crores of rupees as sale tax.

It is a fact that, there is a scarcity of about 2 lakh tons of natural rubber in the world market today. In India, we have about 50 thousand tons of surplus stock. The decision to import rubber from Thailand to India, with 20% reduction in import duty, is therefore a decision without any rhyme or reason.

Sir, due to the import of palm oil, the coconut cultivators in Kerala have already been ruined. Due to the fall in prices of various agricultural products, the farmers in Kerala are facing many hardships and the rubber sector was the only farming sector that was holding out some hope for our farmers. If two countries enter into a bilateral trade agreement, it should be done in such a way that the farming sector and the industrial sector of the countries are not destroyed.

Lakhs of rubber cultivators and those employed in rubber marketing and processing sectors who are spread in 14 districts of Kerala, are in panic today. Therefore, I request, the Centre for timely intervention, and save lakhs of rubber farmers in Kerala, Thank you.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman Sir, the river Bahuda caters to the needs of the people of both Orissa and Andhra Pradesh for irrigation and drinking water purposes. On Bahuda river, there is an existing Ayacut Baglatti Dam. About 20 years back, the Orissa Government has constructed this dam to cater to the needs of the people of Orissa.

In the year 1975, the then Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Nilamani Routroy and Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh entered into an agreement to construct the dam and to release 1.5 TMC of water from the dam to Andhra Pradesh. Entire water caters to the needs of my parliamentary constituency.

Since last 20 years, we are not getting that 1.5 TMC of water from Baglatti Dam. Meanwhile, recently, the Orissa Government has decided to raise the height of the dam by nine more metres. If, with the existing height of the dam, we are not getting the water, what will happen if they increase the height of the dam by nine more

metres? They are also contemplating to raise it by another five feet over that. If this happens, the height of the dam will go up to 109 metres.

So, I would request the Government of India and the CWC to kindly intervene in the matter and see that the Government of Orissa is contacted over phone so that further execution of work is stopped till such time the technical personnel of both the States visited the spot and come to a right conclusion about the height of the dam. Otherwise, people may not get water for irrigation and drinking purposes from Bahuda Ayacut which is providing water to 24,000 acres of land and also to nearly 95 villages. They will have irreparable loss. The Government of India should intervene and ask both the Governments to send technical teams. If there is a consensus, then we have no objection, but till such time the work should be stopped... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, same is the case with...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call you. Please be seated.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Only Shrimati Sujatha's submission will go on record and nothing else.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sitting here specially to accommodate you. If you do not cooperate, I will have to stop it. Shrimati C.S. Sujatha.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Shri Yerrannaidu has completed his mention and now Shrimati C.S. Sujatha can speak.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): The Government of India has approved a special rehabilitation package for the farmers in 31 districts in the country that includes Alappuzha District in Kerala besides four other districts. It is learnt that the Swaminathan Foundation

*Not recorded.

[Shrimati C.S. Sujatha]

has been assigned to study and report on the Sustainable Development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-System. From the Terms of Reference given to the Foundation, it is understood that the study is limited only to one part of Kuttanad. It is a fact that the agrarian crisis is felt across the district and farmers are facing severe financial crisis. The upper Kuttanad, Onattukara and Kari land are major agrarian areas of Alappuzha. The coastal areas and the Pokkali rice fields are not free of the present crisis. The problems of the farming areas in Alleppy districts are inter-connected.

Hence I urge upon the Government to include the entire district in the Terms of Reference for the study.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I would like to present an example of the manner in which UPA Government is functioning. Under the leadership of honourable Atal Bihari Vajpayee, surface transport was an ambitious project and in the whole country under the golden quadrilateral project the work relating to the extension of National Highways was done in a proper way. But it is very unfortunate that after the change in guard at the centre, the Minister of the new Government is acting in a biased manner. In recent past I was present in a meeting and I urged the hon'ble Minister for Surface Transport to complete pending works of the previous Government on priority basis. I would like to bring to your knowledge the fact that approval for a bypass covering a distance of 30 kilometers on national Highway-24 has been given six years ago, acquisition of land and other works have been completed but it is unfortunate that in North India all the works including the work related to National Highway-24 has been lying pending. I would like to level the charge that most of the works are being carried out in a single province, State and I was given a reply by the hon'ble Minister that the said State was a victim of neglect. Now that he has become the Minister he will make sure that all works are carried out in that State. Through you, I would like to say that there should not be such a kind of biased attitude. Where there is requirement, works should be carried out there and pending works should be given priority and those works should be kept in mind. I would like to repeat that on National Highway - 24, the bye-pass to be constructed in Bareilly, beside bye-passes are be constructed in 2-3 National Highways. All these have been given approval five years ago. Works should be done on those bye-

passes but it is unfortunate that the present Government is not paying much attention to them. Through you, I would like to say that attention should be paid towards it and these works should be completed on priority basis.

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): Sir, Sugarcane production in Tamil Nadu has increased to 275 lakhs of metric tones this year. Sugarcane harvesting normally completed within 12 months has not been completed even after 16 months. So farmers have to face loss both due to the delay in harvest, weight loss and delayed procurement. Till last year sugarcane growers were able to get payment for their sugarcane within 15 days. Now even two or three months after the procurement, payments are not made to the farmers. From unregistered farmers sugarcane is procured at half the price by the private sugar mills. Considering the plight of sugarcane cultivators in Tamil Nadu, Centre must come forward to provide long term loans to the farmers through Sugarcane Development Fund. Loans must be extended through public sector banks also. There is also a need to increase the quantum of procurement of sugar for Public Distribution System. Centre must impress upon the State Government to procure all the sugarcane to help save the farmers from further losses. I urge upon the Centre to address this problem at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this age of knowledge explosion - this is a post modern age - in this 21st Century, when boundaries of all sorts are evaporating and discriminatory trend of the middle ages are a thing of the past, allegations that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students were facing caste discrimination in various forms in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences been confirmed by an Inquiry Committee headed by the UGC Chairman Shri Sukhdeo Thorat. This is shameful and deprecatory.

Here is a clear case where untouchability was practised by the faculty of India's premier medical institute. When students perceive that they are avoided and indifferent attitude are shown towards them by the faculty because of their caste background and biases and unfairness were meted out to them in the evaluation of their performance in theory papers as well as in practical tests, it is high time, Sir, to take stringent action against the culprits as such behaviour is unlawful and unconstitutional.

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

I urge upon the Government to enforce objective tests to overcome some of the attitudinal problems of the faculty and internal evaluations be done in a more transparent manner.

Institutionalising caste discrimination and abetting the anti-quota agitation by unlawful exercise of powers as the Institute Director is a slur on the reputation of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Playing a provocative role is very unbecoming on the part of the Director. I urge upon the Government to take exemplary action at the earliest.

Thank you.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Sir, I would also like to speak on this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you given a notice?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can only associate. That is all. You cannot speak now.

Now, Shri P. Karunakaran.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, I would like to add one more point. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak only one sentence.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Sir, a very shameful and agonizing development has happened in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, which is a premier medical institute in our country. It is reported in a national daily yesterday about the Report of an Inquiry Committee which was formed by the Government to inquire about the allegations.

Sir, the fact-finding Committee headed by Prof. S. Thorat pointed so many caste discriminations, humiliation, abuse, and threatening of SC, ST and OBC students. As pointed out by my colleague, even in the evaluation of their examination papers, they have been discriminated.

I urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, to place the Thorat Committee Report on the Table of the House and also to take stringent action against the errant administrative Head of the Institute and the delinquent

faculty members who are responsible for such type of caste discrimination committed on the Backward Class students. This is my submission. Thank you very much. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Aaron Rashid, you can associate on this issue, if you want.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, I would like to associate on this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who have given notice on this issue can associate.

Now, Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to place before the House some important issues concerning the freedom fighters in our country. Sir, a good number of freedom fighters who received ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody will stay here till this time. I am doing it every day.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, we are all grateful to you for your kind gesture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am remaining here everyday for this purpose.

Now, Shri P. Karunakaran.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, a good number of freedom fighters who received the State pension are denied the Central pension without valid reasons.

20.00 hrs.

The Central Government and the State Governments have identified the Freedom Fighters years back. Various State Governments have formed the Monitoring Committees at the State and District levels. It is with the recommendations of these Committees that the State Governments decide the deserving persons in granting pension. But the Ministry of Home Affairs has sanctioned the Central pension only to a few persons. There is no justification for denial of the Central pension to the deserving persons. The well-known Anti-Imperialist Struggles such as Kayyur, Karivallur, Munayamkunnu, Punnappra, Yayalar etc., in Kerala; Thebagha Telengana in Andhra Pradesh, the struggles in Goa and various

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

other States are all parts of the Freedom Struggle. The total number of Freedom Fighters is less. Many of them are old and on sickbed. But it is very unfortunate that even after 60 years of the Independence, the UPA Government is not ready to take up this issue.

I would request them, at least, to do justice with the Freedom Fighters, who sacrificed their lives for this noble cause of our Freedom Struggle..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Kharventhan...

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, I would also like to associate myself on this issue raised by Shri Karunakaran.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, my name may also be associated with what Shri Karunakaran has said... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, all will stand up without giving any notice saying: "I associate, I associate."

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, it is an issue of national importance... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I can record that all people who are here are associating without giving notice.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, throughout the country, two crore of Bidi workers are against the implementation of 'The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Packing and Labelling) Rules, 2006.' As per this Act, it is mandatory to print on the labels, specially 'The Skeleton & Bone' health warning, adverse effects and health messages etc., of the Bidi and tobacco pouches.

In Tamil Nadu alone, 15 lakh workers are involved in the Bidi industry, and they are manufacturing 50 crore Bidis everyday and earning Rs. 8 crore as revenue, and are paying Rs. 1 crore to the Government of India by way of Excise Duty. The customers of Bidi and other tobacco products are mainly from the rural areas and most of them are illiterate. They generally recognize the brand name from the label. But due to this proposal, they cannot identify the exact brands. There is every possibility now that they would be cheated with duplicate brands. Moreover, they are purchasing, in loose.

Hence, I think, this proposal would not serve any purpose. This proposal would affect the millions of unskilled ladies from the rural areas, who are dependent over the earnings from Bidi and tobacco industry. Moreover, the farmers, paan shopkeepers and many others would be severely affected due to this vigorous rule.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government not to implement 'The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Packing and Labelling) Rules, 2006' and save the industry and the poor workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who have got the written submissions, may just read the first sentence and hand over the remaining part of their submission to the officers at the Table and they would be taken on record. This way, a lot of time can be saved. Kindly do not read the whole thing.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, I would like to bring an important issue to the notice of the Union Government. Jalaun district in Uttar Pradesh has also been included under the 'Rashtriya Samvikas Yojana' for which the Government make funds available. Funds to the tune of crores have been released by the Union Government and the District Officers have made funds available to the Forest Department for constructing circular fencing around the trees for their protection, but brick-pieces in those fences are of third grade. Around them red ochre is painted to show that very good circular fence has been constructed. On one side, circular fences are being constructed and on the other side they are breaking down. Even trees are not being planted in them which could have made it appear that they are meant to protect the trees. Therefore, I would like to demand from the Union Government to carry out a probe in respect of the funds allocated to my district under the 'Rashtriya Samvikas Yojana' and the officers misutilising the funds should be penalised.

[English]

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): Sir, this is regarding the misutilisation of Nehru Yuvak Kendra funds. The programmes of Nehru Yuvak Kendras are expected to be implemented through 2.30 lakh village-level affiliated Youth Clubs and Manila Mandals. Lakhs of rupees are spent yearly by the Nehru Yuvak Kendras for various

schemes implemented through these Youth Clubs and Mahila Mandals. There are widespread complaints in Kerala that there is misutilization of Nehru Yuvak Kendra funds. The funds are spent even through the clubs which are not affiliated to the Nehru Yuvak Kendras. This is for the interest of certain vested groups. I would, therefore, submit that the Union Government may conduct an inquiry into the utilization of funds by the Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Kerala at an early date. Also, the Government may think of constituting Managing Committees consisting of MP/MLA at district Kendra level.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, I want to associate myself with this issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Hon. Chairman, my esteemed colleague Thiru S.K. Kharventhan spoke ahead of me highlighting the problems faced by the Beedi workers especially in the wake of the imposition of mandatory requirement to display statutory warning on the Beedi bundles with the danger mark depicting picture of skull on the Beedi bundles.

**There are about 2 crores Beedi workers in the country. About 20 crores of people, the family members and dependents of Beedi workers and associated workers are much dependent on this industry. Already the excise hike is hitting this industry. To some extent Hon. Finance Minister has eased it. Union Health Minister has taken up the cause of the ban on smoking. It is commendable. But the insistence on displaying danger signal in the form of skull and bones along with the statutory warning on the Beedi bundles is a disheartening one. When Governments are running liquor vends the slogans like smoking is injurious to health may not be very appropriate. Even cigarette industry is not covered by this stringent measure, whereas Beedi Bundles are supposed to have these warnings printed on them. Since small Beedi industrial units are drastically affected by this measure of the Government for the past one week such units are agitating closing their units. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has taken up this issue with the Union Government. From aesthetic point of view a picture of skull is distasteful and is also anti-sentimental. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to initiate suitable measures. In Tamil Nadu Beedi workers number about 50 lakhs, in my Tenkasi constituency alone there are about 5 lakhs Beedi workers. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to take alternative methods

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

**English Translation of the speech originally laid in Tamil.

to educate the people about the evils of smoking but not in a crude way that will affect the livelihood of many poor Beedi workers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may submit the rest of the speech.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Sir, Shri P.K. Mishra, IG of BSF, Assam and Meghalaya, met the BDR from Bangladesh at Chittagong recently. He held a Press conference on 4th May. In that he revealed that he had submitted a list of 172 camps of Indian militants in Bangladesh and also a list of 72 militant leaders living in Bangladesh and also a list of 79 sympathizers of Bangladesh. Due to change of regime, Bangladesh has responded positively and assured that the action will be taken soon.

But Mr. Mishra expressed his great concern to the effect that the militants are managing to smuggle arms and ammunition and trans-border crimes, illegal migration and smuggling of cattle have gone up along with the fundamental activities in Bangladesh border. They take the advantage of lack of border-fencing and the open border in the vast riverine areas.

Hence I urge the Government to complete fencing works as has been committed in the tripartite talks held in 2005 and take early action to combat trans-border crimes, resist smuggling of arms and ammunition and cattle and illegal migration at the earliest. Thank you.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajnagar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, today I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, towards the pathetic conditions of the students of professional courses.

Sir, the Government of Karnataka has made an announcement that it will provide fee concessions in the professional courses for the students who belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Thousands of students have got admitted thinking that the Government will provide the concessions. But due to unnecessary delay in releasing financial assistance of Rs. 52 crore by Central Government for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Government of Karnataka is not in a position to provide fee concessions to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students of professional courses. It leads to a lot of tension among

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

the students. Most of the students took admission in the professional courses on the basis of Government's assurance. Now the Management of Professional colleges force them to pay the full fee. The affected students and also their parents are still looking forward that they are getting the financial assistance from the Government. On the other hand the Government of Karnataka is waiting for the financial assistance from the Central Government.

Therefore, I urge the Government, through you that the Centre should take immediate steps to release financial assistance of Rs. 52 crore to the Government of Karnataka. With these few words I conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Union Government that the armed forces of the country go on combating insurgency, terrorist activities and dangers from inside and outside the country on a continuous basis. In addition to that soldiers are deployed in relief and rescue operations during floods and other natural calamities. Many types of anomalies have cropped up in the pay scales of the armed forces in the wake of the recommendations of the fifth Pay Commission. It includes recommendations for paying more pension to the Brigadier than to the Major General. Not only this, there was recommendation for paying a sepoy a pension half of what a peon in the central service gets. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit that due to these anomalies meritorious officers are not joining the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. A fewer number of soldiers are also being recruited and as such thousands of posts are lying vacant. Hence, through you, I would like to urge the Government that a separate pay commission for armed forces may be constituted. The pay commission, presently constituted has got no representative from the armed forces. Therefore, there is a possibility of injustice being meted out to them. Therefore, a separate pay Commission be constituted to remove these anomalies and to deliver justice to the armed forces.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to speak as the last speaker.

Sir, a bridge of more than 30 kilometers length constructed between the sacred pilgrim site of Shri Rameshwaram in India and Sri Lanka is a cultural heritage and a matter of national pride for the crores of Hindus of the country. This Ramsetu is sacred for all the Hindus as Mecca is for the followers of Islam and Vatican or Bethlehem is for the followers of Christianity. This holy bridge finds a mention in all the Puranas and other historical books including the Valmiki Ramayan, the

Tulsidas' Ramayan, the Mahabharat etc. The Tuticorm Trust under the Union Government has been entrusted with the task of dismantling this holy bridge under the Setu Samudram shipping canal Project. Italian company Rambol and L.A.D.T., Madras have been given contract for dismantling this bridge. India might face calamities like that of the 'Tsunami' after this bridge is dismantled. Alongwith this 365 types of water species will also extinct.

Therefore, I would like to demand from the Union Government to choose an alternative from the ones suggested earlier with alternative routes with a view to save this sacred Ramsetu and should desist from any such move which would hurt the sentiments of the crores of Hindus.

*SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Thank you Hon. Chairman Sir, today through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards the pathetic condition of the National Highway No. 63 passing through Bellary district in my State Karnataka. Since 3 years after having elected as a Member of Parliament I have made several representation to the Government to look after the proper maintenance of this road. It is very unfortunate that even today there is no road for about 30 kilometre between Bellary and Jolada Rasi, which is at the border of Andhra Pradesh. I brought this to the notice of the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Hon. Minister. But Hon. Minister has not paid attention in this. That is why people of this region think that the Surface Transport Ministry and its Officials are not doing anything for them and their functioning lacks humane touch.

Therefore I urge upon the Government through you to take immediate steps to repair this road within 15 days. If the Ministry of Surface Transport fails to take steps in this regard people of this region may come to street to protest against this negligence on the part of the Ministry. It may lead to an ugly situation. The same National Highway No. 63 in the Andhra Pradesh up to the border of Karnataka has been repaired. But it has not been repaired in my State. I can say that roads in villages are far better than this National Highway. Therefore, through you I urge upon the Government to take all necessary steps to improve the condition of this road.

20.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 8, 2007/Vaisakha 18, 1929 (Saka)

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

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