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Monday, April 25, 2005
Vaisakha 5, 1927 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IX contains Nos. 21 to 30)

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LOK SABHA

Monday, April 25, 2005/Vaisakha 5, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Commemoration of Golden Jubilee of Asian-African Conference at Bandung

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, half a century has passed since the First Generation of Leaders of Asia and Africa met in Indonesia from April 18 to 24, 1955 and gave voice to the yearnings of the people of their countries for freedom, justice and economic emancipation. It is indeed appropriate that we should commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the occasion when the newly emerging countries declared that they would fashion their destiny with their own hands.

It was a remarkable galaxy of Statesmen who had gathered in Bandung in 1955 for the Asian-African Conference—Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Sukarno and Ali Sastroamidjojo of Indonesia, Chou-En-Lai of China, Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia, Nasser of Egypt, U Nu of Burma, Prince Wan of Thailand and Sir John Kotlewala of Ceylon. The historic significance of the Conference was heightened by their presence. The commemoration of the Bandung Conference also allows us to salute the leadership that they provided to an entire generation in shaking off the shackles of colonialism and embracing the new winds of freedom.

The Dasa Sila or the Ten Principles that resulted from Bandung have served as a code governing relations between States. The Dasa Sila are based on the idea of peaceful co-existence and represented the affirmation of developing countries to live in peace with one another.

The solidarity that Bandung brought about among the nations of Asia and Africa, enabled them together to launch a concerted struggle against colonialism. South-South Cooperation and the principles of Non-Alignment also find their origins in the Bandung Conference. It was Bandung that inspired the establishment of Non-Aligned Movement in 1961 and led to the creation of the Organization of the African Unity (OAU). The Bandung spirit led to the defeat of colonialism and the eventual eradication of the scourge of the apartheid.

The Bandung spirit is as relevant today as it was more than half a century ago and must be reinvigorated. The Golden Jubilee of the Bandung Conference should lead to the renewal of partnership between the countries of the developing world, a partnership that is based on shared vision and conviction, solidarity, common ownership and mutual respect. it should allow the countries of the South to effectively address the iniquities of power that still prevail and ensure equitable sharing of the benefits of the global economic relations. India, as one of the moving spirits of the original Bandung Conference, must once again take the lead in the revival of its noble sentiments, so that we can together overcome the challenges generated by a vastly transformed and rapidly transforming world. We are happy that the Prime Minister of India was chosen to speak for the whole of Asia at the signing ceremony of a historic Asia-Africa strategic partnership agreement at Bandung.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an attempt was made to eliminate Laluji in Gujarat *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen. I know it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just give me one minute, Sushilji.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Modi ji, let me speak for one minute.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I know there are some issues which both the sides wish to raise. I will try to give opportunity

to every party one by one so that we can carry on with the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Gujarat should be dismissed keeping in view the attack on Lalu Ji *...(Interruptions)* The Committee constituted by the Government of Gujarat to inquire into the attack is to hush up the case. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. Raghunathji.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is my appeal to all sections let us conduct in a proper manner.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ranchi Court has framed charges of forgery and cheating against Lalu Prasad Ji. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: After the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Constitutionally he does not deserve to continue in the Ministry. *...(Interruptions)*

The question does not arise to continue him as a Minister *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You do it after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not minimizing anybody's feelings.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not minimizing the importance of the matter. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity to speak. Take your seat, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you disturb the Speaker, how will the proceedings of the House go on? Let me speak. If you are capable to decide everything then what is the need of the Chair? Please listen. Let me speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please go to your seat. Do not do it.

[Translation]

I am also asking them. Will you listen? What is this?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, I have given permission. Shri Lalu Prasad will be coming in the

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*Not recorded.

afternoon. When he speaks, I will see what statement he makes. I can ask the Government also to make a statement. But let us do it when the statement is made by him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, you can do it after the Question Hour. I will give you full permission.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He should resign immediately. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot be asked to do it. I cannot decide it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, it is not the question of making a statement. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 401.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already spoken in this regard. We will take it after Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am obliged to all of you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I would like to say that *...(Interruptions)* How will we allow the proceedings of the House to go on *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whose interest is being served. Your views are not being heard.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your views are not being heard because nobody can hear.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You are a Minister. I am appealing that whatever you speak and let the others not to hear then nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you to say something in a manner which will be recorded. You should answer each other properly. I am not saying that you should not raise it. I have said that I would allow that but at the appropriate time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The Government have not replied and it also do not have the information of the entire incident. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Government will reply today. It is not right.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, it is not right that somebody is attacked. *...(Interruptions)* what can such a Government do? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not serving your cause.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, do not show that. It is against the rules.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

---

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me speak for one minute.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, nothing is being recorded except what I am saying. Do not say anything now.

My earnest appeal to all sections of the House is to please see that whatever you are saying even goes to the people. Even it is not being recorded. It cannot be recorded. I cannot blame the Reporters. How can they report anything? Probably I cannot even hear you.

The other day, day-before-yesterday, I was in Indore and there at a meeting a very senior freedom fighter told me: "When I see certain things happening in the House tears come to my eyes. Did we fight for freedom for these scenes?" I said, I will communicate it to hon. Members of the House. A very senior freedom fighter says: "I cry when I see this situation."

My earnest appeal to you is, if I had been preventing you from speaking you could have taken it up. I said, I will allow you to speak. Please go one by one, take your turn and there is a proper time for that. I have already mentioned certain things. Question Hour is important. After that, if I stop you, then you can say that you are coming into the Well.

My earnest appeal to all sections of the House is, let the Question Hour be over. We have already spent 15 minutes in this. There are issues. I am not minimising the importance of them. You have your views, they have their views and, I am sure, the Government will suitably respond at some time. Therefore, may I, with your kind permission, go to the Question Hour now?

Q. No. 401—Shri Subrata Bose.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat): Q. No. 401.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. speaker, Sir, the freedom fighters did not sacrifice for tainted Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

Devendra Prasad ji, I am not minimising your feelings. If you want to say something, I will allow you to say at the appropriate time. Thank you. I am grateful to all of you. It is your House.

The hon. Minister of Steel will reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when will our question be replied? That day we people raised this question in the House but the Government have not given any reply in this regard. I request you that the Government should reply to it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked them. They will make a statement, but not at your dictation. At the appropriate time they will make it, in the course of the day.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh): By when the Government will reply?

MR. SPEAKER: The Government will reply today itself.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The Government are not responding. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not good. Please take your seat. You know.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There cannot be immediate responses.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: How are you affected by his statement?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you bound by his statement? Let him say.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He is a big....* why he is making statement? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please strike off that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us behave in a proper manner.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sushil ji, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are all responsible Members.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 21 April when a bid was made to eliminate the Ministers of Railways in Gujarat, the Government responded at that time. ...*(Interruptions)* In the House the Government said that it would reply in the evening in this regard. But, after 21 April till date the Government have not replied in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* My submission is that the Government should reply in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already announced that the Government would make a statement later in the day. But why can you not wait? You cannot have easy solutions or readymade solutions. There are matters; there are feelings on both sides. It appears from the papers that there are different versions.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The House was adjourned that day.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter has been under discussion for the last four-five days.

MR. SPEAKER: The House did not meet for three days.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV; Its detailed report will come soon. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your kind cooperation. Now, hon. Minister of Steel, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir you are our patron. You are patron of all the Members. ...*(Interruptions)* Every Member is important for you. If something like this happens with any Member ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We will protect you, Laluji and all these people. This is our responsibility.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You hold the responsibility of our safety and security. If any Member of the House goes to any State is assaulted there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You give us chance. It is not right

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Kripal Ji, I am requesting you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not destroy this institution of Parliament.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not destroy this great institution.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not destroy the Parliament of India.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is it. You are not going to gain anything by shouting here. You please sit down. You do not even show minimum courtesy to the Speaker. I request you. We have already told.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it, whatever they say will not give results: when we try to calm them, then you people start shouting and when we try to make you sit then they start the same.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Sir, what the people from ruling Benches are doing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not destroy this institution. I appeal to all of you with folded hands. Please do not do this. If I had stopped anyone, you could have shown your grievance. I have said, I will allow you after the hon. Minister of Railways comes here and makes a statement. He has told me that he cannot come in the morning. If he cannot come, he cannot come. In the afternoon. If he is there, I will allow him to make a statement and then you can have a discussion. I would request the Government to give a response to this. But unless that is there, nothing can be done. No solution can be achieved. Therefore, I request the hon. Leaders of all the Parties on all sides of the House to please see that this institution is not destroyed. I appeal to all of you.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, you should ask the Government to also make a statement on the charges framed against him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Government should make statement about the charges levelled against him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): All of them are those who had given false affidavits. ...*(Interruptions)* There are the people who don't' have any concerns about the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down otherwise you will get notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the Hon. Minister of Steel to reply to Q. No. 401.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has not been any reply to adjournment motion given by us ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That has been adjourned. That was got adjourned. Leave that matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 401, a very important question on SAIL.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am bound to give protection to all the hon. Members across the House. That will be done according to the procedure. Let me conduct it. I am not against any hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Our question has not been replied to. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How is it possible to get answer now?

[English]

Let the hon. Railway Minister come here. Let us hear him. Then, we shall do it. Please go to your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Government is sitting here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Government will answer after listening to him. You sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Go your seats. Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: The Railway Minister has asked for time from me after lunch. I am waiting for him to come. Now, it is the Hon. Minister of Steel to respond to Q. No. 401.

Thank you very much. I am deeply obliged. This is the spirit. I welcome it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, then, I will make you sit here now.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Kindly listen to us for one minute on 21st April, an assurance was given to House that the Government will reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, leave it. Sushilji you please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This question was raised in this House on 21st April that Laluji was assaulted when he visited the spot to assess relief works. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you angry? Why are you rising?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not your seat either. Go to your seat. I have said that I am waiting for the hon. Railway Minister to come and make a statement. I am sure the Government will make appropriate response. I have already said that.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What statement will he give when nothing happened. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you continuously speaking? We will invite you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody wants to do it in his own way. Rules are thrown to the winds. Procedure has no relevance. Parliament has no relevance today to anybody. You are going to decide this question on the floor of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Whether the adjournment of Parliament session will result in annulment of the constitution? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, let the Parliament session be over.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER; Now, I will be recording who will be disturbing. I will be noting.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You go to your seats. If you do not go, I will take action. This is not an empty threat. I will take action. I am keeping watch on all sides.

Only the statement of the hon. Minister of Steel will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Subrata Bose, put your first supplementary.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You people please sit down. Please let it go. What has happened to you all? Nothing is being recorded. Neither your nor his words are being recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Your order is acceptable to us. We just want to convey that the government has said on 21st April that the House will be informed *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They will make a statement today, I have said that. Shri Subrata Bose, put your first supplementary.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Sir, the hon. Minister has given. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Every day, by turn, I will make all the leaders sit in the Chair. For every fifteen minutes you have to sit here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: We had drawn the attention of the House but with no result.

MR. SPEAKER: The attention of the House has been drawn.

...(Interruptions)

---

*Not recorded.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, we did not get an answer though you were present in the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Don't you want the House to function?

[English]

Do you not want this House to run? I want to find out whether you want this House to run or not.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: We want the House to function. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You go to your seat and sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you sit down. You are not the advisor here for everybody. You do not have to advise me. You sit down. Here all are self-appointed Speakers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, it should not be taken lightly.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being taken lightly.

[English]

If you think so, you are not fair to the Chair. I have taken it very seriously. The hon. Minister himself had requested me to allow him to speak after the lunch because he is not here. I have permitted him. I have asked to the Government to make some response. What more can the Chair do? Even then you do not want the House to run. The hon. Minister is not here. Now what will be the response? That is different. But let him make the statement. Let the Government give its response. What more can I do? I am only saying that you create conditions where we can discuss everything. Therefore, do not have any apprehension. I am not going to shut up anybody.

Yes, the hon. Minister please.

...(Interruptions)

11.26 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Financial Performance of SAIL

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*401. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plants set up by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in the country, State-wise;

(b) the profit earned and losses suffered by them during each of the last four years, plant-wise;

(c) whether the Government has set up an enquiry commission to look into the huge losses incurred by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in the past;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government during the last three years to make SAIL a profit making industry;

(f) whether the Government has formulated any policy so that SAIL may not suffer such losses in future; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The State-wise and location-wise details of the steel plants under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Steel Plant	Location
1.	Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)	Bhilai, Chhattisgarh
2.	Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)	Durgapur, West Bengal
3.	Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	Rourkela, Orissa
4.	Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)	Bokaro, Jharkhand
5.	Alloy Steel Plant (ASP)	Durgapur, West Bengal
6.	Salem Steel Plant (SSP)	Salem, Tamil Nadu
7.	Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP)	Bhadravati, Karnataka

Apart from above, SAIL has two subsidiaries:

Sl.No.	Name of the Steel Plant	Location & State
1.	Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited (IISCO)	Burnpur, West Bengal
2.	Maharashtra Elektrosmelt Limited (MEL)	Chandrapur, Maharashtra

(b) Plant-wise profit before tax/loss of the company since 2000-01 to 9 M 2004-05 is as follows:

(Rupees in Crores)

Name of the Steel Plant	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (9M)
Bhilai Steel Plant	342	477	735	1932	2366
Durgapur Steel Plant	(-) 236	(-) 262	(-) 247	81	475
Rourkela Steel Plant	(-) 445	(-)1036	(-) 593	(-) 109	554
Bokaro Steel Plant	49	(-) 459	311	1120	2251
Alloy Steel Plant	(-) 184	(-) 149	(-) 180	(-) 172	(-) 51
Salem Steel Plant	(-) 155	(-) 153	(-) 119	2	3
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant	(-) 68	(-) 103	(-) 136	(-) 82	(-) 37
SAIL	(-) 729	(-) 1707	(-) 316	2629	5739
Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited	(-) 187	(-) 180	(-) 182	27	111
Maharashtra Elektrosmelt Limited	(-) 18	(-) 8	1	6.50	55

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No enquiry commission has been set-up by the Government because the business performance of SAIL reflects the cyclic nature of the steel business. Overall profits of SAIL, which peaked at Rs. 1319 crores in the year 1995-96, started declining from 1996-97 and SAIL suffered losses during 1998-99 to 2001-02 mainly due to slowdown in the economy resulting in stagnation in steel consumption along with declining trend in international steel prices which adversely affected the net sales realization (NSR) in domestic market, oversupply situation in the domestic market, higher manpower cost, etc.

(e) Major steps being taken to improve the profitability of SAIL Plants/Units are as under:

- Intensive cost control drive.
- Implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)
- Market oriented product-mix.
- Restriction on fresh investment proposals.
- Financial & Business Restructuring of SAIL was approved by the Government of India in February, 2000 to improve profitability and enhance the resource availability.

(f) and (g) Profitability depends on a number of techno-economic and market factors. SAIL has, however, taken many steps to improve its profitability, such as reduction in manpower, improvement in labour and blast furnace productivity, reduction in energy costs and financial costs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have given statement three times.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow 15 minute's time to every hon. member.

[English]

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Sir, the hon. Minister had assured in this House as well as outside that one of the two subsidiaries of SAIL, namely, the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited, Burnpur in West Bengal will be merged with the SAIL. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why his assurance has not yet been implemented. What is the reason for the delay? How soon can we expect the merger to take place?

MR. SPEAKER: You ask about the financial performance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no problem in doing that. I had informed the House that day also that the decision had been taken by both the Boards of the SAIL and the IISCO and the papers were circulated in the Cabinet. We have taken a decision that we shall send the matter directly to the cabinet, if we do not get a reply from the Ministry by 10th of May. All the formalities will be completed in one or two days after it is passed by the Cabinet.

[English]

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Sir, in answer to Question under paragraph (e), the hon. Minister has very kindly told us about the steps which are being taken to improve the profitability of SAIL. I refer to point No. 3 regarding market-oriented product mix. The profitability of SAIL depends, to a great extent, at least to a very substantial extent, on the export. I find that during the period from April 2004 to December 2004, compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, there has been a drop, reduction in the export this year. So, I would like the hon. Minister to tell us what steps have been taken to do active marketing abroad for the sale of steel. What steps is he taking in the matter?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the issue of exports is concerned, we have framed a policy according to which only those goods will be exported which become surplus after meeting our domestic demand. The first priority is to meet our domestic requirement. If we go on exporting goods, it will create problems for the consumers. So, we have instructed that domestic demand should get priority over exports. Exports of certain goods have declined as a result thereof.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, Mr. Rajen Gohain—Not present.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Sir, I would like to know, through you, that since Orissa is rich in iron ore and is exporting iron ore to China and to the world market, the SAIL is having continuous profits in Rourkela. It is exporting excess iron ore. Is there any proposal for setting up a second steel plant in Paradeep or in any other part of my State in view of the availability of vast iron ores?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just told that the domestic production of steel in our country is 38 million ton and our target is to increase it upto 110 million ton by the year 2020. Both the private sector and the public sector are working in unison to achieve that target. At present, in steel production the share of public sector is 31 per cent and the private sector's share is 68 per cent. So, the Government would like to see the feasibility of a new plant before installing it. As our steel industry was going through crisis and it has started getting profit only two or three years ago. So, in view of the handsome profit earned by it, we shall like to utilize that profit in such a manner that it does not face any crisis in future.

As far as, the private sector is concerned, we have been providing it all the required assistance. There is no restriction on it. I can not say anything about the proposal of the hon. Member but we shall look into the matter. However, if any proposal is brought, we shall look into it.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: In the reply given by the hon. Minister, it is seen that several plants of the SAIL were incurring losses since 2003-04. There is an apprehension in the country that the inefficiency of the public sector undertakings is giving a lot of advantage to the private sector thereby they are getting too many profits. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You put your question.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Although I agree that there is a cyclic thing in the steel manufacturing, and international prices, yet I want to know from the hon. Minister, in comparison with the private sector, whether the cost of production of Steel by SAIL is low or high.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have not undertaken any detailed and plan-wise study in this regard but as I have stated that there are two problems before the Public Sector Industry—management and operation of the company and the public welfare has also to be kept in view. The Private Sector has the sole priority to earn maximum profit through every possible way. therefore, the plant-wise production cost in the private sector is very low.

Our Public Sector undertakings had a huge number of employees and every year it was being reduced by giving voluntary retirement. But ever since I have assumed charge of this Ministry, I have stopped the practice of giving Voluntary Retirement. It is but natural that the profit will increase in proportion to the reduction in number of employees. This practice is prevalent in most of the private sector, which keeps their cost of production low. Therefore, the increase or decrease in the cost of production depends on all these things.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you wanted suspension of Question Hour!

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the steel industry had been incurring losses since 1995-96. Though the hon. Minister has furnished details upto 2000-2001 he has not given any details of the subsequent years. Though the Hon. Minister might have reviewed the position with regard to the loss suffered I would like to put only one question to him as to how much improvement and the percentage of profit has been achieved in proportion to the capital invested for the revival of this industry and what were the targets thereof being projected by the Minister?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our steel industry belongs to the open sector. In it, profit and loss depends on international market and are cyclical in nature. But I would like to inform the hon. Member that all our steel plants have crossed their 100% capacity and all of our steel plants are earning profit except and one or two plants producing alloy are running into little losses. We had reviewed their position upto this March. Last year, i.e. in March, 2004-2005 we had no steel plant which was in loss rather all of them are in profit.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The hon. Minister in his statement has said that the profit of Steel Authority of India is of a cyclical nature; sometimes it goes up, and sometimes it comes down. That is the meaning of cyclical. But the statement that he has made has shown that during the last two years, profit has increased. My specific question to the hon. Minister will be this. What is the projection of profitability of SAIL in the coming years? Has any study been made? Do you think that profit of SAIL will be maintained or will go up at a higher rate that may give you sufficient resources to modernize the steel plants further, and also to revive the steel unit that you propose to take up as a part of SAIL, that is, IISCO?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question consists of three parts. He has asked in one part whether the existing profit are sustainable. As I have stated, it depends on the international market. Our production remains at the same level our workers work with the same diligence. But whenever there is a slump in theinternational market, prices come down in our country also and when there is a spurt in the international market, prices in our country also go up accordingly and things start improving here whenever situation becomes favourable there. As far as modernisation is concerned, we have a plan for it. We have decided to invest an amount of Rs. 29 thousand crores in the SAIL upto 2011-12. RINL has also said and our other Public undertakings have also drawn up a plan to the order of Rs. 9000 crores. Regarding ISCO, it has earned a profit of Rs.111 crores, but going by its previous spendings, these profits are not much. There will be no constraint of funds, if IISCO is merged with the SAIL. As far as modernisation, expansion and new technology is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Is there any uncertainty regarding the merger?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The day merger of the ISCO and the SAIL takes place. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Is the merger decision final?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: That is final.

[Translation]

I have told you a number of times, in House and outside it and here also I am telling you separately that the profit of SAIL has crossed Rs. 4000 crores and we expect it to go even higher the next time.

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the steel mill set up 15 years ago in Assam when Shri Virendra Vaish ji was the Minister, is in the same condition or has it been closed down? It would be better if you give us some information about that.

MR. SPEAKER: This supplementary is not related to the basic question.

[English]

This does not really arise from the main Question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I don't know what mill you are talking about.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You better find out and let him know.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I would find out.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: It is reported that SAIL is going to introduce backward integration to revive the Salem Steel Plant. The Salem Steel Plant and the Alloy Steel Plant are both tied up. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether SAIL is going to introduce forward integration in the case of the Alloy Steel Plant?

MR. SPEAKER: This does not arise out of the main Question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We have provided funds for the revival of Alloy Steel Plant and it is but natural for my colleagues from the South to feel unhappy and ask us as to why we are providing funds to Alloy Steel Plant and not installing any plant in Salem. Alloy Steel Plant was also suffering losses but presently, as I have told, it is a profit-making one. Our point of view is that all our plants should be given opportunities for revival. Presently each one of them is making profit and we would provide funds to them as and when required. We don't have paucity of funds. Nevertheless, we intend to ensure the optimum utilisation of funds rather than spending it just for the sake of formality . ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, the Salem Steel Plant and Alloy Steel Plant are tied up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The details are not necessary.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just told that all the plants are making profit. Whether his Ministry have got any break through study conducted regarding profit and loss or whether the profit made are solely attributable of the steel to price-rise as the price-rise of petrol and diesel results into inflation. Whether the Government are also making efforts to check the continuous price-rise or not? If the profit increases continuously, it contributes to increasing inflation. What steps are the Ministry of Steel taking in this regard?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not true. I don't admit that price of steel is increasing day-by-day. I have the year-wise datas of prices of steel. ...*(Interruptions)* I have the datas for the last three years. I can firmly say that the prices of steel have been stable for the last 11 months since I became the Minister of Steel. I had once announced to take hard steps, but you know it well that the price rise is inevitable. As we need two raw materials namely iron ore and coking coal. For the last some time, the price of coking coal has increased by 125 per cent in the international market and we need 13 million tonns of coking coal. Out of this 13 million tonnes, we get only four million tonnes of coking coal in the country and we import the rest nine million tonnes. Similarly, the price of iron ore has increased by 71 per cent. The price of iron ore and coking coal has increased by 71 per cent and 125 per cent respectively. We are now monitoring this trend.

When the proposal for allowing the increase price-rise came to me, I allowed only 7 per cent increase in the prices and that too in April. In the middle, we reduced the prices. We don't have any impact on the private sectors, yet we had asked them to reduce the prices

otherwise we would put in place some regulatory authority. This resulted in reduction in the prices. Now, the prices have increased since April first and this is because the prices of raw materials have increased a lot in the international market.

[English]

Contaminated Ground Water

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*402. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is substantial amount of nitrate and arsenic contamination in ground water in the country which may lead to gastric cancer and other diseases;

(b) if so, the facts and details of Central Ground Water Board Report in this regard;

(c) whether the Government with the help of foreign expertise proposes to take any concrete action plan to make ground water free from nitrates and arsenic contamination;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allocated to State Governments during the last three years, State-wise?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Nitrate content in excess of the desirable limit of 45 mg/l and arsenic content in excess of the desirable limit of 0.05 mg/l from ground water sources has been reported by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in localized pockets in various parts of the country. State-wise details of districts parts of which are affected by excess nitrate and excess arsenic in ground water are given in Annexure-I.

As reported by the Ministry of Health, as per WHO guidelines of Drinking Water Quality, the weight of evidence is strongly against there being an association between nitrate exposures in humans and the risk of cancer. There is slight protective effect of these ions on the cardiovascular systems. High concentration of nitrate in drinking water may cause methaemoglobinemia (blue baby disease) in human infants, a potentially fatal syndrome by which oxygen transport in the blood stream is impaired. Prolonged use of arsenic contaminated water for drinking causes diseases like dermatosis, keratosis, conjunctivitis, bronchitis and gastro-enteritis in the initial stage. Peripheral neuropathis, hepatopathy melanosis, de-pigmentation and hyper-keratosis manifest in patients using higher concentrations of arsenic contaminated water over a long period. Gangrene in the limbs and malignanat neoplasm are the last stage manifestation in patients drinking highly arsenic contaminated water over a prolonged period.

"Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate schemes to provide people with contamination free water. However, CGWB monitors ground water quality periodically to map the changes in it and apprises the State Governments of the same for taking necessary remedial measures. It has also drilled exploratory wells tapping contamination free aquifer zones and has handed over these wells to the State Governments, free of cost, for utilisation.

There is no proposal with Ministry of Water Resources to take help of foreign expertise in tackling problems of excess nitrate and excess arsenic in ground water.

Department of Drinking Water Supply, under the Ministry of Rural Development, is also rendering financial and technical assistance to the States for tackling water quality problems in rural areas through a Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). 15% of ARWSP funds have been exclusively earmarked for Sub Mission project for tackling water quality problems. With effect from 01.04.1998, powers to sanction Sub Mission projects have been delegated to States. State-wise releases made under ARWSP during the last three years are given in Annexure-II.

Annexure I

State-wise details of districts parts of which are affected by excess Nitrate and excess arsenic in ground water

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Name of the districts affected by excess Nitrate (more than 45 mg/l)	Name of the districts affected by excess Arsenic (more than 0.05 mg/l)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam, Khammam, Nellore, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Guntur, Kurnool, Karimnagar, Mahaboobnagar, Vijayawada	—
2.	Assam	Lakhimpur	—
3.	Bihar	Gaya, Patna, Nalanda, Nawada, Bhagalpur, Banka	Bhojpur, Patna
4.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Rajnandgaon
5.	Delhi	West, South-West	—
6.	Gujarat	Amreli, Banaskantha, Bhavnagar, Gandhingar, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Kachchh, Mahesana	—
7.	Haryana	Ambala, Bhiwani, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Jind, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Mahendergarh, Rohtak, Sonepat, Sirsa	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Una	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Kathua	—
10.	Jharkhand	Palamu, Sahebganj	-
11.	Karnataka	Bijapur, Bangalore, Belgaum, Bellary, Chiradurga, Dharwar, Gulbarga, Hassan, Kolar, Mandya, Raichur, Shimoga	—
12.	Kerala	Idukki, Kottayam, Palghat, Pathanamthitta, Mallapuram	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhind, Bhopal, Chhindwara, Dhar, Dewas, Gwalior, Indore, Khandwa, Mandsaur, Morena, Shivpuri, Sheore, Ujjain	—
14.	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar, Amravati, Akola, Aurangabad, Bhandara, Beed, Buldana, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Dhule, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kolhapur, Latur, Nagpur, Nanded, Osmanabad, Pune, Sangli, Satara, Sholapur, Thane, Wardha	—
15.	Orissa	Anugul, Baragarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Malkangiri, Nawapara, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sundargarh	—
16.	Punjab	Bhatinda, Faridkot, Ferozepur, Patiala, Sangrur	
17.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Bundi, Churu, Dholpur, Ganganagar, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Sawai Madhopur, Udaipur	

1	2	3	4
18.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Periyar, Salem, NA Ambedkar Nagar, T. Kottabomman, Dindigul-Anna, V.R. Padayachi	—
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh, Agra, Banda, Etawah, Ghaziabad, Hamirpur, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Mainpuri, Mathura, Pilibhit	Ballia
20.	Uttaranchal	Nainital	—
21.	West Bengal	Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, Birbhum, Murshidabad, Nadia, Bankura, Purulia, Howrah, Medinipur	Bardhaman, Howrah, Hoogli, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas
22.	U.T. of Chandigarh	Chandigarh	-

Annexure II

State-wise Releases made under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development (Including Normal-ARWSP, Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Natural Calamities)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Releases (Rs. In Lakhs)		
		2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17823.92	13112.00	16418.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3650.00	4102.40	6825.00
3.	Assam	5252.50	5772.62	9565.62
4.	Bihar	3703.00	3159.50	8941.03
5.	Chhattisgarh	2943.00	2574.00	2269.80
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	9997.75	8458.00	6696.35
8.	Haryana	3346.00	2662.00	2707.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8229.00	5137.00	5438.20
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11196.39	12850.63	12833.60
11.	Jharkhand	1949.80	2060.00	2752.83
12.	Karnataka	14355.36	12062.00	12677.44
13.	Kerala	1899.30	4268.71	4401.00

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9586.08	7310.00	7945.00
15.	Maharashtra	19336.24	15710.00	15971.00
16.	Manipur	947.00	1624.15	2103.00
17.	Meghalaya	2935.50	1811.78	2613.87
18.	Mizoram	2097.00	1386.00	1810.00
19.	Nagaland	2181.00	1626.73	1702.00
20.	Orissa	5829.80	4713.80	6934.00
21.	Punjab	3081.00	2269.00	2815.00
22.	Rajasthan	23595.96	23368.51	30439.76
23.	Sikkim	895.50	763.00	731.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	7558.00	6269.00	8494.13
25.	Tripura	2427.60	1903.00	1575.13
26.	Uttar Pradesh	11349.46	10457.00	13455.00
27.	Uttaranchal	3683.00	2371.50	3265.47
28.	West Bengal	10115.00	6827.00	8270.21
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	2037.00
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	100.00
	Total:	189964.16	164629.34	201787.84

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Water is regarded as an elixir of life. However, sometimes, it is found that water is also venom of our life. The Indian Government has already pleged in UN that it would achieve the Millennium Development Goal by providing total drinking water to all the people by the year 2010. But from the statement it has been found that 22 States in India have been suffering from contamination arising out from an excess nitrate, excess arsenic and excess fluoride. Most of the State Governments are having financial crunch.

In West Bengal, eight districts have been affected by arsenic contamination beyond the tolerance limit of .05 milligram per litre, as was prescribed by the World Health Organisation. Scores of people are reported to have been died due to the long-term arsenic exposure. No medical facilities are available in West Bengal to treat the arsenic patients. The State of West Bengal has been suffering from financial bankruptcy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You put the question relating to the Centre.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Here it has been stated that water being a State subject, may I urge upon the Government to consider this problem? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: This problem has already assumed a pandemic proportion. So, without adhering strictly to the State subject, whether the Government will consider this problem to be treated as a national hazard and draw up a comprehensive plan to deal with the alarming situation.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. I also come from West Bengal. so, I know the problems of the affected people in Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda, 24 Parganas (South and North), etc. No doubt it is a serious problem.

Long back, the Ministry of Rural Development, through their Department of Drinking Water Supply, provided some support to these affected States both from nitrate pollution and also arsenic contamination. Our Ministry, through Central Ground Water Board, continuously provides the technical and scientific support evaluation, assessment and also exploration. But I am very convinced, after study of the papers for the last few months in my Ministry, that unless a comprehensive plan on a war-footing measure is adopted aggressively to address the issue, not leaving the entire burden on the States but substantially sharing by the Centre, which is also the policy of the UPA Government, nothing tangible could be achieved.

Therefore, I am to inform the House through you that after the Session, we have decided, under the aegis of my Ministry, Desk, to have the Second Conference, involving the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Rural Development's Drinking Water Supply Department the Pollution Control Boards and the State Government representatives for preparing a comprehensive plan which will conclude its strategy upto 2010 so that the entire problem will be taken care of at the end of the Tenth Plan or at the beginning of the Eleventh Plan.

I would also like to inform you that with the help of the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal in October at Kolkata, we had already addressed the quality problem and a very new line of action has been adopted through a comprehensive scheme.

The scheme could not be implemented because the matter was left to the State through ARWSP Programme. The State is facing some fund crunch. Therefore, we are now considering with the help of the Ministry of Rural Development to take it back to Centre to help the States.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for his sensitivity. The scale of environmental disaster can be greater than any seen before. It is beyond the Bhopal accident in 1984 and the Chernobyl, Ukraine accident in 1986, as was stated by Mr. Steward Mahrd, a noted biochemist. Sir, over-extraction of ground water is one of the major causes for the depletion of water level. Not only that, it is also aggravating the arsenic contamination, let alone nitrate and fluoride, all over the country. So, considering this view, will the Government adopt any plan to regulate extraction of ground water?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, insofar as extraction of ground water is concerned, the hon. Member is perhaps aware, and I would like to inform the House that in India, the ground water level is very fast depleting and posing an alarming problem, if you cannot arrest it. Therefore, we have adopted several mechanism. One of which is rainwater harvesting to improve the ground water level. We are also going for ground water recharge and also ground water regulation. In spite of all these three methods, there are a few dark zones, but I would like to inform the hon. Member that in the dark zone, it is not because of extraction that the contamination of arsenic or nitrate is being found; it is because of the municipal waste in the urban areas, the over-use of chemical fertiliser on the top soil for not having enough resistance, and their concentration is one of the causes of excess nitrate. Arsenic is a natural phenomenon 20 to 50 metres below the ground level in some cases, especially in Nadia and in some cases, even below 80 to 100 metres, the acquifer zone free from arsenic contamination is detected. Accordingly, we have drilled a few tube-wells and handed over to the State Government. Those are yielding good results and much more are in the pipeline. But actually the answer to this issue—internationally, it is experimented in Bangladesh—lies only in supply of surface water in the area. On that issue, as I stated earlier, we are addressing it with the concerned Ministry's co-operation.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister of Water Resources is extremely re-assuring. However, I have seen the note that has been given to us in which there has been a special mention made that there is no great danger from nitrate poisoning, but the note does not quite mention what is the danger posed by arsenic poisoning. Arsenic poisoning is extremely important because way back in seventies, Bangladesh suffered a case of mass poisoning on a scale that has not been seen in the world in recent times. Almost a quarter million people died every year for about ten years and the threat was not quite assessed until a conclave in 1995 in Kolkata. Only thereafter, the threat from arsenic poisoning was brought to our notice.

Now, my submission and request to the hon. Minister is whether he would like to pay special attention to the threat posed by arsenic poisoning, especially in those States about which there is a mention in the List of States annexed to the reply. At the same time, only five districts have been mentioned of Bihar. It is very curious that four out of these five districts are in one zone. So, will the Ministry of Water Resources like to do some special study of other districts left out in this zone, which will include South Bihar and my constituency, Aurangabad, because then it will be re-assuring to us that the right thing is being done?

MR. SPEAKER; That is a suggestion. You have put your question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, first of all there is a standard by the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) and other allied research institutes. It states that violation of a level of 0.05 mg/ltr. concentration of arsenic contamination is a danger of an extreme nature. Preliminarily, a primary report was made available to us and it was found that the people are having enough resistance power—especially the aged people—and they can afford to resist it for a certain period of time. But the infants and children are first of all badly affected with skin disorder, and then, in many cases, it becomes a threat to their lives also. Skin disorder of various forms—as reported to us by the Health Ministry—is the first expression of the serious disorder caused because of contaminated arsenic consumption.

As far as nitrate is concerned, it is not threat for the aged people, and they need not be afraid. It is not even established that cancerous growth is there as a result of this. But I would like to inform you that the most saddest part is that nitrate is creating havoc for the infant child in the sense that their cardiovascular system is totally impaired to inhale the oxygen. As a result of this, holes in the heart are being detected in the infants. Therefore, nitrate is also an equal threat to the children. The World Health Organisation's (WHO) standard is being prescribed by the Health Ministry, and directed to the Rural Development Ministry also. They tell me that they are following this standard.

As far as my Ministry is concerned, as I told you, I personally consider that enough has not been done to address this issue, and I have no hesitation to admit it. Therefore, I got a directive from the UPA that an aggressive decision should be taken involving all the Ministries on war-footing to respond to this issue, and at least, protect the infants from nitrate poisoning, and the aged people from the arsenic poisoning. Thank you.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, the Minister is well aware of the issues, and he has given a very detailed answer. I would like to ask a few points relating to this issue. Nitrate, as he has said, is there because we have used them aggressively, and over-used them in fertilizers. The Minister cannot do anything about nitrate poisoning unless the Ministry of Agriculture and other Ministries take a policy decision on the use of nitrate. We are using 20 per cent of the world's supply, and the use of nitrate leads to the creation of black holes in the ocean. Nearly, 129 of them have been identified so far, and it is only because of nitrate being flushed into the water. Hence, it is not just a question of infants, but it is a question of losing all the ocean areas as well as killing of all sea-lives, and in-turn, killing human beings along with them. Is the Government going to take a policy decision on the use of nitrate in fertilizers?

As regards arsenic poisoning, it is not only in Bihar and Bengal, but there has been a large amount of arsenic poisoning in all the river basins, especially in Ballia and the areas around it in Uttar Pradesh (UP). The UP Government has consistently denied this fact to the point of calling the researchers as terrorists. Could you please tell us the situation regarding arsenic poisoning in UP?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to inform the House once again, and repeat what I had said earlier in the House. The issue concerning nitrate including the sea-coast; sea-life; and human-life has not been addressed. Therefore, I am addressing this issue with all the concerned Ministries under our aegis to take

steps on war-footing immediately after this Session. I have studied the whole issue, and I am convinced that enough has not been done so far. Therefore, we shall involve the Ministry of Agriculture also in the application of chemical fertilizers on the lands to the percentage required. I am saying this because when the top-soil loses the resistance, then the nitrate contamination goes deep into the soil.

In so far a Ballia is concerned, yes, it is established beyond doubt and all scientific evaluations done by the CGWB show that some pockets in Ballia are definitely arsenic contaminated zones. Therefore, I have taken a policy decision, and Bengal has come forward to respond to the crisis. The things have not been taken up as seriously as they should have been in Ballia in UP; pockets of Bihar, namely, Bhojpur and Patna; and Chhattisgarh's Rajnandangaon.

Therefore, I have taken a decision that I would undertake a tour of these areas with my own team and persuade the State Governments to respond to this issue in a manner similar to what the West Bengal Government did.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: In the answer, you have included Palakkad District as a district affected by excess nitrate and arsenic content in ground water. There is a long-standing dispute between the local people and the company engaged in the manufacture of Coca-Cola, and that matter is now before the Supreme Court which will decide whether it is permissible on the part of the Company to take ground water from there. If this is the case, then the soft-drink being manufactured by Coca-Cola would also have been contaminated because they are drawing ground water in Plachimada and there is a long-standing dispute over that. The local Panchayat had taken up the matter before the Supreme Court.

Now, my simple question is whether the Government will intervene in the matter and take a firm stand that ground water over there is badly and adversely affected. People are agitated because during summer season, the wells get dried. All these issues can be settled if the Government makes a thorough investigation in the matter. Finally, what will be the state of affairs, so far as the ground water in Palakkad District is concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: He has exhaustively answered it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to inform the hon. Member that Kerala is not having any established contaminated zone of arsenic. There is only nitrate concentration in the districts of Idukki, Kottayam, Palghat, Pathanamthitta and Mallapuram.

MR. SPEAKER: He is talking about the Coca-Cola plant at Plachimada in Palghat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: So far as nitrate content is concerned, I have already answered that. Coming to the question of a soft-drink manufacturing company using that kind of water, which is over and above the limits, it was already reported in various newspapers, and the Parliamentary Committee gave its report. Our Government is actually working on that line. The Group of Ministers submitted their report, and a comprehensive food law will be brought before the House. I hope, that will take care of everything.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar, please be very brief because there is not much time left.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has produced a state-wise list about declining water level in the country and the amount of nitrate and arsenic therein. The list shows that a number of districts in Poorvanchal and Bundelkhand of Uttar Pradesh are affected in particular. In this context, Koshambi, Fatehpur and Allahabad are the districts of Uttar Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is excess of brackishness and nitrate in water in Allahabad. Whether the Government with the help of foreign expertise propose to formulate any concrete action plan to check the receding water level and make ground water free from nitrates and arsenic contamination? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER; He has answered it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Would you do something by getting the survey conducted on this action plan? Secondly, you have provided funds of Rs. 13,455 crore to Uttar Pradesh. Would you enhance this allocation to the tune of Rs. 20 thousand crore?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the money is concerned, it has already been decided that the state Governments could spend 15 per cent amount under the AIWSP scheme themselves without obtaining permission of the Union Government. So far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, I would ascertain about the amount they have been able to spend out of that amount. If they require something, we are ready to help them.

So far as districts are concerned, I have already submitted that list to you.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that the pesticide that is mingled with our ground-water along with arsenic and nitrate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I will take only half-a-minute.

MR. SPEAKER: We should give opportunity to young Members.

[Translation]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: As pesticides are used in the fields, what are the steps being taken by the Government to discontinue their use and to ensure supply of safe drinking water to the people?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already said that there are diverse opinions regarding this step. There is one type of pollution as per the opinion of the Pollution Board, there is drinking water pollution from the viewpoint of the Ministry of Health. There are targets and standards for quality improvement set by the Rural Drinking Water Mission being run under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission and there are technical methods of our Central Ground Water Board— all these four have failed to fight it jointly in a planned manner. That's why, I am adopting the first method from the next month. Under that, I would submit before the House firm steps and policies as to what we are doing collectively in this regard. We would participate in this workshop alongwith the Ministry of Agriculture, of which Shri Sharad Power is the Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Due to the reduced time available to us, we could take only two questions. Even then, I am thankful to all the hon. Members for their kind cooperation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Employees Pension Scheme in Huge Deficit

*403. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 managed by EPFO is facing huge deficit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide fund for the shortfall or recognize the deficit as a contingent liability so that the workers' interests are protected;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interest of workers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures proposed to ensure sustainability of EPS, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Based on a sample survey data, the 7th Annual Valuation Report of Employees Pension Scheme has disclosed a projected deficit of Rs. 19,291 crores as on 31.03.2003. The deficit is mainly on account of raising of the wage ceiling from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,500 w.e.f. June, 2001; declining rate of interest on the investments.

(c) to (e) The Projected deficit can be covered by taking certain corrective measures suggested in the Valuation Report. These include: (a) the retirement age for members may be increased from 58 to 60 years. (b) Withdrawals under the scheme need to be controlled. (c) The existing contribution rate of 8.33% should be raised suitably or the benefits under the scheme be reduced suitably. (d) Any change in the scheme benefits should always be done only after actuarial assessment and the recommendations the Actuary may make should be simultaneously implemented.

There may thus, be no need for the Government to provide funds to meet the projected deficit.

[Translation]

Prices of Life Saving Drugs

*404. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

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

(a) whether the prices of life saving drugs for AIDS, Cancer and some other diseases are apprehended to go up due to the amendments in Patent Act and implementation of Value Added Tax (VAT) recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the Patent Act and VAT are responsible for the hike in prices of drugs alongwith the names of drugs thereof;

(c) the steps taken to control the prices of life saving drugs;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review new system to charge excise duty on the basis of the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on drugs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) The existing patent law in the country provides for a strong and comprehensive set of safeguards, an *inter-alia*, has effective provisions to ensure availability of products at reasonable price through compulsory licensing. Many of the drugs already in the Indian market, including those in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003, are off-patent and their pricing would not get affected by the new patent regime. Similarly under the VAT regime, with the availability of input tax credit on VAT paid on procurement of raw material by the manufacturers of life saving drugs, the cost of production is expected to come down. Hence, increase in the prices of some life saving drugs may not be very steep. At present there is no proposal to review the levy of excise duty based on retail sale price of drugs.

[English]

Import of Breeding Cattle from Australia

*405. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have imported breeding cattle from Australia for breed improvement under the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding during the last three years;

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

(c) whether a large number of such cattle died;

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken up this issue with the Australian authorities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Australian authorities thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. During April 2002, 201 breeding cattle were imported by Andhra Pradesh (160 Nos.) and West Bengal (41 Nos.) from Australia for breed improvement under the National Project on Cattle & Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) of which 151 animals have died so far. During the post import quarantine, some animals were tested positive for exotic diseases. The Government of Australia was approached for deportation of the animals. The exporting country refused to take back the animals on the plea that under Australian Quarantine Policy, the animals cannot return to Australia.

[Translation]

Procurement of Mustard

*406. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed by the Government for procurement of mustard during the current season;

(b) the quantum of mustard already procured;

(c) whether the slow pace of procurement has made it difficult to achieve the target;

(d) if so, whether this has forced the farmers to sell their produce to private traders at unremunerative price; and

(e) if so, the details of the arrangements made by the Government to procure mustard at Minimum Support Price alongwith the number of centres opened, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), the procurement is undertaken without any quantitative ceiling and continues till the prices stabilize at Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the Government. As such, no target is fixed for procurement under PSS. As on 17.4.2005, a quantity of 10.08 lakh MT of mustard seed has been procured by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) under PSS during Rabi-2005, crop season.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) NAFED, as a Central Government designated agency has made adequate arrangements for procurement of mustard seed. These include *inter-alia* procurement of gunny bags, booking of storage space and sanction of Cash Credit Limit by RBI. 525 procurement centres are presently in operation. Their State-wise break up is as under:

State	No. of procurement centres
Rajasthan	264
Gujarat	44
Haryana	45
Madhya Pradesh	150
Uttar Pradesh	14
Delhi	2
Punjab	4
Chhattisgarh	2
Total:	525

Research by Delhi University on Genetically Modified Crops

*407. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the research conducted by Delhi University in regard to genetically modified crops cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sought any report from the State Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh in regard to cultivation of these crops; and

(d) if so, the details of the report submitted by each State and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Transgenic mustard hybrid, reportedly giving high yield, has been experimentally developed. The transgenic is under evaluation by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and is yet to be approved for release. In addition, experimental transgenics in other crops under a multi-institutional project supported by DBT are under different stages of development.

(c) and (d) No such details regarding cultivation have been sought from the states mentioned regarding the

mustard hybrid developed by the Delhi University as the transgenic hybrid is still under biosafety and contained field trial by DBT.

[English]

Medical Tourism

*408. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote medical tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "OTs getting ready for tourists" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated March 23, 2005;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry of Tourism has taken up this issue with Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Home Affairs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when a fool proof strategy will be finalised for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with Ministry of Tourism have set up a Task Force with a view to promoting India as a Health Tourism Destination across the world so as to gainfully utilize the Health Care expertise and infrastructure available in the country.

Ministry of Tourism has published a brochure and CD-ROM titled 'Body, Mind and Soul' giving information on ancient and proven healing techniques which are distributed by India Tourism Offices in India and abroad.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Task Force set up for the purpose consists of the members from the Health Organizations, Travel Trade, officials from the various Ministries such as Ministry of Health, Tourism, Civil Aviation, Finance, External Affairs, Home Affairs, State Governments, etc.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Fertilizers

*409. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the demand and supply of fertilizers in the country at present;

(b) whether the production of certain fertilizers in the country is not as per their demand;

(c) if so, the manner in which the demand of these fertilizers is met;

(d) the quantum of fertilizers imported during the last three years and the foreign exchange spent thereon;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the subsidy on the fertilizers;

(f) the extent of success achieved by the Government as a result of these steps;

(g) whether the Government has chalked out any short term and long term programme to make the country self-reliant in the production of fertilizers; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The demand and supply of major fertilizer namely Urea, DAP and MOP in the country during 2004-05 was as under:

(In Lakh MT)

Particular	Demand	Supply/Availability
Urea	214.08	223.68
DAP	70.60	73.54
MOP	23.21	25.85

(b) and (c) The country is nearly self sufficient in meeting the demand of urea. Annual installed capacity of 205.12 lakh MT of urea coupled with Oman Indian

Fertilizers project having production capacity of 16.52 lakh MT per annum of urea will be sufficient to meet the demand. In case of DAP installed capacity is higher than demand. However, any gap between assessed demand and indigenous production is being met through imports. In the absence of commercially exploitable potash (K) resource in the country, the entire demand of potassic fertilizers for direct application as well as for production of complex fertilizers is met through imports.

(d) Urea is the only fertilizer, which is under price and partial distribution control of Government of India and is imported on Government account. All other grades of fertilizers are decontrolled fertilizers and are privately imported. The quantum of imported fertilizers along with foreign exchange spent thereon for urea during the last three years, is as under:

Year	Urea (LMT)	Foreign Exchange spent (US$)	DAP (LMT)	MOP (LMT)
2002-03	—	—	3.70	25.32
2003-04	—	—	7.34	25.79
2004-05	6.41	1,52,482,702.53	6.43	34.09

The foreign exchange spent on DAP and MOP is not available with the Department as the import of these fertilizers is on private account and price is negotiated directly by the private importers.

(e) and (f) With the objective of making available fertilizers to farmers at affordable prices, urea, being the only controlled fertilizer, is sold at statutorily notified maximum retail price (MRP), and the decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, such as DAP, MOP and NPK complexes are sold at indicative MRPs. MRP of single super phosphate is indicated by the respective State Governments. As the cost of production of fertilizers is generally more than the MRP/indicative MRPs, the benefit of subsidy/concession on fertilizers is passed on the farmers in the form of making them available fertilizers at subsidized selling prices.

(g) and (h) The Government has been pursuing policies which are conducive for encouraging investment in fertilizer sector so as to achieve self-sufficiency in meeting the indigenous requirement of major fertilizers. In case of urea, the Government has recently announced the pricing policy for investment to be made in (a) new and expansion projects of urea, and (b)) existing non-gas based urea units converting to natural gas/LNG for feedstock/fuel. In order to augment indigenous availability of urea, IFFCO and KRIBHCO the multi-state cooperative societies, are setting up a joint venture in Sur, Oman with Oman Oil Company and the entire production of 16.52 lakh MT annually of urea will be bought by the government. On the other hand, installed capacity (54.20 lakh MT in nutrient terms) of phosphatic fertilizers is enough to meet the current level of requirement (average consumption of 46-47 lakh MT of last three years.) in the absence of commercially exploitable potash sources in the country, the entire demand of potassic fertilizers for direct application as well as for production of complex fertilizers is met through imports.

[English]

Funds for Development of National Zoological Parks

*410. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the names of recognised and non-recognised National Zoological Parks (NZPs)/Sanctuaries/Forest Reserves at present in the country including Delhi, State-wise;

(b) the annual expenditure being incurred by the Government for their upkeep;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from certain States regarding allocation of funds for various schemes like development of National Zoological Parks, prevention of forest fires, security and forest development etc. during the last three years and current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the funds provided and utilized during the said period, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(e) whether any study has been undertaken on the untimely death of certain animals in various zoos;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the guidelines issued by Central Zoo Authority *vis-a-vis* action taken by the Government for protecting wild animals in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The details of National Parks/ Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves/Elephant Reserves/National Zoological Parks/Recognized Zoos/Non Recognized Zoos are in the enclosed Statement-I. The state-wise details of National Parks and Sanctuaries are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) The details regarding annual release of funds under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for 2004-2005 are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(c) and (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes consolidated proposals are received annually from the States that include components on prevention of forest fires, security and forest development, etc. Funds released/ utilized under various Schemes during last three years are given in the enclosed Statements-IV, V & VI. No money has been released so far during the current year i.e. 2005-06.

(e) No such study has been undertaken by Government of India. However, post mortem is conducted in each case of death of animals in the zoos.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The Central Zoo Authority from time to time issues guidelines with respect to proper upkeep and health care of wild animals in zoos which are being complied by all the States.

Statement I

Funds for Development of National Zoological Parks

Sl.No.	Category	Number
1.	National Parks	92
2.	Sanctuaries	500
3.	Tiger Reserves	28
4.	Elephant Reserves	24
5.	National Zoological Parks	1
6.	Recognized Zoos	163
7.	Non Recognized Zoos	91

Statement II

National Parks and Sanctuaries in India

Sl.No.	State	National Park No.	Sanctuaries No.	Total No.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9	96	105
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4	21	25
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	11	13
4.	Assam	5	15	21
5.	Bihar	1	11	12
6.	Chandigarh	0	2	2
7.	Chhattisgarh	3	10	13
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	1	1
9.	Daman and Diu	0	1	1
10.	Delhi	0	1	1

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Goa	1	6	7
12.	Gujarat	4	22	26
13.	Haryana	2	9	11
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2	32	34
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	16	20
16.	Jharkhand	1	10	11
17.	Karnataka	5	21	26
18.	Kerala	3	12	15
19.	Lakshadweep	0	1	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	9	25	34
21.	Maharashtra	5	36	41
22.	Manipur	1	5	6
23.	Meghalaya	2	3	5
24.	Mizoram	2	5	7
25.	Nagaland	1	3	4
26.	Orissa	2	18	20
27.	Punjab	0	10	10
28.	Rajasthan	4	23	28
29.	Sikkim	1	6	7
30.	Tamil Nadu	5	20	25
31.	Tripura	0	4	4
32.	Uttar Pradesh	1	23	24
33.	Uttaranchal	6	6	12
34.	West Bengal	5	15	20
	Total	92	500	592

Statement III

Funds for Development of National Zoological Parks

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Expenditure in 2004-2005 (in Crores)
1.	Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	47.80
2.	Project Elephant	13.33
3.	Project Tiger	28.24

Statement IV

Funds for Development of National Zoological Parks

Details of funds released to States under CSS "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries"

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	20.75	—	69.40
2.	Andhra Pradesh	82.725	89.30856	71.70
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	105.035	151.046	111.86
4.	Assam	162.135	93.68	213.45
5.	Bihar	00	24.65	—
6.	Chandigarh	14.00	—	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	92.025	295.93469	227.29
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15.25	—	20.00
9.	Goa	Nil	36.45607	37.50
10.	Gujarat	90.365	52.14	223.93
11.	Haryana	18.75	24.84	45.10
12.	Himachal Pradesh	93.853	168.9605	343.52
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	99.90	138.82492	63.20
14.	Jharkhand	29.89	54.6228	77.59
15.	Karnataka	599.017	693.6909	546.24
16.	Kerala	198.978	188.371	238.78879
17.	Madya Pradesh	196.332	344.35594	268.4755
18.	Maharashtra	168.20	165.24596	108.05
19.	Manipur	64.50	57.80	110.588
20.	Meghalaya	40.25	93.07	84.82
21.	Mizoram	235.60	231.836	315.0412
22.	Nagaland	107.84	42.70	32.32
23.	Orissa	82.57	187.25	370.27
24.	Punjab	Nil	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Rajasthan	366.273	214.819	246.62
26.	Sikkim	132.76	108.92	70.40
27.	Tamil Nadu	136.11	139.76	158.75
28.	Tripura	101.88	245.26484	49.125
29.	Uttar Pradesh	137.36	164.37	287.53
30.	Uttaranchal	77.985	96.39	68.20
31.	West Bengal	223.67	214.165	317.24
	Total	3694.00	4318.74218	4780.22449

Statement V

Funds Released under Project Elephant

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003 Released	2003-2004 Released	2004-05 Released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50	55.00	48.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52	61.00	59.00
3.	Assam	116	134.100	130.00
4.	Jharkhand	45.00	93.00	105.96
5.	Karnataka	93	149.660	186.22
6.	Kerala	111.88	188.280	167.40
7.	Meghalaya	41.00	64.00	70.00
8.	Nagaland	49.00	42.00	29.00
9.	Orissa	108.39	116.100	137.96
10.	Tamil Nadu	71.26	117.00	84.00
11.	Uttaranchal	107	129.00	138.90
12.	West Bengal	86.47	119.950	148.54
13.	Manipur	—	—	Nil
14.	Tripura	3.00	16.00	17.00
15.	Mizoram	5.00	—	Nil
	Total	939.00	1285.09	133.98

Statement VI

Release of Funds to Tiger Reserve under Project Tiger Scheme during 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Tiger Reserve	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1.	Bandhavgarh	170.87	90.12	85.00
2.	Bandipur	170.385	.160.39	367.095
3.	Bhadra	119.195	108.93	119.197
4.	Buxa	30.00	52.45	50.75
5.	Corbett	1680	200.91	200.12
6.	Dampa	98.32	67.56	119.69
7.	Dudhwa	32.75	173.585	175.215
8.	Indravati	32.48	80.25	27.75
9.	Kalakad Mundanthurai	125.00	35.00	80.00
10.	Kanha	232.37	282.86	177.50
11.	Manas	50.70	50.00	—
12.	Melghat	71.462	60.00	93.183
13.	Nagarjunsagar	21.10	22.89	15.00
14.	Namdapha	35.875	38.75	—
15.	Nameri	15.00	25.00	—
16.	Pakke	—	30.00	35.00
17.	Palamau	18.00	35.99	72.5005
18.	Panna	287.50	563.53	60.00
19.	Pench (MP)	47.80	68.97	89.93
20.	Pench (Mah.)	104.106	97.19	87.77
21.	Periyar	63.75	120.68	105.75
22.	Ranthambore	225.92	14.245	—
23.	Sariska	69.00	144.085	75.00
24.	Satpura	47.90	97.92	170.00
25.	Similipal	32.88	151.91	116.4395
26.	Sunerban	138.33	172.72	274.74
27.	Tadoba-Andheri	446.22	71.26	142.06
28.	Valmiki	25.00	50.00	85.00
	Total	2879.895	3067.2105	2824.69

Working Group on National Employment Services

*411. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether the working group on National Employment Services has highlighted serious complaints of exploitation of job seekers by the private placement agencies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check the activities of unscrupulous placement agencies;

(c) the details of plans drawn up to regulate the functioning of these agencies mushrooming across the country; and

(d) the main points of the plan and reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) to safeguard the interests of the job-seekers, Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to consider regulation of the functioning of these agencies, if necessary, as the subject comes under their purview.

Labour Reforms

*412. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether a Conference of State Labour Ministers was called by the Union Government on April 22, 2005 to discuss labour reforms;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions given by various State Labour Ministers;

(c) whether the Government has finalised a draft proposal for labour reforms after the Conference of the State Labour Ministers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reaction of the Government on these suggestions and the time by which draft proposal for labour reforms is likely to be prepared?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Steel

*413. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of steel produced in the country during each of the last three years, plant-wise;

(b) whether the production of steel in the country is not at par with its demand;

(c) if so, the details indicating its annual demand and supply;

(d) the reasons for not meeting the demand;

(e) whether any target has been fixed to augment the steel production in the near future;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Government does not monitor the production of steel in the private sector. However, the production at major steel plants in public sector and the integrated steel plant (Tisco) in the Private Sector is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No Sir. The production of steel in the country is in excess of the domestic demand.

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

(e) and (f) Depending upon their perceptions of demand and supply position, targets are generally set by the individual steel producers. However, as a long term measure, in the proposed National Steel Policy (NSP), it

has been estimated that in order to become self reliant and globally competitive in the steel sector the country would require indigenous production of over 100 million tonnes of steel per annum by 2020. In order to achieve the goal of over 100 million tonnes of steel production by 2019-20 the NSP seeks to remove the supply side constraints to the growth of this industry in an open, globally integrated and competitive environment. Apart from the abroad based policy statements, the NSP also chalks out specific action points to achieve the policy objectives.

(g) The Government has taken several steps to increase the production of steel such as modernisation and expansion of public sector steel plants and adoption of various policy measures to encourage creation of additional steel production capacity in the private sector. Indian steel producers have also taken steps to meet the domestic requirement of steel including upgradation of technology, improvement in productivity, improvement in quality of products and adoption of an appropriate product mix to meet the requirement of the consumers.

Statement

The year-wise production of saleable steel in the country during each of the last three years, plant-wise

(Unit 000't)

Plant	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Bhilai Steel Plant	3616	4091	3935
Durgapur Steel Plant	1585	1612	1635
Rourkela Steel Plant	1527	1575	1556
Bokaro Steel Plant	3358	3450	3524
Alloy Steel Plant	99	113	128
Salem Steel Plant	83	85	149
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant	84	100	102
Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	289	258	287
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant	3056	3169	3173
Tata Iron & Steel Co.	3980	4060	4110

Subsidy on Phosphatic Fertilisers

*414. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any alternative arrangement for providing subsidy on Phosphatic fertilisers during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fertilizer producers are facing difficulty in procuring raw material from the international market in the absence of such and alternative arrangement;

(d) if so, whether the production of fertilisers is likely to fall as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not taking any decision on an alternative arrangement in this regard and the time by which it is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The Government is providing concession on Phosphatic fertilisers under the Concession

Scheme for decontrolled P&K fertilisers. The concession rates for Phosphatic & Potassic fertilisers are being worked out as per the recommendations of Tariff Commission. The Government had already approved parameters.

(c) The import of fertiliser raw materials/intermediates is free. The Phosphatic fertiliser manufacturers are importing these commodities freely as per their commercial decision. Government is updating the delivered price of Phosphatic Fertilisers quarterly for working out concession rates as per the approved methodology after taking into account the prevailing international prices of raw materials & intermediates.

(d) and (e) No sir, the total production of Phosphatic fertilizers covered under the concession scheme was 120.05 lakh MT during the year 2004-05. The likely production for the year 2005-06 would be about 149 lakh MT as per the production plan indicated by the Phosphatic fertilisers manufacturers.

[English]

Cooperation with China in Agricultural Sector

*415. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal for cooperation with China in the agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue was discussed during the recent visit of Minister of Agriculture to China; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Following the recent visit to China by the Union Minister for Agriculture, Government is contemplating to have a formal framework for cooperation between India and China in the field of agriculture and allied-sectors. Further details need to be worked out in consultation with the Chinese side by exchange of views and negotiations through normal diplomatic channels.

[Translation]

Bonded Labourers

*416. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bounded labourers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of bonded labourers freed during the Tenth Five Year Plan alongwith the amount allocated to States and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to implement the programme related to their rehabilitation, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch any concrete and comprehensive new schemes to eradicate this inhuman practice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law throughout the country under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. However, incidence of Bonded labour is reported by the State Governments from time to time and efforts by the State Government concerned are made to release and rehabilitate them as soon as possible. As such, number of labour engaged as bonded labour in the country, state-wise, at any point of time is not maintainable. Since the enactment of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, 266,283 bonded labourers have been rehabilitated. The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme since May, 1978 under which an amount of Rs. 20,000 is provided to each released bonded labour for his/her rehabilitation to be shared by the Central and State Government concerned on 50:50 basis. In the case of north-eastern States, entire amount of Rs. 20,000 is provided by the Central Government. In addition, for survey of bonded labour, an amount of Rs. 2.00 lakhs per district (once in three years), Rs. 10.00 lakhs per annum for awareness generation and Rs. 5.00 lakhs per annum for evaluatory studies are provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs. No grants are provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) directly by the Central Government under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme.

The number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated and Central assistance provided to States for rehabilitation, awareness, survey and evaluatory studies under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme during Tenth Five Year Plan are given in enclosed Statement. At present, there is no proposal to launch any new Scheme in addition to the already existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme for identification and rehabilitation of Bonded Labour.

Statement

No. of Bonded Labour released and rehabilitated and Central assistance provided to the States for rehabilitation, awareness, survey and evaluatory studies under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	State	No. of Bonded Labour freed and rehabilitated	Central assistance provided to State Governments (in Rs. Lakhs) for				
			Rehabilitation	Awareness	Survey of bonded labour	Evaluatory studies	Total
2002-03	Maharashtra	5	0.50	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.50
	Punjab	69	6.90	Nil	Nil	Nil	6.90
	Karnataka	1854	185.40	Nil	Nil	Nil	185.40
	Chhattisgarh	124	12.40	Nil	32.00	Nil	44.40
	Haryana	21	0.11	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.11
	Bihar	125	12.50	7.00	Nil	5.00	24.50
	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	10.00	10.00	5.00	25.00
	Jharkhand	—	—	10.00	Nil	Nil	10.00
	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	Nil	8.00	Nil	8.00
	Uttaranchal	—	—	10.00	16.00	Nil	26.00
2003-04	Bihar	314	31.40	Nil	Nil	Nil	31.40
	Uttaranchal	5	0.50	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.50
	Uttar Pradesh	398	39.80	Nil	Nil	Nil	39.80
	Andhra Pradesh	1699	169.90	Nil	Nil	Nil	169.90
	Orissa	39	3.31	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.31
	Rajasthan	10	1.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.00
	Maharashtra	—	—	Nil	24.00	Nil	24.00
2004-05	Madhya Pradesh	265	16.91	Nil	Nil	—	16.91
	Bihar	281	28.10	Nil	Nil	Nil	28.10
	Orissa	19	1.90	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.90
	Uttar Pradesh	41	4.05	Nil	Nil	Nil	4.05
	Karnataka	64	6.40	Nil	Nil	Nil	6.40
	Delhi	—	—	Nil	18.00	Nil	18.00
	Manipur	—	—	5.00	Nil	Nil	5.00

Awareness of Water Conservation

*417. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether water table in 286 districts in 18 States in India has depleted by 4 meters during the last two decades;

(b) if so, the reasons for depletion in water table;

(c) whether lack of awareness among people towards water conservation is one of the reasons for depletion of water table and crores of gallons of water go waste every day due to mismanagement in conservation of water;

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring awareness among the people; and

(e) the steps likely to be taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop further depletion of water table and for conservation of water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) Long-term analysis of ground water levels by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, during the last two decades (1985-2004) indicates decline in ground water level of more than 4 meters in some parts of 274 districts in 16 States. The main reasons for depletion in ground water table are rapid urbanization, increasing demand for agriculture, industrial and domestic purposes, change in cropping pattern, excessive withdrawal of ground water, poor rainfall etc. Lack of awareness among people towards water conservation is also one of the reasons for depletion of water table.

Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take steps to bring awareness among the people towards water conservation and also to take steps to stop further depletion of water table and for conservation of water. However, the following steps have also been taken by the Union Government in this regard:

(i) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.

(ii) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(iii) With a view to create awareness among the people for water conservation and preservation of water, the Ministry of Water Resources and its other organizations organized various activities. Ministry of Water Resources has participated in many fairs, exhibitions etc., like India International Trade Fair-2004 at Delhi, Kolkata Festival-2004 at Kolkata, Muncipalika-2005 at Delhi and Tunneling Asia-2005 at Delhi etc. The Year 2003 was celebrated as Fresh Water Year all over India for creating awareness among the people. Similarly, World Water Day/ Water Resources Day is also celebrated every year when stress on mass awareness among people for water conservation is given.

(iv) A scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting for implementation during the remaining part of the X Five Year Plan is under consideration.

(v) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(vi) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

(vii) States/UTs have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control.

(viii) All the States/Union Territories have been requested for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union territories to allow rebate in property tax to persons, who adopt roof top rainwater harvesting in their premises.

(ix) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rainwater harvesting to around 1800 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(x) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting *(www.cgwb.net)* to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(xi) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Harynana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

[English]

Report of National Forest Commission

*418. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Forest Commission set up in 2003 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the report is likely to be submitted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Forest Commission has not been able to complete its work by the due date i.e. 06.02.2005 and on the request made by it the Central Government has extended its period by six months i.e up to 06.08.2005.

(d) The National Forest Commission is expected to submit its report by 06.08.2005. Further action related to examination of the report, decision on the recommendations and implementation of the decision taken by the Central Government will follow thereafter.

[Translation]

Assistance to States for Tourism Development

*419. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide any special package for development of tourism in states;

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

(c) the States who have asked for Central Assistance for promotion of tourism; and

(d) the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Development of Tourism in the States is a continuous process. The Ministry of Tourism offers financial assistance to the State Governments under its scheme of Product/ Infrastructure, Development of Tourism Circuits and Destinations etc. The details of assistance provided to State Governments is as per enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the Tenth Plan (as on 31.12.2004)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (upto 31.12.2004)		
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	896.44	11	2750.81	2191.92
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	6	955.88	742.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	6	1285.70	905.52
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.23	1527.55
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	4	1086.26	869.01
6.	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	2	10.00	8.00
7.	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14
8.	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	5	678.55	501.64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	5	2620.00	1736.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	2	805.00	644.00
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	1	474.97	379.97
12.	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	8	2432.76	1914.37
13.	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	5	2148.63	1718.88
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	8	1285.46	783.03
15.	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	6	1576.38	1260.10
16.	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18.	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	3	1081.28	927.09
19.	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	5	2165.69	1731.40
20.	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	5	1316.48	999.69
21.	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	4	846.41	561.26
22.	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	2	39.31	31.45
23.	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	6	1005.81	805.13
24.	Tamilnadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	5	876.92	702.72
25.	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	450.17	135.16	0	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	3	1412.93	1125.56
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	7	1037.43	825.19
28.	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	5	480.04	384.03
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	1	457.00	365.60
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32.	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	1	500.00	400.00
33.	Daman and Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
	Total	212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	130	32784.16	25320.26

[English]

Use of Manganese Based Octane Enhancer by Oil Companies

*420. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to improve the mileage vehicles some oil companies are trying to use manganese based octane enhancer which could be hazardous to both human and environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board and Environment Protection Control Authority has taken this issue with petroleum companies;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to ban this chemical immediately?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

4375. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

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

(a) the terms and conditions for utilization of the corpus fund of Rs. 5 crore created to conduct long term epidemiological studies by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), on the gas affected persons in Bhopal;

(b) if so, whether these terms and conditions have been fulfilled;

(c) whether initial guidelines for the treatment of gas affected persons required to be changed in view of later findings; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to implement these modifications?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Groundnut Research Centre

4376. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Groundnut Research Centre has recently conducted certain researches to obtain two crops of groundnut in one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide high yielding seeds of groundnut and technical know-how to grow two crops in a year to the farmers of Northern India particularly eastern Uttar Pradesh?

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) Growing two crops of groundnut in a year is a common practice followed by the farmers of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat, where adequate irrigation facilities exist to support the second crop (rabi or summer) of groundnut.

(c) Possibility of growing two crops of groundnut in one year in Eastern Uttar Pradesh is remote in view of unfavourable agro-climatic situations and growing conditions prevalent in the region.

Welfare of All Workers

4377. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision recently to introduce a scheme for the welfare of the labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent by the Government to the State including, Punjab and Maharashtra under the aforesaid scheme, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has not taken any decision to introduce a scheme for the welfare of the labourers. However, the Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Scheme was launched in January 2004 on pilot basis in 50 districts of the country including Punjab and Maharashtra for the workers in the unorganised sector. The scheme envisaged the benefit of coverage under Universal Health Insurance Scheme, Personal Accident Insurance cover and Old Age Pension. About 3500 workers have been enrolled under the scheme. The scheme was not found workable due to some inherent shortcomings like no statutory backing, voluntary in nature and non-availability of employers' contribution. Presently, there is no fresh enrolment under the scheme.

Institutional Loans in Agricultural Sector

4378. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the provisional target fixed for institutional loans in the Agricultural sector for the year 2005;

(b) the schemes considered by the Government to achieve the above targets;

(c) the time by which the loans are likely to be provided to farmers by implementing the above schemes;

(d) whether the Government is in favour of comprehensive reforms in the scheme for institutional loans to farmers; and

(e) if so, the manner in which and by when the above reforms are likely to be implemented in the interest of 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) The provisional target for institutional loans in the agricultural sector for the year 2004-05 was fixed at Rs. 1,04,500 crores and the total disbursement by the end of February, 2005 works out to Rs. 1,04,718.45 crores. Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28th February, 2005 announced that the disbursement of agricultural credit in the year 2004-05 will be Rs. 1,08,500 crores and the flow of agricultural credit in the year 2005-06 will increase by 30% over the likely achievements for the year 2004-05. Accordingly, the provisional target for institutional loans in the agricultural sector for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 1,41,000 crore.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Rs. 1,04,500 crores was fixed as the target of agricultural credit flow for the year 2004-05 and the total disbursement by the end of February, 2005 works out to Rs. 1,04,718.45 crores forming 100.21% of the target. The banks have been advised to achieve a growth rate of 30 per cent in the flow of agricultural credit in the year 2005-06 over the achievement of previous year.

(d) and (e) The comprehensive policy package announced by the Government on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for improving agricultural credit flow and providing credit related relief to farmers are under implementation. Government is taking corrective measures on a continuous basis to provide adequate institutional credit to the farmers at reasonable rate of interest and in hassle free manner.

Statement

A. Pursuant to the announcement made by the Finance Minister on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for improving agricultural credit flow and providing credit related relief to farmers, the banks have been advised as under:

1. To achieve a 30 per cent increase over the flow of credit in the previous year.

2. To enhance coverage of institutional credit, including through KCCs, in line with the higher goal for agricultural credit in 2004-05.

3. In order to provide credit to tenant farmers and oral lessees, facilitate formation and financing of self-help groups of tenant farmers and oral lessees during the current year.

4. Reviewing scales of finance to meet the realistic credit needs of farmers, especially capital intensive agricultural operations.

5. Commercial banks will make an effort to bring into their fold, on average, at least 100 new farmers at each rural and semi-rural branch during the current year. The goal is to enlarge the universe of new farmers borrowing from banks by about 50 lakh.

6. Each rural and semi-urban branch of commercial banks will take up at least two to three new investment projects in the area of plantation and horticulture, fisheries, organic farming, agro-processing, live stock, micro-irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, watershed management, village ponds development and other agricultural activities.

7. In every district, all commercial banks put together will finance 10 agro-clinics during the current year.

8. Debt restructuring under the following heads in accordance with the new guidelines issued by NABARD:

   - **Farmers in distress**—Rescheduled/restructured debts of farmers as on 31st March, 2004 in districts declared as calamity-affected by the State Government. Rescheduled loan shall be repayable over a period of five years, at current interest rates, including an initial moratorium of two years.

   - **Farmers in arrears**—Loans in default of farmers who have become ineligible for fresh credit as their earlier debts have been categorized as sub-standard or doubtful will be rescheduled as per the guidelines issued by NABARD so that such farmers become eligible for fresh credit.

   - **OTS for small and marginal farmers**—Guidelines for increasing the flexibility of cooperatives to grant a one-time settlement (OTS) for small and marginal farmers who have been declared as defaulters and have become ineligible for fresh credit from lending institutions have been issued by NABARD. Cooperative banks have been advised to review cases where credit has been denied on the sole ground that a loan account was settled through compromise or write offs.

   - In some parts of the country, farmers face acute distress because of the heavy burden of debt from non-institutional lenders (e.g., moneylenders). Banks have been permitted to advance loans to such farmers to provide them relief from indebtedness against appropriate collateral or group security.

B. Recommendations of the Task Force constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. A Vaidyanathan for revival of rural co-operative banking institutions have been accepted in principle for implementation.

Raising of Water Level in States

4379. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to recharge the ground water level in the States by using the rain water harvesting technique; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon, State-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Based on hydrogeological surveys conducted in various parts of the country, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources,

have evaluated the need for artificial recharging of ground water in various selected areas and have prepared a report namely, "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" for different States by using rain water harvesting and various artificial recharge techniques.

(b) State-wise details of feasible artificial recharge structures as envisaged in the Master Plan are given in the enclosed Statement.

The Master Plan outlines broad framework about feasibility of these recharge structures in various parts of the country. It is a conceptual document. "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate plans for augmenting water resources. However, the following steps have been taken by the Union Government to encourage rain water harvesting:

(i) CGWB has proposed a scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting during the remaining part of there X Five Year Plan.

(ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the State/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(iii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

(iv) States/UTs have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control.

(v) All the States/Union Territories have been requested for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union Territories to allow rebate in property tax to persons, who adopt roof top rainwater harvesting in their premises.

(vi) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to around 1800 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(vii) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.egwb.net) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(viii) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(ix) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.

(x) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Area Identified for Artificial Recharge (sq. km.)	Quantity of Surface Water to be Recharged (in MCM)	Type and Number of Artificial Recharge Structures
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	65333	1095	3800 Percolation Tanks 11167 Check Dams Rain Water Harvesting in Urban Area.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Bihar & Jharkhand	4082	1120	2695 Percolation Tanks 9483 Nala Bunds 1303 Contour Bunds 1630 Recharge Shafts
3.	Chhattisgarh	11706	258	648 Percolation Tank 2151 Nala Bunds/Cement Plug/Check dam 2582 Gravity Head/Recharge shafts 7740 Gully plugs, Gabion structures
4.	Delhi	693	444	23 Percolation tanks 23 Existing dug wells 10 Nala Bunds 19216 Lateral trench with recharge wells 2496 Roof top rain water harvesting
5.	Goa	3701	529	1410 check dam/KT weirs 10,000 Roof top rain water structure
6.	Gujarat	64264	1408	4942 Percolation Tanks with Recharge Tubewell 13210 Check Dams Rainwater Harvesting (4.5 lakh houses)
7.	Haryana	16120	685	15928 Recharge Shafts and Recharge Trenches Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (1.7 lakh houses)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	149	1000 Sub surface dykes 500 Check dams 300 Revival of Ponds 500 Revival of spring 20000 Roof top harvesting structures
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	161	1500 Sub surface dykes 336 Revival of Kandi Ponds Roof top harvesting (1.5 lakh houses)
10.	Karnataka	36710	2065	1040 Sub Surface Dams 5160 Percolation Tanks/Desilting of old Tanks 17182 Check Dams 8.3 lakh roof top rain water harvesting with Filter Bed.
11.	Kerala	4650	1078	4312 check dam 7181 sub surface dykes 10780 gully plugs 10780 nalah Bunds Rooftop rainwater harvesting (0.7 lakh houses) Runoff water harvesting (1200 structures)

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	36335	2320	5302 Percolation Tanks 20198 Nala Bunds/Cement Plug/Check Dams 23181 Gravity Head/Dug wells/Tubewells/ Recharge Shafts 69598 Gully Plugs, Gabian Structures.
13.	Maharashtra	65267	2318	8108 Percolation Tanks 16598 Cement Plugs 2300 Recharge Shafts, Urban schemes of Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (8.78 lakh houses) 3500 Run off Harvesting
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	500 Check dams 1000 Weirs 1000 Gabian Structures 480 Roof top harvesting 300 Development of Spring
15.	Assam	—	—	250 Check dams 500 Weirs 1000 Gabian Structures 600 Roof top harvesting 250 Development of Spring
16.	Manipur	—	—	300 Check dams 500 Weirs 500 Gabian Structures 300 Roof top harvesting 150 Development of Spring
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	300 Check dams 300 Weirs 600 Gabian Structures 300 Roof top harvesting 200 Development of Spring
18.	Mizoram	—	—	500 Check dams 1000 Weirs 1000 Gabian Structures 300 Roof top harvesting 200 Development of Spring
19.	Nagaland	—	—	500 Check dams 1000 Weirs 1000 Gabian Structures 300 Roof top harvesting 200 Development of Spring

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Tripura	—	—	300 Check dams 500 Weirs 1000 Gabian Structures 240 Roof top harvesting 100 Development of Spring
21.	Punjab	22750	1200	40030 Recharge shafts and Recharge Trenches 12800 Roof Top Harvesting structures in Urban Areas
22.	Rajasthan	39120	861	3228 Percolation Tanks 1291 Anicuts 2871 Recharge shafts Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting structure (4 lakh houses)
23.	Sikkim	—	44	2100 Spring Development 2500 Cement Plugs/Nala Bunds 5300 Gabian structures 69597 Roof Water Harvesting
24.	Tamil Nadu	17292	3597	8612 Percolation Ponds 18170 Check Dams 5 lakh rain water harvesting structures
25.	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	45180	14022	4410 Percolation Tanks 12600 Cement Plugs (Check Dams) 2,12,700 Recharge Shafts Roof top rain water harvesting structures (10 lakh)
26.	West Bengal	7500	2664	11200 Percolation Tanks with shaft 3606 Gabian structure 1054 Nala Bund/Cement Plug 1680 Re-excavation of tanks 500 Desiltation of village pond 1000 Spring Development 70 Sub Surface Dykes 1500 Roof Top Harvesting for Calcutta & Darjeeling
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	3	145 Spring Development 270 Cement Plugs 38 Percolation Tanks 150 Sub surface dykes 2600 Roof Top Harvesting
28.	Chandigarh	33	26	597 Recharge shafts, recharge trenches, check dams and Gabian structures.

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli			50 check dams/cement plugs 58 Sub surface dykes 1000 houses rain water harvesting
30.	Daman & Diu			100 Nala bund/check dams 2000 roof top rain water harvesting structures
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	1000 roof top rain water harvesting structures
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	5 Percolation Tanks 14 Recharge pit 20 Check Dams 40 Desilting of ponds 10 Nala bund 20 Desilting/Recharge wells. Rainwater harvesting 10,000 houses

[English]

Private Participation in Godown Constructions

4380. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private participation in construction and maintenance of Godowns has been permitted;

(b) if so, the number of such Godowns constructed by private participation in the country as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has decentralised procurement; and

(d) if so, the details 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) Yes, Sir. Under the Seven Years Guarantee Scheme (SYGS) of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), additional storage capacity has been created in the country by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs). The CWC and SWCs have involved private participation in construction of godowns at some locations under SYGs.

(b) The total number of godowns constructed under SYGS through private participation as on date, State-wise are as follows:

Name of State	Number of godowns constructed
Andhra Pradesh	70
Haryana	33
Punjab	200
Rajasthan	1
Total	304

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The scheme of Decentralized Procurement of foodgrains was introduced by the Government in 1997-98 with a view to enhancing the efficiency of procurement and Public Distribution System (PDS) and encouraging local procurement to the maximum extent thereby extending the benefits of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to local farmers as well as to save on transit costs. This also enables procurement of goodgrains more suited to the local taste.

Joint Project on Captive Breeding of Tibetan Antelope

4381. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and Laddakh Area Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh is in the process of funding a joint project to start Artificial/captive breeding of Tibetan Antelope (Chiru);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is also aware that similar project is being undertaken by the Government of China in Tibet;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to exchange information and technology with China; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Decline in Consumption of Fertilizers

4382. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the consumption of fertilizers in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of consumption of fertilizers during the said period, category-wise;

(c) whether an amount of Rs. 800 crore of fertilizer companies is outstanding against the Government under subsidy head due to non-issuance of sale certificate by the Government of Bihar;

(d) if so, whether many fertilizer companies have discontinued their sales business in Bihar; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to provide fertilizers to farmers of Bihar easily at concessional rates?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The consumption of fertilizers in Bihar during 2002-03 was a little higher than in 2001-02. The consumption in 2003-04 was marginally lower than the previous year.

(b) Fertilizer-wise details of consumption in the State of Bihar during the year 2001-02 to 2003-04 are as under:

(Quantity in '000 tonnes)

Fertilizer	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Urea	1201.40	1256.10	1309.29
Ammonium Sulphate	13.30	13.50	10.38
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	0.00	4.00	11.38
Di Ammonium Phosphate	189.50	186.60	60.46
Single Super Phosphate	57.50	74.60	25.21
20:20:0	19.00	4.90	0.98
12:32:16	35.60	41.50	37.68
15:15:15	1.40	0.90	1.94
Muriate of Potash	72.60	33.30	31.86
Grand Total	1590.3	1615.40	1489.18

(c) Settlement of an estimated amount of Rs. 34.09 crore in the form of balance payment of concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers to the manufacturers/importers of fertilizers is awaiting sales certification from Bihar Government for sales during 2001-02 to 2004-05. However, actual amount payable would depend upon the extent of sales certification. In addition, in respect of P&K fertilizers sold during October 2002 to August 2003, full payment of concession is to be made only after receipt of sales certification from the State.

(d) As far as urea is considered, as the movement is being made under EC Allocations, there are no stoppages in supplies. However, other decontrolled fertilizers, especially Single Super Phosphate and Di Ammonium Phosphate supplies have been affected as some companies stopped supplies to Bihar due to suspension of process of sales certification by Bihar Government since 1998 which has since been resumed from the year 2003-04.

(e) After taking up the matter with the Government of Bihar, the sales certification beginning sales made in October 1998 has since been resumed. The Department has also restored facility of 'on account' payment of concession beginning sales made in September 2003 onwards which had been discontinued on sales between October 2002 to August 2003 on account of suspension of sales certification.

Construction of Cold Storages

4383. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the construction of cold storages by private sector as well as by public sector keeping in view the increasing demand of cold storages in the country;

(b) whether the Government provide any financial assistance to private sector for the construction of cold storages; and

(c) if so, the criteria adopted for providing subsidy and loan amount?

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 Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a scheme, namely, "Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce' through National Horticulture Board (NHB), an autonomous body of this Department.

Under the scheme, financial assistance in the form of back ended capital investment subsidy is provided @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per project and @ 33.33% of the project cost up to a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh per project for North Eastern States through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) in case of projects involving loan. In case of projects fully funded by entrepreneurs from his own resources, subsidy is directly released by NHB. The eligible organizations under the scheme include NGOs, Association of Growers, Partnership/Proprietary Firms, Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards/Committees and Agro Industries Corporations.

Barnar Reservoir Scheme of Bihar

4384. DR. MD. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant any financial assistance to the Government of Bihar for completion of the Barnar Reservoir Scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Union Government is providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for expeditious completion of approved major and medium ongoing irrigation projects which are in advanced stage of construction. Barnar Reservoir Scheme is an approved project with latest estimated cost of Rs. 308.00 crore. The Scheme can be considered for CLA/grant under AIBP during 2005-06 as per the revised guidelines of the programme on receipt of the proposal from the State Government.

Prevention of Wastage of Water

4385. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central Sponsored Schemes being implemented to prevent wastage of water and to make use of this water for additional irrigation in the tail areas by getting the canal system cemented under major and medium irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes being implemented for improvement of canal irrigation system in Rajasthan and the funds provided to the State Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored "Command Area Development Programme" was initiated in the year 1974 with an objective to bridge the gap between the irrigation potential created and that utilized through micro level infrastructure development and efficient farm water management; to enhance agricultural production and productivity and to improve social economic conditions of the farmers.

The programme has been restructured and renamed as "Command Area Development & Water Management Programme" since 1.4.2004. Apart from other changes, two new components namely "renovation and desilting of existing tanks within the designed irrigation commands" and "correction of systems deficiencies above outlet upto distributaries of 4.25 cusec" have also been included under the restructured programme.

(c) The above scheme is being implemented in Rajasthan also and four projects of the States namely Indira Gandhi Nehar Project, Chambal, Sidhumukh Nohar and "Amar Singh Sub-branch and Jassana Distributory of Bhakra Canal System" are covered under the Scheme. The Central assistance released to the State during the last three years under the programme is given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
2002-03	2939.27
2003-04	2038.30
2004-05	3476.85

[English]

Burning of Dry Leaves

4386. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether burning of dry leaves in the cities is causing air pollution during winter season;

(b) if so, whether the Government has framed any guidelines to restrict this pollution;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any technology has been adopted for maximum use of dry leaves in the country to produce manure and other things; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and further strategy chalked out by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Burning of dry leaves emits smoke and other noxious gases, which affects the ambient air quality in cities. Under Schedule-II of the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules 2000, (MSW Rules) notified *vide* S.O. No. 908 (E) dated 25th September 2000 burning of dry leaves and garbage wastes has been prohibited.

(d) and (e) Many State Governments/Local Bodies in the country have taken initiatives for setting up of waste processing facilities based on composting, vermin-composting or anaerobic digestion technology. As per MSW Rules, in order to ensure proper disposal of Municipal Solid Wastes the Municipal Authorities are required to set up waste processing facilities for biodegradable waste including dry leaves.

Shortage of Phosphoric Acid

4387. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of phosphoric acid and other raw material had forced fertiliser units to cut production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure supply of adequate phosphoric acid to these units?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) No sir, the production of Phosphatic fertilizers covered under the Concession Scheme was 120.05 lakh MT during the year 2004-05 as against the total production of 117.23 lakh MT of these fertilizers during the year 2003-04.

(c) The import of phosphoric acid is free. The Phosphatic fertiliser manufacturers are procuring phosphoric acid from the international market at the price & terms & conditions negotiated by them with the international suppliers.

Setting up of Bull Semen Production Stations

4388. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Bull Semen Production Stations in different parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Strengthening of semen stations is one of the important activity covered under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB). A state-wise fund released under NPCBB during the last three years is enclosed as statement.

Statement

State-wise Funds released under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding during last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-2003	2003-04	2004-05	Total released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	934.57	718.18	858.36	2511.1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	151.30	151.3
3.	Assam	—	—	129.50	129.5
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	98.00	100.00	198
6.	Gujarat	—	40.00	279.70	319.7
7.	Goa	—	58.71	97.29	156
8.	Haryana	—	—	454.00	454
9.	Himachal Pradesh	220.00	100.00	270.20	590.2
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	135.91	135.91
11.	Karnataka	—	465.00	394.29	859.29
12.	Kerala	230.00	220.00	801.95	1252
13.	Madhya Pradesh	300.00	360.00	661.54	1321.5
14.	Maharashtra	—	860.00	—	860
15.	Manipur	—	17.36	—	17.36
16.	Meghalaya	—	65.64	—	65.64
17.	Mizoram	17.97	40.00	71.00	128.97

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Nagaland	96.00	182.00	159.67	437.67
19.	Orissa	551.60	—	485.00	1036.6
20.	Punjab	120.83	—	111.27	232.1
21.	Tamil Nadu	570.00	—	204.82	774.82
22.	Tripura	—	95.00	96.67	191.67
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1063.00	—	841.151	1904.2
24.	Uttaranchal	—	275.00	84.80	359.8
25.	West Bengal	—	—	353.10	353.1
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	27.7600	27.76
27.	Pondicherry	—	—	18.15	18.15
	Total	4103.97	3594.89	6787.431	14486.29

Post Tsunami Plans for Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4389. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop the Post-Tsunam Andaman Nicobar Islands as the largest organic farming Island in the World;

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

(c) whether the genetically modified organism have been banned in organic agriculture and food processing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve organic farming in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to develop Andaman Nicobar Islands as the largest organised farming Island in the world.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A new scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" has been taken up by the Government recently with an outlay of Rs. 57.05 crores during the 10th Plan for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming in the country. The main component of the scheme are:

(i) Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce.

(ii) Capacity building through service providers.

(iii) Financial support for commercial production units for production or organic inputs like fruits & vegetable waste compost, bio-fertilizer production and hatcheries for Vermiculture.

(iv) Training, field demonstration, Promotion & market development.

Besides, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken many initiatives for enhancing export of organic produce like accreditation of Inspection and certification agencies, organization of awareness programmes, preparation of a directory on organic farms, training programmes in inspection and certification, etc.

[Translation]

Scheme for Food and Fodder Development

4390. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme known as assistance for Food and Fodder Development was started in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether this scheme has since been discontinued; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, sir. It was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development. The Scheme was discontinued from April, 2002 in pursuance of the recommendations of the Planning Commission while reviewing the progress of the scheme under the Zero Base Budget. However, two components of the scheme i.e. Enrichment of Straws/Cellulosic wastes and Establishment of Fodder Banks were revived for continuation in view of the drought and deficient rainfall condition in many parts of the country and necessary budget provision was made in the Revised Estimate (2002-2003). The main reason for discontinuation of the Scheme was the difficulty to meet the State share of funds required for implementation of the scheme by the States.

Medicinal Plants Gardens

4391. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of medicinal herbs produced in the country during the last one year particularly in Maharashtra; and

(b) the amount allocated for giving boost to the cultivation of medicinal plants 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) No assessment has been done for the production of medicinal herbs in the country during the last one year.

(b) The State-wise amount allocated for giving boost to the cultivation of medicinal plants in the country under the programmes of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) and National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise funds allocated for giving boost to the cultivation of medicinal plants in the country under Macro Management Scheme of DAC and National Medicinal Plants Board in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare during 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Amount allocated by DAC	Funds Sanctioned by NMPB
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	51.30	55.24
2.	Bihar	55.22	—
3.	Chhattisgarh	4.50	13.80
4.	Goa	1.80	—
5.	Guajrat	3.42	58.07
6.	Haryana	28.35	191.11
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	12.82
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	11.07
9.	Karnataka	45.00	322.50
10.	Kerala	90.00	30.07
11.	Madhya Pradesh	67.50	593.98
12.	Maharashtra	90.00	81.36
13.	Manipur	—	463.31
14.	Nagaland	—	22.11
15.	Orissa	—	52.64
16.	Punjab	—	159.68
17.	Rajasthan	25.43	1161.58
18.	Sikkim	—	37.39
19.	Tamil Nadu	47.25	28.25
20.	Tripura	—	11.84
21.	Uttar Pradesh	6.98	13.38

1	2	3	4
22.	Uttaranchal	—	119.21
23.	West Bengal	8.55	43.98
24.	Delhi	3.60	01.95
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	100.43
26.	Pondicherry	18.00	—
	Total	546.90	3585.77

[English]

Investment in Tourism Sector

4392. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of investments made in tourism sector during the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed for the Tenth Plan for the development of tourism in the country; and

(c) the extent to which the targets have been achieved so far, Plan-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Ministry of Tourism was granted the following Plan allocations for Development and Promotion of tourism;

	Plan	Allocations
(a)	7th Five Year Plan	Rs. 72.00 crore
(b)	8th Five Year Plan	Rs. 138.68 crore
(c)	9th Five Year Plan	Rs. 485.75 crore

(b) The Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 2900 crore to the Ministry of Tourism for the development and promotion of tourism in the country during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(c) The plan allocations and year-wise expenditure during 10th five year plan are as follows:

Year	Plan allocations	Actual Expenditure
2002-03	Rs. 225.00 crore	Rs. 252.05 crore
2003-04	Rs. 325.00 crore	Rs. 357.40 crore
2004-05	Rs. 500.00 crore	Rs. 465.00 crore (Este)

[Translation]

Child Labour under NCLP

4393. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child labourers covered under the National Child Labour Project and Child Labour Welfare Scheme, State-wise;

(b) the details of the said schemes being operated in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh; State-wise; and

(c) the number of child labourers benefited and organisation-wise grants sanctioned and released during the year 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) With a view to eliminating child labour the National Child Labour Project Scheme was started in the year 1988, which was expanded to cover 100 districts during the 9th Plan and was further expanded to cover 205 districts during the 10th Plan. Under the Scheme, children, withdrawn from hazardous occupations and processes, are put into special schools in order to enable them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system. The Scheme provides for disbursement of stipend to all child labourers enrolled in the special school @ Rs. 100/- per child per month, supply of free educational & vocational material and nutrition. The Scheme is operative in 17 Districts of Madhya Pradesh namely Mandsaur, Gwalior, Ujjain, Barwani, Rewa, Dhar, East Nimar, Rajgarh. Chhindwara, Shivpuri, Sidhi, Guna, Betul, Shajapur, Ratlam, West Nimar and Jhabua. A similar Scheme for the rehabilitation of child labour called INDUS in also being implemented in 5 districts of M.P., namely—Damoh, Sagar, Satna, Jabalpur & Katni. This Scheme is being jointly funded by Government of India & Department of Labour, Government of USA.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Regarding Child Labour under NCLP

Sl.No.	State-wise Grants Sanctioned to NCLP Societies	No. of Child Labourers to be covered/benefited	Grants-in-aid sanctioned during 2003-04 (Rs. in Lakh)	Grants-in-aid sanctioned during 2004-05 (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57900	1693.16	2322.21
2.	Bihar	6500	205.36	282.06
3.	Chhattisgarh	9900	168.47	230.81
4.	Jharkhand	6500	182.87	192.86
5.	Karnataka	10850	320.57	331.01
6.	Madhya Pradesh	21200	134.99	445.21
7.	Maharashtra	8500	102.24	168.48
8.	Orissa	38400	1132.67	1312.64
9.	Punjab	5350	239.37	184.05
10.	Rajasthan	9000	352.07	443.04
11.	Tamil Nadu	24650	746.58	724.63
12.	Uttar Pradesh	38100	759.12	754.15
13.	West Bengal	17350	456.21	742.36
	Total	254200	6493.68	8133.51

[English]

Buffer Stocking Policy

4394. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

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

(a) the current norms for buffer stocking of foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether the Government has adopted a new buffer stocking policy for the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the increase in buffer stocking norms?

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 buffer stocking norms for the Ninth Five Year Plan period were as under:

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

	Rice	Wheat	Total
1st April	118	40	158
1st July	100	143	243
1st October	65	116	181
1st January	84	84	168

The above norms were validated after the expiry of 9th Plan period till finalization of new norms.

The revised buffer norms for the remaining period of 10th Five Year Plan period have been finalized by the Government based on the realistic requirement of foodgrains under the existing and new Schemes. The new norms have been adopted by the Government with effect from April, 2005 and are given as under:

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

	Rice	Wheat	Total
1st April	122	40	162
1st July	98	171	269
1st October	52	110	162
1st January	118	82	200

Plantation of Red Algae

4395. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kappaphycus alvarezil, a sea plant popular as red algae extracts are used in chocolates, ice creams and gel tooth pastes; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote plantation of red algae in the Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh?

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) No such proposal has been received so far.

[Translation]

Studies on Lakes and Rivers in Himachal Pradesh

4396. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of studies undertaken by various agencies for ecological restoration of Rivalsar lake and field testing laboratory and sanitation survey of Beas, Satluj and Yamuna rivers in Himachal Pradesh under National River Action Plan;

(b) since when the proposal for allocation of fund for the above mentioned works are pending with the Union Government alongwith the number of such proposals;

(c) the reasons for not sanctioning the funds so far; and

(d) the time by which funds would be allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Rivalsar wetland in Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh is one of the 66 identified wetlands in the National Wetland Conservation Programme of the Ministry. The State Government had submitted a management action plan at a cost of Rs. 9.20 lakh for a period of one year. The proposal was not found suitable and the Government of Himachal Pradesh has been asked to submit a comprehensive action plan for a period of 5 years.

Under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), proposals were received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for assessment of pollution load in river Satluj in 1994 and for pollution abatement in 11 towns along river Beas in the year 2000. The proposal for river Satluj was not taken up as the water quality of the river stretch in Himachal Pradesh was within the prescribed standards. For river Beas, the Government of Himachal Pradesh have been asked to prepare Detailed Project Reports with firm costs and following an integrated approach with 70:30 cost sharing between the Central and State Government. The proposal for inclusion of Paonta Sahib along river Yamuna was received in the context of preparation of Plan by IIT, Roorkee for coverage of important water bodies in addition to the schemes already approved under NRCP. Due to acute shortage of funds in the X Plan under NRCP, it has not been possible to take them up for implementation.

[English]

Flood Control Scheme of Assam

4397. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for repair, construction of embankment and flood/erosion control has been submitted

by the Government of Assam to the Union Government pertaining to Pagladiya, Nanoi and Kalanadi rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Government of Assam has submitted following schemes to Central Water Commission (CWC) for clearance:

1. Anti-erosion measures in different reaches against bank erosion of river Mora-Pagladiya from NH to Tihu-Akara (including breach closing works) at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.9873 Crore;
2. Anti-erosion Measures against bank erosion of river Pagladiya from chainage 12100 m to chainage 12950 m Right Bank at village Dhantola to construction of short retirement at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.1337 crore;
3. Raising and Strengthening of Nanoi dyke from M P K Road to NT Road at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.3241 Crore; and
4. Raising and Strengthening of Nanoi dyke from Rly line to M P K Road at an estimated cost of Rs.3.7382 Crore.

The scheme at serial No. 1 is already cleared by Planning Commission, for scheme at serial No. 3, comments of CWC has been sent to Government of Assam. The other schemes at serial No. 2 and 4 are required to be sanctioned by State Government as they fall within their powers.

[Translation]

Wheat Procurement Centres

4398. SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open additional centres in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh, for procurement of wheat during the ensuring Rabi season;

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

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute any Task Force to check overweighing/unfair dealing by the agencies procuring wheat;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the concrete steps taken by the Government for fair deal and timely payment to farmers by the procuring agencies?

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. Additional centres have been opened in many States like Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. A statement showing number of purchase centres opened during the ensuing Rabi Marketing Season 2005-06 is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Adequate safeguards to check weighing/unfair dealing are available in the procurement process.

(f) There already existing standing instructions that payment to the farmers should be ensured by the procuring agencies immediately after effecting the purchases.

Statement

The Number of Purchase Centres being Operated during Rabi Marketing Season 2005-06

State	Number of Purchase Centres Operated			
	By FCI	Jointly with State Agencies	By State Agencies	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	229	86	1475	1790
Haryana	50	45	255	350
Uttar Pradesh	182	—	4653	4835

1	2	3	4	5
Rajasthan	34	—	39	73
Madhya Pradesh	120	—	941	1061
Delhi	2	—	—	2
Bihar	105	—	323	428
Himachal Pradesh	4	—	—	4
Uttaranchal	28	—	199	227
Total	754	131	7885	8770

[English]

Ranking in Productivity of Major Crops

4399. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu continued to occupy the top place in all India ranking in productivity of major crops in spite of various constraints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the budgetary allocation for agriculture had drastically reduced by your Ministry under various heads during 2005-06 in comparison to 2004-05;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Among the foodgrain crops the average productivity (average of five years from 1998-99 to 2002-03) in Tamil Nadu is highest in respect of Rice (3.44 Tonnes per Hectare), Jowar (0.95 Tonnes per Hectare), Bajra (1.35 Tonnes per Hectare), Ragi (1.98 Tonnes per Hectare). In case of oilseeds average productivity of Groundnut in Tamil Nadu which is 1.82 Tonnes per Hectare is highest in India. Regarding other commercial crops average productivity of Sugarcane at 106.41 Tonnes per Hectare in Tamil Nadu is highest in India.

(c) to (e) There is substantial increase in the budgetary allocation for Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in 2005-06 in comparison to 2004-05 as the plan outlay for annual plan 2005-06 is Rs. 4179.32 crores as compared to budget estimates of Rs. 2650.00 crores for 2004-05. The Division-wise proposed outlays for annual plan 2005-06 of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Division in DAC	Budget Estimate	
		2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Crops	100.00	275.00
2.	Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses (TMOP)	193.00	257.00
3.	Horticulture	542.00	1405.00
4.	Fertilisers	36.73	29.50
5.	Seeds	50.51	88.81
6.	Plant Protection	52.34	40.00

1	2	3	4
7.	Agriculture Implements and Machinery	8.00	10.00
8.	Rainfed Farming System	2.00	1.25
9.	Natural Resource Management (NRM)	9.40	8.00
10.	Credit	413.00	615.00
11.	Cooperation	74.17	110.00
12.	Agriculture Extension	187.45	148.10
13.	Directorate of Economics and Statistics	57.35	60.79
14.	Agriculture Census	13.83	14.00
15.	Agriculture Marketing	155.52	165.50
16.	Information Technology	27.00	27.50
17.	Trade	0.00	1.00
18.	Drought Management (DM)	1.00	1.00
19.	Secretariat Economic Service	4.26	8.00
20.	Macro Management	719.94	912.62
21.	Policy and Plan	2.50	1.25
	Total	2650.00	4179.32

Note: The allocation for State Plan Scheme on Watershed Development in Shifting Cultivation Area in North Eastern States amounting to Rs. 30.00 Crores in 2005-06 and Rs. 20.00 Crores in 2004-05 is excluded.

Categorisation of Guest Houses

4400. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to categories guest houses in the country;

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

(c) the criteria laid down by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Medicinal Plan Board

4401. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted a National Medicinal Plant Board to promote cultivation processing and export of medicinal and aromatic plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of the board, its duties, responsibilities and tenure?

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 Government has set up a National Medicinal Plants Board in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) The apex body of the Board is headed by the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare as Chairperson and Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare As Vice-Chairperson and other members drawn from various concerned Ministries/Departments/Organizations/ State and UT Governments as Ex-officio members while non-officials having expertise in various fields relating to medicinal plants are also nominated. The Board is to exist till further order as no tenure has been specified. However, the term of Non-official members and other nominated members from States/UTs, Research Councils and Pharmacopoeial Laboratories is for two years. The functions and duties of the Board is to coordinate all matters relating to medicinal plants, including drawing up policies and strategies for their conservation, proper harvesting, cost-effective cultivation, research and development and processing in order to protect, sustain and develop this sector.

[Translation]

Agreement with Northern States to Attract Tourists

4402. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern States have signed any agreement with each other to attract tourists to the States;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide a new package to State to promote domestic/international tourism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Development of Tourism in the States is a continuous process. The Ministry of Tourism offers financial assistance to the State Governments under its scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Tourism Circuits and Destinations etc. the details of assistance provided to State Governments is as per enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the Tenth Plan (as on 31.12.2004)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (upto 31.12.2004)		
		No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	896.44	11	2750.81	2191.92
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	6	955.88	742.10
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	6	1285.70	905.52
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.23	1527.55
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	4	1066.26	869.01
6.	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	2	10.00	8.00
7.	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8.	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	5	678.55	501.64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	5	2620.00	1736.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	2	805.00	644.00
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	1	474.97	379.97
12.	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	8	2432.76	1914.37
13.	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	5	2148.63	1718.88
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	8	1285.46	783.03
15.	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	6	1576.38	1260.10
16.	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18.	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	3	1081.28	927.09
19.	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	5	2165.69	1731.40
20.	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	5	1316.48	999.69
21.	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	4	846.41	561.26
22.	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	2	39.31	31.45
23.	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	6	1005.81	805.13
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	6	876.92	702.72
25.	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	450.17	135.16	0	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	3	1412.93	1125.56
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	7	1037.43	825.19
28.	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	5	480.04	384.03
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	1	457.00	365.60
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	1	500.00	400.00
33.	Daman and Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
	Total	212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	130	32784.16	25320.26

[English]

Shortage of Skilled Manpower

4403. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of trained and skilled technical personnels required by the Pharmaceutical Industry for the upgradation and modernisation of technology in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to combat this situation?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Upgradation and modernisation of technology in pharmaceutical industry is an ongoing process. Various institutions and colleges cater to the need of skilled technical personnel by the industry. Department of Science & Technology alongwith Department of Biotechnology and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) are imparting training in various fields of drug manufacturing.

Ongoing Water Projects

4404. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to expedite the ongoing water projects in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of projects and by when these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Irrigation being a State subject the irrigation projects are planned, formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their priorities. A Large Number of major & medium irrigation projects have been spilling over from one plan to another. The details of spillover projects of Xth Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed Statement. Concerned with the problem of spillover of large number of major/medium irrigation projects from different Plan periods, Government commenced the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the States to accelerate completion of such approved ongoing major/medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of construction and which are beyond the resource capability of the State Governments. An amount of Rs. 17,537.57 crore has been provided, so far, to the States as Central Loan Assistance/grant under this programme. With the assistance provided 37 major/ medium irrigation projects out of 184 projects receiving CLA under the programme, were completed. As per the guidelines of AIBP, the projects under the programme are to be completed within Four Financial Year.

Statement

Abstract of Ongoing Major & Medium Irrigation Projects in the Country (As on 01.04.2004)

(Amount in Rs. crore) (Potential in Th. ha.)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Ongoing Projects			Latest Estimated Cost	Likely Expdr. upto March 2004	Balance cost as on 1.4.2004 (Antd.)	Ultimate Potential	Likely Potential Created upto 3/2004	Balance potential as on 1.4.2004 (Antd.)
		Major	Medium	Total						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	9	24	18075.03	9496.03	8579.00	2353.48	1647.40	706.08
2.	Assam	5	5	10	1840.88	496.13	1344.75	268.17	131.22	136.95
3.	Bihar	9	3	12	4624.82	2320.66	2304.16	811.19	131.86	679.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4.	Chhattisgarh	3	5	8	1932.33	1582.30	350.03	744.62	586.39	158.23
5.	Goa	1	0	1	966.56	501.61	464.95	26.89	13.21	13.68
6.	Gujarat	3	18	21	31961.79	17255.66	14706.13	1908.00	269.48	1638.52
7.	Haryana	4	0	4	962.13	770.82	191.31	264.00	168.00	85.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	3	288.57	93.02	195.55	33.15	1.11	32.04
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	7	7	226.30	143.07	83.23	34.55	10.34	24.21
10.	Jharkhand	5	19	24	5747.99	1844.81	3903.18	513.57	11.46	502.11
11.	Karnataka	16	18	34	20538.85	12976.67	7562.18	1872.72	1068.03	804.69
12.	Kerala	4	4	8	2608.80	1520.25	1088.55	220.73	86.09	134.64
13.	Madhya Pradesh	16	5	21	17996.63	6149.63	11847.00	1827.61	203.15	1624.46
14.	Maharashtra	56	95	151	39695.56	18807.73	20887.83	3703.24	1382.44	2320.80
15.	Manipur	2	1	3	702.32	434.74	267.58	55.94	4.00	51.94
16.	Meghalaya	0	1	1	57.07	22.59	34.48	5.15	0.00	5.15
17.	Orissa	10	10	20	7178.52	3553.90	3624.62	793.78	291.92	501.86
18.	Punjab	1	0	1	1324.18	128.09	1196.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Rajasthan	4	4	8	6863.95	4497.23	2366.72	1217.35	818.69	398.66
20.	Tamilnadu	0	2	2	105.36	86.12	19.24	7.19	0.00	7.19
21.	Tripura	0	3	3	178.00	137.61	40.39	26.72	3.30	23.42
22.	Uttaranchal	3	0	3	5334.11	253.08	5081.03	311.60	21.00	290.60
23.	Uttar Pradesh	9	0	9	7534.32	4247.39	3286.93	2152.27	711.99	1440.28
24.	West Bengal	2	8	10	2728.42	1038.95	1689.47	660.58	139.79	520.79
	Total	169	219	388	179472.49	88358.09	91114.40	19802.50	7700.87	12101.63

Skill Workforce

4405. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the manpower cost in India is lowest as compared to developed countries in the World;

(b) if so, the average wage rate of skilled workers in India as compared to developed countries; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The primary determinant of the manpower cost is the wages paid to workers. According to information available in the

International Labour Organization (ILO) Year Book of Labour Statistics, 2004, wages of workers in manufacturing sector in some developed counties and India during 2001 were as follows:

Country	Currency	Unit	Wages
USA	Dollar	Hour	14.76
UK	Pound	Hour	10.49
Japan	Yen	Month	297500
France	Euro	Month	1507
India	Rupee	Month	1893.2

Due to differences in currencies and their respective purchasing power, period of work, and divergent working conditions, the wage figures are not strictly comparable.

Multi-National Companies in Seed Market

4406. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime has led to the monopolization of seed markets by Multi-National Companies (MNCs);

(b) if so, whether the amendment in Patent Act and the New Seed Act would further strengthen this tendency;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the farmers;

(d) whether the untested Genetic Modified seeds are affecting the Genetic diversity of the crops in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to protect the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Sufficient provisions are available under Seeds Act, 1966 and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act, 2001 to protect the interest of farmers. Farmers are entitled to save, use, sow, resow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce, including seed without registration, except branded seeds.

(d) to (f) Four Bt. Cotton hybrids have been approved and released for commercial cultivation in six States i.e. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment & Forests. There have been some reports of production and supply of spurious Bt cotton seeds in some States where State Governments have been advised to take action against the producers and vendors of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds under the Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983.

Six Bt. Cotton hybrids have also been approved by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee for commercial cultivation in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan.

Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur has been notified as referral laboratory for detection of presence/absence of Bt. Gene in the cotton hybrid seeds.

Measures such as compulsory registration of varieties and enhancement of penalty for major and minor infringements are proposed in the new Seeds Bill that has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

Creation of Vegetative Coastal Shelter

4407. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soil scientists have suggested the creation of vegetative coastal shelter for protection against tidal waves in the country;

(b) if so, whether they have also opposed the creation of protective walls on the coast line; and

(c) if so, 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) Vegetation has been found to be useful in providing sustainable protection to coast lines.

(b) and (c) Coastal areas under the influence of the tidal effects of sea are subject to inundation by tidal waters. These areas require protection to human beings, livestock, land and environment. Although the concrete walls are supposed to provide effective protection to the coast line against Tsunami tidal waves, the measures are not eco-friendly. Long term rehabilitation of Tsunami damaged coastal area, where the mangroves, shelterbelts, plantations are severely affected, demands the strengthening of the vegetative barriers. This involves initiating of bio-shield creation along with coast, involving raising of mangrove forest, shelterbelts of Casurina, Salicornia, Leucaena, Palms, Bamboo and other tree/ shrubs species. This will serve as wave breaker to coastal storms, as well serve as a carbon sink and improve livelihood security of the coastal population.

[Translation]

Prices of Drugs

4408. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

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

(a) whether there is a lack of coordination between Department of Drug Controller and National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) responsible for the pricing and quality control;

(b) if so, whether there have been no fixation of prices of drugs for the last one decade which have resulted in exorbitant charging by drug companies;

(c) if so, whether the Government is considering any proposal to check this unfair practice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (b), as above.

Package for Shirdi in Maharashtra

4409. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant any special package for Shirdi in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting of the concerned committee of the Council of Ministers was held recently in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritised every year in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Dandi March Route

4410. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to develop historical Dandi March Route in Gujarat led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930 from tourism point of view; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith assistance proposed to be provided to the State Government during the current year for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Identification of new tourist places/spots is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the State Governments identifies such places of tourist interest and based on project proposals from the States offers financial assistance for development of their infrastructure.

(b) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Gujarat in this regard.

Protection of Women in Organized/ Unorganized Sectors

4411. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to enact a separate legislation to protect the rights of women workers in both the organized and unorganized sectors; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has neither received any proposal to enact a separate legislation to protect the rights of women workers in both the organized and unorganised sectors nor there is any proposal under consideration of the Government in this regard.

However, several laws have already been enacted to secure reasonable working conditions for women workers and to prevent their exploitation. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, etc. which provide *inter alia*, creche facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for feeding children during working hours, provision of maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace. The various State Governments are the appropriate agencies for enforcing these laws.

Pending of Crop Diversification Project in Maharashtra

4412. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanction to get the financial outlay for Crop Diversification Project for the State of Maharashtra is pending with the ministry;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) An additional Work Plan proposal for crop diversification project for the State of Maharashtra was received under the Macro Management Scheme. Since it is not an approved component of the scheme, it could only be funded as a new intervention to the tune of 10% of the total work plan size for the year 2004-05. Since the State Government had already provided for new interventions to the tune of 10% of their total work plan size for the year 2004-05, this project could not be considered.

Adventure Tourism in Himachal Pradesh

4413. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are many spots conducive for adventure tourism in Himachal Pradesh particularly in Shimla; and

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated/released to the State Government during the current year to develop such tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No proposal has been received from the State Government during the current year so far.

Sale of HFCL Property

4414. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint meeting was held recently between Asansole Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) and Department of Fertilizers regarding the sale of township and treatment plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL), Durgapur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes Sir, a joint meeting was held.

(b) No decision with regard to sale was reached in the said meeting.

Assistance from Japan in Tourism Sector

4415. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan is extending loan to support and sustain economic growth of India, especially on tourism;

(b) if so, the amount of loan advanced and the rate of interest being charged per annum; and

(c) the details of the projects for which this loan has been advanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Loan assistance was availed from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now known as the Japan Bank for International Cooperation) for the development of Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to the tune of 9244 million Japanese Yen and for the development of Ajanta-Ellora (Phase I) to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. In addition to these completed projects loan has also been approved for the development of Ajanta Ellora Phase-II for an amount of 7331 million Japanese Yen and this project is presently under implementation. Uttar Pradesh Buddhist Circuit Development Project (Phase II) is also being processed for JBIC loan assistance of 9495 million Japanese Yen. The rate of interest on the loan taken for all above-mentioned projects is in the range of 0.75% per annum to 2.6% per annum on the principal amount.

Health Hazards due to Use of Mercury in Industries

4416. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to identify and assess the environmental health hazards posed by emissions of mercury from industries using mercury as one of the raw materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Mercury emissions from industries may pose environmental health risk. The measures taken to control mercury emissions include the following:

(i) Standards for emissions of mercury from caustic soda industries, based on mercury cell process, have been notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) Commissioning of new plants and expansion of existing mercury cell based caustic soda plants are not allowed.

(iii) Hazardous Waste Management Rules have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to deal with sludge containing mercury under which generator of the waste is required to take authorization from the respective State Pollution Control Boards.

(iv) Guidelines have been evolved on "Criteria for Disposal of Hazardous Waste" which include treatment of mercury bearing brine sludge to the specified standard before disposal to secured landfill.

(v) Mercury bearing wastes are prohibited for import and export under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(vi) Mercury emission standards for work-zone environment have been notified under the Factories Act, 1988 including health check up of workers.

(vii) Action points under Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection (CREP) have been formulated to limit the emissions/discharge of mercury from Chlor-alkali industries and phasing out of plants based on mercury cell process by changing over to membrane cell technology.

(c) Do not arise.

Import of Fish

4417. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fish is being imported in the country in huge quantities leading to the drain of foreign exchange and resentment among fishermen in coastal areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to check the import of fish to safeguard the interest of the fishermen; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The quantity of fish imported into the country is very insignificant and, therefore, it cannot be said to have resulted in any drain of foreign exchange or to have severely affected the domestic fish industry.

(b) and (c) The basic customs duty for fish and fishery products is fairly high and offer a significant level of protection to the domestic producers of fish. The Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures that are in force help in regulating the import of fish and fishery products. Some amount of fish imported is also processed for re-export with value addition.

[Translation]

Law on Sacrifice of Animals

4418. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the temples of the country where practice of animal sacrifice is still prevalent;

(b) whether the Government has enacted any law to put a ban on this practice; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The records of temples where practice of animal sacrifice is prevalent is not maintained by the Central Government.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has enacted the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals. However, nothing contained in this Act render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion of any community. However, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have enacted Acts banning the practice of animal sacrifice.

[English]

Gratuity to Workers of Closed Mills

4419. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of gratuity and other monetary benefits due to all workers of closed mills in Tamil Nadu is pending unpaid;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to settle such benefits to these workers; and

(c) by when such benefits would be completely settled to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Tourism Projects

4420. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects being implemented in various States for promotion of tourism during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of amount allocated/released to State Governments during the last three years, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism in the States is a continuous process. The Ministry of Tourism offers financial assistance to the State Governments under its

scheme of Product/Infrastructure, Development of Tourism Circuits and Destinations etc. The details of assistance provided to State Governments during last three years are as per enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the Tenth Plan (as on 31.12.2004)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (up to 31.12.2004)		
		No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	896.44	11	2750.81	2191.92
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	6	955.88	742.10
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	6	1285.70	905.52
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.23	1527.55
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	4	1086.26	869.01
6.	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	2	10.00	8.00
7.	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14
8.	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	5	678.55	501.64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	5	2620.00	1736.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	2	805.00	644.00
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	1	474.97	379.97
12.	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	8	2432.76	1914.37
13.	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	5	2148.63	1718.88
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	8	1285.46	783.03
15.	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	6	1576.38	1260.10
16.	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18.	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	3	1081.28	927.09
19.	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	5	2165.69	1731.40
20.	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	5	1316.48	999.69
21.	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	4	846.41	561.26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22.	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	2	39.31	31.45
23.	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	6	1005.81	805.13
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	5	876.92	702.72
25.	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	450.17	135.16	0	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	3	1412.93	1125.56
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	7	1037.43	825.19
28.	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	5	480.04	384.03
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	1	457.00	365.60
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	1	500.00	400.00
33.	Daman and Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
	Total	212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	130	32784.16	25320.26

[Translation]

Awareness among Workers of Unorganised Sector

4421. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any efforts to create awareness among the workers of the unorganised sector about the provisions made under the labour laws;

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

(c) the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India through the Central Board for Workers Education (CBWE) has been organizing 2/5 days awareness camps for the workers engaged in unorganised/rural sector since 1979 with a view to develop awareness among these workers about their rights, entitlements and welfare provisions under various labour laws such as the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; Payment of Wages Act, 1936, etc.

(b) During the last three years, 6,11,386 unorganised/ rural sector workers were benefited through 15641 camps conducted by the CBWE.

(c) The programmes have created a perceptible impact among both men and women workers and these workers are now more aware about the labour laws like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and have formed Mahila Mandals/Self Help Groups for their upliftment and reap the benefits available under various schemes. The training programmes have inculcated the habit of savings and have also helped them in generating self-employment. This has also resulted in reduction of social evils like drug addition, smoking, gambling, child marriage, etc.

[English]

National Institute for Organic Farm

4422. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any step to establish a National Institute of Organic Farm (NIOF);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the roles and objectives of NIOF;

(c) whether the Government has got any proposal/ offer from Government of Kerala to make available adequate land in Kerala for the NIOF; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and alongwith the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In order to promote organic farming in the country, the Government has launched a new Scheme "National Project on Organic Farming during 10th Five Year Plan as pilot project. Under this project, the National Bio-fertilizer Development Centre (NBDC), Ghaziabad and its six Regional Centres (RBDCs) at Hissar, Jabalpur, Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and Imphal have been renamed as National Centre of organic Farming (NCOF) and Regional Centres of Organic Farming (RCOFs). The main objectives of NCOF are:

(i) To facilitate, encourage and promote development of Organic Agriculture in the country.

(ii) To prepare inventory or organic resources available for recycling in agriculture in different agro-climate regions.

(iii) To encourage production of organic sources of nutrients like Bio-fertilizers, organic manures, compost etc. and bio-pesticides, bio-control agents etc. as certified inputs for organic farming.

(iv) To act as nodal agency for formulation of standards and mechanism of accreditation, inspection, regulation, quality control and monitoring.

(v) To initiate and encourage research for promotion of organic agriculture practices and the dissemination of know-how through extension.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala offered to make available 200 hectares of land available with the Kerala Agricultural University at Thiruvizhamkunnu in Palakkad District for setting up of NIOF.

However, it has been decided that NDBC Ghaziabad and its six Regional Centres will be converted into NCOF and RCOFs. Therefore, it has not been possible to consider the request of Government of Kerala for setting up of NIOF in Kerala State.

[Translation]

Policy for Training to Farmers

4423. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lack of permanent policy regarding medical, education, technical training for farmers and agricultural worker and other agriculture related aspects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Procurement of Foodgrains

4424. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to undertake procurement of foodgrains and oil seeds in some States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the States where procurement is being undertaken;

(c) the reasons for excluding other States from this scheme;

(d) whether some States have requested the Union Government for permission to procure foodgrains including paddy in their own capacity;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government for proper arrangements for procurement of mustard in Rajasthan?

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 Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Agencies undertake procurement of foodgrains on behalf of Government of India in all States/ UTs having marketable surplus. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) is the Central Nodal Agency for procurement of oilseeds. The States where procurement of foodgrains and oilseeds are undertaken have been indicated in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(d) and (e) Ten States/UTs undertake procurement through their State Agencies under the Decentralised Procurement Scheme. The Central Government reimburses the entire expenditure on these operations.

(f) The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) is the nominated Central Nodal Agency for procurement of mustard and has procured 6.83 lakh tonnes of mustard in the State of Rajasthan during Rabi Marketing season 2005-06 (till 18.4.05).

Statement I

Name of States/UTs where procurement of wheat/rice/ coarsegrains are undertaken by FCI/State Agencies:

A. Wheat

1. Bihar
2. Chhattisgarh
3. Jammu and Kashmir
4. Haryana
5. Himachal Pradesh
6. Madhya Pradesh
7. Punjab
8. Rajasthan
9. Uttaranchal
10. Uttar Pradesh
11. Chandigarh
12. Delhi

B. Rice

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Bihar
5. Chandigarh
6. Chhattisgarh
7. Delhi
8. Gujarat
9. Haryana
10. Himachal Pradesh
11. Jharkhand
12. Karnataka
13. Madhya Pradesh
14. Maharashtra
15. Nagaland
16. Orissa
17. Pondicherry
18. Punjab
19. Rajasthan
20. Tamil Nadu

21. Uttar Pradesh

22. Uttaranchal

23. West Bengal

C. Coarsegrains

1. Andhra Pradesh

2. Chhattisgarh

3. Haryana

4. Karnataka

5. Madhya Pradesh

6. Maharashtra

7. Punjab

Statement II

Name of States/UTs where procurement of oilseeds is undertaken by NAFED

A. Mustard Seed

1. Rajasthan

2. Uttar Pradesh

3. Gujarat

4. Madhya Pradesh

5. Chhattisgarh

6. Haryana

7. Delhi

8. Punjab

B. Safflower Seed

1. Maharashtra

C. Sunflower Seed

1. Karnataka

Promotion of Food Processing Industries

4425. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of country-wide achievement in Food Processing Industries (FPI) for the last three years;

(b) the extent of investment in the export oriented FPI for the above said period;

(c) whether the Government has launched any programme to indicate the Government's intention of promoting food preservation industry proactively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) According to an estimate, growth of food processing industries was 7.1% for the last few years. Growth rate during the 10th Plan is estimated to be 7.3% for a GDP growth of 6%. It is reported that as on the last reporting Friday of March in 2003 the outstanding advances to food and agro based processing sector units including export-oriented FPI units by all scheduled commercial banks was Rs. 4726 crore. Besides, during the last three years an amount of Rs. 213.51 crore was released by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for projects under major schemes to facilitate promotion of food processing industries in the country.

(c) and (d) Plan schemes have already been formulated and are being implemented to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. The rate of assistance for establishment/modernization of food processing units is 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakh in general areas and 33.33% of the project cost subject to maximum of Rs. 75 lakh in difficult areas. The other major scheme of food parks provides for assistance up to Rs. 4.00 crore, for specified common facilities at the rate of 25% and 33.33% of project cost in the general and difficult areas respectively. So far, financial assistance has been sanctioned for establishment of 49 food parks of which 20 food parks were approved during the last three years.

[Translation]

Livestock Census

4426. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct livestock census at the national level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Livestock Census are conducted quinquienially. The 17th Livestock Census was conducted in 2003 and the next livestock census is proposed to be conducted in 2007.

(b) The livestock census are conducted through the Animal Husbandry Departments of all States/Union Territories under a Centrally Sponsored scheme by collecting data on number of domestic animals/poultry birds from each household.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Soil Survey and Land Degradation

4427. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is scientific survey available in the country which identifies the extent and nature of land degradation correctly and periodically;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to conduct soil survey and land degradation mapping of the entire country;

(d) whether there is any proposal to encourage States to launch an ambitious programme for the utilization of degraded and under utilized lands;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are various Government agencies, who are involved in soil/land degradation survey in the country. The names of such organizations and nature and extent of survey work done by them is as follows:

(i) All India Soil and Land Use Survey (AISLUS) has so far conducted Rapid Reconnaissance Survey (RRS) of about 190 million hectares of land on 1:50,000 scale to identify very high and high degraded lands for priority treatment.

AISLUS has also conducted Detailed Soil Survey of about 13 million hectares on 1:15,000 scale, of lands identified for priority treatment during RRS. IN addition, AISLUS has also conducted Land Degradation Mapping of 64 districts on 1:50,000 scale to generate realistic and scientific information base on degraded lands for development at district/taluka level.

(ii) The National Remote Sensing Agency, Department of Space, Government of India, Hyderabad has brought out Wastelands Atlas of India in May, 2000 identifying 63.85 million hectares of wasteland in the country in 13 different categories. The report covers 584 districts in 25 States/UTs. on 1:50,000 sale.

(iii) The National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS & LUP) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has conducted soil survey on 1:250,000 scale in the country and identified 150 million hectares of degraded lands.

(d) to (f) The Government of India is implementing, through the State Governments, the following programmes for the development/utilization of degraded lands including wastelands in the country:

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

(i) National Watershed Development Projects in Rainfed Areas

(ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers

(iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils

(iv) Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas.

Department of Land Resources

(v) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme

(vi) Drought Prone Areas Programmes

(vii) Desert Development Programme.

The above programmes are being continued to be implemented in the Xth Plan.

Promotion of Contract Farming

4428. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating any changes in the agriculture policy by adopting Crop Plan and contract farming;

(b) if so, the steps taken for promotion of contract farming in the country;

(c) the number of States in which contract farming is already undertaken;

(d) the legal protection available to farmers under contract farming;

(e) whether the Government proposes to formulate a legislation for regulating contract farming in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Crop diversification to high value and low water demanding crops like oilseeds, pulses, horticulture, floriculture, medicinal and aromatic plants is suggested in order to conserve natural resources and enhance the income of the farmers.

Contract farming as an arrangement to link small farmers to source of technology, extension and credit and to assured and profitable markets, is suggested to integrate farm production with markets.

(b) Contract farming has gained importance in the recent times in wake of economic liberalization. In order to promote contract farming, it is necessary to incorporate provisions in the law dealing with agricultural markets (APMC Act) to specifically allow contract farming as the produce is otherwise required to be canalised through licensed traders and regulated markets. State Governments have accordingly been advised to amend the APMC Act. A Model APMC Act *Inter-alia* containing provisions to the said effect has been circulated to State Governments/UTs for adoption.

(c) Contract farming is in vogue in a number of States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Pujnab, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Rajasrthan and West Bengal.

(d) Under the model law, registration of sponsoring companies and recording of contract farming agreements has been suggested in order to protect the farmers from unreliable and spurious companies. A dispute resolution mechanism has been suggested to be set up near to farmers to quickly settle dispute, if any, arising with the sponsoring company. Farmers while raising the contracted crop run the risk of incurring debt and consequent displacement from land in the event of crop failure. Model law provides indemnity to farmers' land from such displacement.

(e) and (f) Since Agricultural Market is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to adopt the model law, as suited to them.

Regulation of Financial Markets

4429. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to bring the regulation on financial and commodities market under a single authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new authority would link and strengthen all the elements in the trading chain, including the commodity market;

(d) if so, whether the matter has been discussed with the Ministry of Finance;

(e) if so, the reaction of Ministry of Finance thereto; and

(f) the benefits likely to accrue as a result of this move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (e) On the suggestion of Ministry of Finance, an Inter Ministerial Task Force was set up by the Department of Consumer Affairs to look into all the aspects relating to convergence of the Financial Securities and Commodities Futures Markets. The Deptt. of Consumer Affairs, while agreeing to most of the recommendations of the Task Force, conveyed to the Ministry of Finance that time was not ripe for going in for a unified system of regulation for the two markets given the substantial differences between the two.

(f) Does not arise.

Private/Public Partnership in Farm Sector

4430. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering private and public partnership in farm sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared new policy for second green revolution in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage innovations in agriculture sector?

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

(b) Following actions have been taken for promoting private and public partnership in farm sector:

- Successful pilots on Public Private Partnership (PPP) have been undertaken through Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP).
- The new Xth Plan scheme 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' provides for involving private extension service providers in extension activities.
- 'Agriculture Summit 2005' on the theme 'Reforms for Raising Farm Income' was organized jointly by Ministry of Agriculture and FICCI on 9-10 April, 2005.
- Out of 451 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) sanctioned by ICAR in the country, 83 KVKs are with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- All the State Seeds Corporations, National Seeds Corporations and, to a smaller extent, State Farm Corporation of India are producing seeds on farmers' field on mutually agreed terms and conditions.
- The Scheme 'Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palam and Maize' (ISOPOM) provides for involvement of private sector and non-government bodies in the implementation of different components of the programmes limited to 15% of the allocation for a particular component.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government is implementing the following innovative schemes in the area of agriculture extension:

- Kisan Call Centres,
- Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension,

- Innovation in Technology Dissemination (ITD) under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) and
- Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms.

[Translation]

Drives for Protection of Environment and Forests

4431. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the details of the drives being run by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for protection of environment and forests in and around Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): The Government has taken various steps for protection of environment and forests in and around Delhi, which include:

- Notification of general and source specific emission standards.
- Enforcement of auto exhaust emission standards for new vehicles at manufacturing stage.
- Pollution Under Control (PUC) certification for in use vehicles.
- Improved fuel quality.
- Use of beneficiated coal in the thermal power stations.
- Fencing of forests and planting of blank patches.
- Strict implementation of provisions of Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994
- Running of a Tree Help Line to attend to complaints of tree felling.
- Engagement of ex-servicemen for protection of forests and trees.

Mid-Term Review of Tenth Five Year Plan

4432. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the mid-term review of the Tenth Five Year Plan priority has been given to horticulture, export of fruits, poultry farming and floriculture, to make India a leading country in the world market by developing expertise in the above mentioned new sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated by the Government for this ambitious plan for the year 2004-05 to achieve the target;

(d) the details of those States where lands have been found most suitable in the country for the implementation of this plan; and

(e) the purpose for which the lands of the farmers would be earmarked under this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan is in the process of finalization.

(c) to (e) In the Annual Plan 2004-05, the budget estimated outlay of Rs. 542.00 crore was allocated for development of horticulture in the country. Of this Rs. 200.00 crore was earmarked for the scheme "Technology Mission on Horticulture Development for North Eastern Region including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal".

[English]

Unemployment due to Closure of Industries

4433. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:

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

(a) whether any plan has been formulated by the Government to solve the problem of unemployment due to closure of industries in the Cities/States.

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Since

the number of workers affected due to closure of industries at All India level was only around 9759 in 2004, there is no special employment plan under consideration of the Ministry of Labour & Employment for such affected workers.

Decline in Vulture Population

4434. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of a study conducted by the International Researchers on decline in the Vulture population in the Indian sub-continent;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the corrective action taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether there has been any delay in taking action on the recommendations made in the study; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A survey conducted by the Bombay Natural History Society under a special project sponsored in the year 2000 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests revealed that there has been more than 90 per cent decline in the populations of three species of vultures *viz*, White Backed, Long Billed and Slender Billed in many parts of the country. Subsequently, post mortem and diagnostic tests revealed that this drastic decline was due to consumption of veterinary deposition of uric acid in the visceral organs leading to sudden death.

(c) The steps taken by the Government are as follows:

(i) Protection status of White backed, Long Billed and Slender Billed Vultures has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Two workshops were organized in New Delhi in September, 2000 and April, 2004 to work out a comprehensive strategy for conservation of vultures.

(iii) The State Governments have been asked to workout a comprehensive plan for effective conservation of vultures.

(iv) Bombay Natural History Society in collaboration with the Haryana State Forest Department has taken up a project on conservation of vultures. A 'Vulture Captive Care facility has been established at Panchkula.

(v) The Ministry of Health has been requested to replace the use of drug diclofenac with suitable alternative drugs.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Plight of Elephant Corridors

4435. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to look into the plight of Elephant Corridors in National Parks and surrounding forests particularly in Jim Corbett National park and its surrounding forests; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to repair/renovate the Elephant Corridors?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Some studies have been carried out by the Wildlife Institute of India, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Kerala Forest Research Institute and the Forest Departments in some States regarding the status of elephant corridors. The Wildlife Institute of India, has in particular, undertaken the study of elephant corridors in the Corbett-Rajaji landscape.

(b) The Central Government provides financial assistance to the major elephant-bearing states in the country under the centrally sponsored scheme 'Project Elephant' for demarcation, protection and development of

corridors. Funds have also been provided to some states for acquisition of private and community land to secure and consolidate some known elephant corridors. The State Governments are also being provided financial support under various centrally sponsored schemes for eco-development activities to reduce biotic pressure on the elephant corridors. Protection and monitoring of elephant corridors is included in the perspective plans of various elephant reserves.

[Translation]

Betel Crop under Crop Insurance Scheme

4436. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the farmers engaged in cultivation of betel due to the absence of the Crop Insurance Scheme (CIS) for betel;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to include the betel crop under the CIS; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) Betel is a perennial crop with multi-picking yield. At present, it is not covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS).

Joint group constituted to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes have considered various issues including insurance cover for perennial horticultural crops. The Group has submitted its report. The Government, at present, is in the process of consulting various stakeholders on the recommendations of the Group.

[English]

Kyoto Protocol

4437. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kyoto Protocol of 1997 has come into effect, with US and Australia still refusing to be part of the accord;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the developed countries have been complying with the Protocol by way of minimizing emission of Green House and sharing technology with developing nations; and

(d) the Government's response to the US and Australia's refusal to enter the accord?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Kyoto Protocol has come into force on 16 February 2005. till date 148 Parties including India have ratified the Kyoto Protocol. The United States of America and Australia have so far, not ratified the Kyoto Protocol.

(c) The Kyoto Protocol prescribes quantified emission limitation/reduction targets for Annex-I (developed countries) Parties to the Protocol. Such developed country Parties have initiated actions to achieve their prescribed targets by the first commitment period of 2008-12. In addition many developed country Parties are also participating in an emission trading arrangement through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol and sharing technology with project sponsors in developing countries.

(d) India is of the view that all developed country Parties having qualified emission limitation or reduction commitments should fulfil their obligations under the Koto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Non compliance of/refusal by any developed country Party to the Kyoto commitments is likely to affect adversely international efforts to address the climate change issue.

Storage Capacity of Tungabhadra Dam

4438. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the storage capacity of Tungabhadra Dam in Karnataka from the date of its construction, till-date;

(b) whether the farmers are suffering due to silt formed in the dam; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remove the silt and improve the storage capacity of the dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAIN YADAV): (a) to (c) The live storage capacity of the Tungabhadra Reservoir was 3718.34 Million cubic Metres (131.312 Thousand Million cubic Feet) as per the first survey conducted during 1953. The present live storage capacity is 3157.53 Million Cubic Metres (111.507 Thousand Million Cubic Feet) as per 1993 survey. Thus the reservoir has lost 560.81 Million cubic Metres (19.805 Thousand Million Cubic Feet) of live storage capacity due to siltation and thus utilisation from the reservoir has decreased. There is no proposal for desiltation of Tungabhadra reservoir as it is not a cost effective proposal.

Export of Wheat to Pakistan

4439. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any suggestions regarding export of wheat to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Trade Delegation from Pakistan had, during its visit in July, 2003, shown interest in the import of wheat from India. However, Government of Pakistan have so far not agreed to open Attari-Wagha Border for trade.

[Translation]

Mining of Iron Ore by RINL

4440. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of iron ore reserves in the country at present and the number of such reserves discovered during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has formulated any scheme to take foreign iron ore mines on lease to fulfil the shortage of raw material in the country;

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

(d) whether the Government has not been able to exploit high quality Iron Ore reserves in various parts of the country including Surjagarh in Garhchirauli district of Maharashtra;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The number of iron ore reserves in the country at present state-wise are as under:

(in '000 tonnes)

States	Haematite				Magnetite			
	Proved	Probable	Possible	Total	Proved	Probable	Possible	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	1050.03	15159.76	64092.33	89302.12	43034	1266666	0	1309700
Assam	0	0	0	0	4240	0	0	4240
Bihar	0	0	55.00	55.00	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	993159.75	537553.61	747508.00	2278221.36	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Goa	461013.90	149372.41	119460.79	729847.10	67358	5416	115218	187992
Jharkhand	2560232.67	334830.30	386019.29	3281082.26	1343	3846	2358	7547
Karnataka	795721.78	208747.25	311194.30	1315663.33	1653457	503872	1686610	3843939
Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	26882	12304	39186
Madhya Pradesh	47098.40	23520.99	81636.92	152256.31	0	0	0	0
Maharashtra	106942.42	76939.35	89282.49	273164.26	530	108	0	638
Orissa	1824172.68	762910.37	1590270.65	4177353.70	0	0	0	0
Rajasthan	2070.94	12682.11	5577.22	20330.27	15	60	464	539
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	1433	1433
All India	6800462.57	2121716.15	3395096.99	12317275.71	1769977	1806850	1818987	5395214

The following reserves have been discovered during the last three years, the state-wise details are as under:

State	Name of the Iron Ore reserves
Orissa	Sundargard, Keonjhar, Barsua and Bolani
Chhattisgarh	Durg and Bailadila
Karnataka	Chickmagalur
Goa	Bichoum
Maharashtra	Sindhudurg

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, in view of the above.

(d) to (f) The Government by itself is not engaged in exploiting iron ore reserves in the country. However, public sector undertakings like National Mineral Development Corporation, Steel Authority of India Limited etc. are engaged in iron ore mining.

[English]

Policy Changes

4441. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make major policy changes that would remove all restrictions and impediments coming in the way of farmers having access to markets where they opt in getting the best prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. Under the existing law dealing with agricultural markets (APMC Act). The farmer is restricted from entering into direct contract with any manufacturer or retailer as the produce is required to be canalised through regulated markets. This restriction is acting as disincentives to farmer, retail-trade and industries. The State Governments have, therefore, been advised to make

changes in the APMC Act to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets. The aim of the reform is to provide freedom to farmers to sell their produce in the markets providing better prices/services.

Export of Foodgrains

4442. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of foodgrains during the current financial year;

(b) whether this target has been fixed keeping in mind the problem of surplus stocks; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not fixed any target for exporting foodgrians from the Central Pool.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Losses to States due to Floods

4443. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti-erosion scheme to be executed with a central share of Rs. 2.30 crore on the banks of Ganga river flowing near Rajmahal has been received;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has issued any directions to State Government to implement the scheme within the stipulated time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAIN YADAV): (a) Yes, one Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, "Anti-erosion works on the right bank of river Ganga from Majhartola to Phelutola near Narayanpur downstream of Rajmahal in the district of Sahibganj" estimated to cost Rs. 3.07 crore was received in Ganga Flood Control Commission from Water Resources Department, Government of Jharkhand. The Central Share for this scheme is Rs. 2.30 crore.

(b) and (c) Ganga Flood Control Commission has examined the above scheme and found it to be broadly in order.

Promotion of Agro Forestry and Horticulture

4444. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote agro forestry and horticulture particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided to States including Uttar Pradesh for this purposes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Land Resources is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Technology Development Extension and Training for Development of Non-Forest Wastelands under which pilot projects are sanctioned to various State Agricultural Universities/ICAR Institutes for testing Agro-Forestry models in different Agro-climatic regions of the country. Besides, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is implementing an All India Coordinated Research project on Agro-Forestry in the country through the National Research Centre in Agro forestry located at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plan assistance is being extended to all the State Governments, to take up diversified farming systems in the arable and non-arable lands in the identified watersheds in the Rainfed non-arable lands in the identified watershed in the Rainfed areas as well as in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers. Under this scheme assistance is also being extended for the development of horticultural crops in the country.

(c) The State-wise details of assistance provided for the development of horticulture in the country under Macro Management Scheme is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Allocation/Released of funds for Horticulture under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1370.57	1323.35	1168.90
2.	Bihar	0.00	747.39	500.00
3.	Jharkhand	0.00	95.00	103.00
4.	Goa	447.00	106.00	101.25
5.	Gujarat	621.61	383.33	591.00
6.	Haryana	131.00	277.00	300.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	537.22	483.53	591.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	277.77	505.83	91.81
9.	Karnataka	537.23	1500.55	1555.55
10.	Kerala	674.32	1059.75	2046.95
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2000.00	444.44	600.00
12.	Chhattisgarh	1315.00	425.00	384.00
13.	Maharashtra	550.00	3890.00	2265.00
14.	Orissa	497.00	805.55	890.00
15.	Punjab	3810.00	180.00	180.00
16.	Rajasthan	0.00	775.00	684.41
17.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	1890.00	916.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	500.00	675.00
19.	Uttaranchal	0.00	250.00	24.00
20.	West Bengal	583.33	511.00	450.00
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	216.10	0.00	0.00
22.	Assam	575.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Mizoram	1802.08	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Meghalaya	50.00	2.50	0.00
26.	Nagaland	340.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Sikkim	227.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Tripura	440.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	26.15	11.75	0.00
31.	Delhi	79.00	37.70	30.00
32.	Lakshadweep	72.50	49.00	0.00
33.	Pondicherry	0.00	35.00	35.00
34.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	55.12	124.27	9.50
	Total	17235.00	16412.94	13601.37

Setting up of Agriculture Research Centres

4445. MOHD. SHAHID:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating upon the scheme to set up Agriculture Research Centres (ARCs) providing assistance to the farmers for making them self-reliant in foodgrains;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-allocation of sufficient funds to the ARCs despite our reliance on agriculture and its being the highest in respect of the percentage agricultural coverage;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on agriculture research work during 2004-05; and

(d) the work being carried out under the research work to augment the agricultural yield and improve the quality of yield in order to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since the financial year 2004-2005 concluded recently, the book of accounts on expenditure are in the process of finalization. However, the Revised Estimate during 2004-05 were Rs. 900 crore under Plan and Rs. 775 crore under Non-Plan.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

- To sustain and further enhance food and nutrition security, 81 improved varieties and hybrids of various crops are released in the year 2004-05.
- Emphasis is laid on collection, conservation, evaluation and sustainable use of genetic resources in plants, animals, fish & micro-organisms.
- The National Gene Bank on Plants holds more than 2,80,000 accessions.
- Emphasis laid on increasing productivity of horticultural crops by evolving high yielding varieties and technologies.

- A Network Programme on organic farming involving 10 research centres has been initiated to develop technology for organically produced food.

- A Network Programme involving 15 research centres to study climate change, it's impact on agriculture and devising strategies to negate the impact of predicted climate is initiated.

- Development of strategies for control of animal diseases and breed improvement for milk, meat, draft, fiber & egg in various livestock and poultry species through selection is initiated.

- Development of geographical information system for maintenance of database for marine fisheries resources.

- Cryo-preservation of priomordial germcells of Indian major carp fishes.

- The Government has approved for establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in all the rural districts of the country by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan.

- Centres of Excellence in State Agricultural Universities to achieve education excellence in teaching, research consultancy and other services.

Strengthening of Wildlife Laws

4446. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to strengthen further the laws pertaining to wildlife;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a nodal agency to check wildlife crimes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating functions of the same?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A multi-disciplinary Bureau to check crimes related to wildlife and their derivatives is proposed to be set up under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d) The Bureau with its headquarters at New Delhi shall perform following functions:

(i) To gather and analyze intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to State and Regional Enforcement Agencies for swift action to apprehend the criminals.

(ii) To act as a multi agency unit with full time officers from various organizations like Police, Customs and Forest.

(iii) To implement the resolutions and decisions taken under various International Conventions such as Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Founa (CITES), International Whaling Commission, etc., to which India is a party.

(iv) To co-operate with the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group, the World Customs Organization, the CITES Tiger Enforcement Task Force and various other Law Enforcement Agencies inside the country.

(v) To develop a National level Policy for containing the trade, enforcement and capacity building of the State Forest Departments to carry out enforcement and investigation in a professional manner.

(vi) To establish an intelligence network all over the country for advance information and action by closely working with State Forest Departments, NGOs, etc.

(vii) To monitor the trade and advise the Government of India on changes required in policy and legislation from time to time.

[English]

Coconut Plantation Affected by Diseases

4447. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coconut plantations in Karnataka have been affected by various diseases like Nusi, Root wilt, etc. and worms like blackhead worm and white worm etc.; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect coconut plantations in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The coconut gardens in Karnataka have been affected by various pest and diseases. The major pests causing damage to coconut plantations in the state are Leaf eating caterpillar (black worm,), Eriophyid mite (Nusi) and Red palm weevil.

Ministry of Agriculture through the programmes of Coconut Development Board is extending technical and financial assistance to the Government of Karnataka for adopting management practices for the control of the pest and diseases. Under these programmes, an amount of Rs. 13.50 crores was released to Government of Karnataka for the control of Eriophyid mite, out of which, an amount of Rs. 4.60 crores was provided for demonstration of eco-friendly integrated pest management practices in 22 severely pest affected coconut growing districts of the state.

Besides, the project for development, demonstration and adoption fo technologies under Technology Mission on Coconut, following projects were sanctioned for control of leaf eating caterpillars in Karnataka.

1. Modernization of parasites breeding laboratory at Demonstration cum Seed Production (DSP) farm. Mandya with total financial assistance of Rs. 27.8 lakhs and Establishment of Biological Control Laboratory at Regional Office, Coconut Development Board, Bangalore with a tctal financial assistance of Rs. 42 lakhs. Under these projects, large scale multiplication and release of parasitoids in the endemic areas as farmer participatory demonstration for biological control of the pest is being done.

2. A project for development, implementation, training and popularisation of Integrated caterpillar was sanctioned to University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore with a total financial assistance of Rs. 29.67 lakhs.

3. A project for Biological control of leaf eating caterpillar by multiplication and release of parasitoids in the endemic areas was sanctioned to Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka with a total financial assistance of Rs. 20.00 lakhs.

Funds for Development of Horticulture

4448. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the central funds allocated and utilized for the development of Horticulture in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the achievements made by the States receiving assistance under the said funds;

(c) whether the Government proposes to raise the allocation of funds to the States for further development of horticulture;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The details cf assistance provided during last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (i) Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/ Complementation of State efforts through Work Plan (ii) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal (TMNE), are given in enclosed Statement-I & Statement-II, respectively.

(b) Under the Macro Management Scheme, the following achievements have been made during the period:

(i) An area of 22096 hectares have been covered under horticulture crops.

(ii) 5950 hectares have been covered under drip irrigation/sprinkler irrigation.

(iii) An area of 2751 hectares were rejuvenated for fruits and cashew nuts, and

(iv) 7882 hectares were covered under demonstration for integrated pest management.

Similarly under TMNE—An area of 62300 hectares have been covered under horticulture crops since 2001-02.

(c) and (d) The allocation of funds for development of horticulture in the country has been raised from Rs. 540 crores in 2004-05 to Rs. 1405 crores in 2005-06.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise Allocation/Release of funds for Horticulture under, Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1370.57	1323.35	1168.90
2.	Bihar	0.00	747.39	500.00
3.	Jharkhand	0.00	95.00	103.00
4.	Goa	447.00	106.00	101.25
5.	Gujarat	621.61	383.33	591.00
6.	Haryana	131.00	277.00	300.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	537.22	483.53	591.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	277.77	505.83	91.81
9.	Karnataka	537.23	1500.55	1555.55
10.	Keralal	574.32	1059.75	2046.95
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2000.00	444.44	600.00
12.	Chhattisgarh	1315.00	425.00	384.00
13.	Maharashtra	550.00	3890.00	2265.00
14.	Orissa	497.00	805.55	890.00
15.	Punjab	3810.00	180.00	180.00
16.	Rajasthan	0.00	775.00	684.41
17.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	1890.00	916.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	500.00	675.00
19.	Uttaranchal	0.00	250.00	24.00

1	2	3	4	5
20.	West Bengal	583.33	511.00	450.00
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	216.10	0.00	0.00
22.	Assam	575.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Mizoram	1802.08	0.00	0.00
25.	Meghalaya	50.00	2.50	0.00
26.	Nagaland	340.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Sikkim	227.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Tripura	440.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	26.15	11.75	0.00
31.	Delhi	79.00	37.70	30.00
32.	Lakshadweep	72.50	49.00	0.00
33.	Pondicherry	0.00	35.00	35.00
34.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	55.12	124.27	9.50
	Total	17235.00	16412.94	13601.37

Statement II

State-wise Allocation/Release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal".

(Rs. in lakhs)

		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
		1	2	3
A. Mini Mission-I				
1.	NE states including Sikkim	175.00	100.00	700.00
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	100.00	100.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	—	100.00	100.00
4.	Uttaranchal	—	100.00	154.00

		1	2	3
B. Mini Mission-II				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1099.00	1220.00	1645.55
2.	Assam	1092.15	1400.00	871.00
3.	Manipur	685.00	638.00	1286.25
4.	Meghalaya	775.60	850.00	1395.99
5.	Mizoram	1099.73	1089.00	1801.10
6.	Nagaland	979.00	1256.00	1467.30
7.	Sikkim	855.00	1000.00	1150.00
8.	Tripura	785.00	900.00	1111.30
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	650.00	1233.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	650.00	1300.00
11.	Uttaranchal	—	564.72	975.00
12.	Technical Support/SFAC service charges & other Project based proposals	129.52	101.28	89.29
C. Mini Mission-III				
1.	NE states including Sikkim	1350.00	700.00	1480.49
2.	J&K, HP & Uttaranchal	—	320.00	192.00
3.	J&K (Reconstruction plan)	—	—	178.50
D. Mini Mission-IV				
1.	NE states including Sikkim	75.00	—	—
2.	J&K, HP & Uttaranchal	—	100.00	120.00
3.	J&K (Reconstruction plan)	—	—	321.50
	Grand Total	9100.00	11839.00	17672.27

Losses of ITDC

4449. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is incurring losses for the past several years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to protect ITDC from further losses and to make it profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) earned profit right from its inception in 1996 to 1998-99 but

incurred losses during 1999-2000 to 2002-03. However, it had turned around in 2003-04 and has started earning profit again. The position regarding profit/loss (before tax) of the Corporation for the last five years is as under:

	Profit/Loss (Rs. in Crores)
2000-2001	(-) 35.45
2001-2002	(-) 90.26*
2002-03	(-) 9.10
2003-2004	2.86**
2004-2005 (estimated)	4.16**

*Includes Rs. 53.02 crores on account of transfer of disinvested units.

**These figures would turn into losses if pending dues of AAI are account for.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to improve financial performance of the Corporation:

- Aggressive marketing efforts including promotional scheme, special packages etc.
- Consolidation in the existing facilities/services of the ITDC.
- After the disinvestments of 18 ITDC hotels, ITDC has diversified and entered into new business activities such as Money changing and Western Union Money Transfers, Consultancy and execution of tourism & engineering projects, training consultancy in hospitality sector, Event Management, Mounting of SEL Shows.
- Leasing out of some business areas in few ITDC Hotels to private parties for generating fixed income.
- Rationalisation of manpower through VRS and redeployment of manpower.
- Reduction in wage bill by roll back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years.
- Control of cost by exercising economy in expenditure.
- Opening up of new Duty Free Shops at Hyderabad, Bangalore, Calicut and Ahmedabad Custom Airports.

National Watershed Development Project

4450. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of National Watershed Development Project for rainfed areas in the country;

(b) the target of this project, achievements made, the expenditure involved, the amount earmarked and spent, so far, State-wise during Tenth Plan; and

(c) the areas identified for the purpose of implementation of this project and the status of implementation of this project during 2004-05 and the target for 2005-06 in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

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 National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which was launched in the 8th Five Year Plan and is continued during the 10th Five Year Plan. It is being implemented in 28 States and two Union Territories of the country.

The primary objective of NWDPRA is to improve production and productivity of rainfed areas and restore the ecological balance in the project regions. The main elements of the guiding principles of the scheme are as follow: Conservation of natural resources, integrated development of natural as well as social resources, *in-situ* moisture conservation, sustainable farming system, adoption of ridge to valley approach, due emphasis on production enhancement activities for land owners and livelihood support for landless families, democratic decentralization in decision making, transparency in transactions, mobilization of community at the village level, direct funding to the community, emphasis on "Government" participation in "Community's" plans, contributory approach to empower the community, building upon indigenous innovations, initiatives and ideas, equity for resource-poor families and empowerment of women.

(b) The physical and financial achievements under NWDPRA Scheme during 10th Plan are furnished in the enclosed Statement.

(c) In Andhra Pradesh, the NWDPRA Scheme is under implementation in 143 watersheds located in 19 districts during 2004-05. A sum of Rs. 718.37 lakhs has

been spent to develop an area of 15964. ha. During 2004-05 and it is proposed to implement the programme during 2005-06 with an outlay of Rs.686.88 lakhs to treat an area of 15264 ha. in these 19 districts.

Statement

Physical and Financial achievements under NWDPRA Programme during X Plan

(As on 31.12.04)
(Area in ha. Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
		Funds Released (Including unspent balance)	Expenditure Incurred	Area Developed	Funds Released (Including unspent balance)	Expenditure Incurred	Area Developed	Funds Released (Including unspent balance)	Expenditure Incurred	Area Developed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	118.950	88.682	1970	444.828	402.719	8949	718.37	718.370	15964
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0	135.000	134.804	2250	0.00	0.000	0
3.	Assam	288.000	188.000	4060	145.000	100.000	2075	0.00	0.000	0
4.	Bihar	112.500	2.280	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.00	44.030	348
5.	Jharkhand	586.260	586.260	4280	977.640	975.910	9870	630.65	490.960	8500
6.	Goa	15.520	14.340	0	104.000	74.316	670	101.47	96.310	1402
7.	Gujarat	900.000	41.810	0	1315.250	1255.610	25369	809.55	572.020	8380
8.	Haryana	65.000	57.630	726	100.000	88.720	1455	100.00	37.400	617
9.	Himachal Pradesh	48.970	45.130	44	143.000	137.620	1914	239.00	117.060	1700
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.600	2.521	0	6.800	3.599	0	145.61	5.710	81
11.	Karnataka	891.090	776.540	4200	1608.330	1743.820	15467	1273.77	828.520	13922
12.	Kerala	200.000	6.610	0	400.000	139.000	0	148.00	510.030	7662
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1200.000	1097.98	32817	726.020	721.280	22932	237.00	191.980	7690
14.	Chhattisgarh	459.990	455.099	10113	705.678	705.665	15681	457.30	386.318	8585
15.	Maharashtra	1950.000	686.000	7833	850.000	850.000	16190	1100.00	602.700	12697
16.	Manipur	47.500	57.500	60	190.000	190.000	3462	110.85	174.170	0
17.	Mizoram	360.000	360.000	3000	410.000	410.000	7082	360.00	354.700	6530
18.	Meghalaya	415.000	415.000	7025	361.550	361.550	6026	369.95	346.000	6642
19.	Nagaland	250.000	250.000	1100	480.000	480.000	7700	225.00	225.000	4563
20.	Orissa	555.560	373.040	10390	724.060	617.800	13644	281.06	263.090	6832
21.	Punjab	100.000	0.000	0	150.190	68.380	1056	0.00	0.000	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22.	Rajasthan	3122.392	2555.202	38960	3474.990	3869.460	84424	2446.00	2196.000	44946
23.	Sikkim	90.000	90.000	942	191.120	191.120	2784	143.63	197.770	3296
24.	Tamil Nadu	1535.210	1408.330	31296	1525.000	1525.000	33888	1729.06	728.510	5587
25.	Tripura	177.000	177.000	2415	353.100	307.512	4358	115.02	0.000	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1121.800	1121.800	9423	950.000	948.720	24272	838.00	784.510	5587
27.	Uttaranchal	456.500	446.000	7433	975.440	975.440	13182	971.73	964.780	12787
28.	West Bengal	45.054	42.921	557	64.590	0.000	16	119.50	34.800	0
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0	0.00	0.000	0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25.000	24.105	400	47.000	45.510	800	0.00	17.509	0
	Total	15140.896	11359.780	179044	17558.586	17323.555	325516	13670.52	10778.26	201149

Note: Release of funds include revalidated unspent balance of previous year also.

*The figure for Andhra Pradesh State for 2004-05 is upto March, 2005.

Seeds under Value Added Tax

4451. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring seeds under the purview of the Value Added Tax (VAT)

(b) if so, whether the Government has assessed the impact of this move on the farming community;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the States have requested the Union Government for exemption of seeds from the ambit of VAT; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) Only Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government in exempt seeds from Value Added Tax (VAT).

(e) The matter was taken up with the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers and the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers in its meeting held on 7th March 2005 have decided to exempt seeds from Value Added Tax (VAT).

Establishment of Gender and Forestry Task Force

4452. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and ratio of women in the Central and State Forest Services both at officer and ranger level;

(b) whether the Government has received any requests for establishment of a Gender and Forestry Task Force; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The number of women in the Central, that is, the Indian Forest Service, is 114 against a total strength of 2763 and, therefore, their ratio is 1:23. The information regarding number of women and their ratio in

the State Forest Service and at ranger level is being collected from the States and Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Revision in Levy of Sugar

4453. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review and revise the levy on sugar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present to revise the levy obligation which is currently 10% of the sugar production of a sugar mill.

[English]

Development of Tourist Spots

4454. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided any assistance to the State Governments for the development of tourist spots in the country during each of the last three years;

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

(c) whether the said amount has been fully utilized by the State Governments;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether tourism projects are lying incomplete despite the funds made available for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the details of funds provided and spent during each of the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Governments for the development of tourist spots in the country. The details of the Central Financial Assistance sanctioned and released to the States during the 10th Plan is as per enclosed Statement.

(c) to (f) The State Governments have to fully utilize the funds released to them initially and only on the receipt of the utilization certificate and completion certificate, the balance amount (20%) is released to the State Governments. The Ministry of Tourism, on the advise of the State Governments and Executing Agencies, allows a certain timeframe for the completion of projects and also holds regular Review Meetings in order to speed up the implementation of such projects.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the Tenth Plan (as on 31.12.2004)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (up to 31.12.2004)		
		No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	796.44	11	2750.81	2191.92
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	6	955.88	742.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	6	1285.70	905.52
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.23	1527.55
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	4	1086.26	869.01
6.	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	2	10.00	8.00
7.	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14
8.	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	5	678.55	501.64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	5	2620.00	1736.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	2	805.00	644.00
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	1	474.97	379.97
12.	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	8	2432.76	1914.37
13.	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	5	2148.63	1718.88
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	8	1285.46	783.03
15.	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	6	1576.38	1260.10
16.	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18.	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	3	1081.28	927.09
19.	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	5	2165.69	1731.40
20.	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	5	1316.48	999.69
21.	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	4	846.41	561.26
22.	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	2	39.31	31.45
23.	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	6	1005.81	805.13
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	6	876.92	702.72
25.	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	450.17	135.16	0	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	3	1412.93	1125.56
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	7	1037.43	825.19
28.	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	5	480.04	384.03
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	1	457.00	365.60
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32.	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	1	500.00	400.00
33.	Daman and Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
	Total	212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	130	32784.16	25320.26

Meeting of National Board for Wildlife

4455. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife was held recently in March 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main issues discussed therein and suggestions/recommendations made thereat; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government in regard to each of the suggestions/recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The second meeting of the National Board for Wildlife was held on 17th March 2005 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister. The main issues discussed and suggestions/recommendations made are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The Ministry is committed to take action as per the recommendations of the Board.

Statement

Sl.No.	Issues discussed	Suggestion/recommendation of the Board
1	2	3
1.	Setting up of Task Force for Trans-boundary Protected Areas.	A Task Force for Trans Boundary Protected Areas to be set up
2.	Preventing Gyps vulture from Extinction	The principal identified causative factor-venterinary drug diclofenac, to be phased out within six months
3.	Export of captive bred birds of exotic species	Present ban on the export of captive bred exotic birds to continue
4.	Eco-fragile/Eco-sensitive Zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries	State Governments to be consulted for sites specific delineation of eco sensitive areas
5.	Revision of Species in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	Committees to be set up based on IUCN guidelines/norms

1	2	3
6.	Guidelines for permission for scientific research in Protected Areas.	Guidelines to be formulated in consultation with expert members from NBWL
7.	Rationalization of the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries	Norms & criteria for rationalization of boundaries of National Parks and sanctuaries to be determined in consultation with State Government
8.	Nominations of members to the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife on a rotational basis	Agenda deferred and status-quo to be maintained
9.	Decline in Tiger Population in India as reported in media	A Task Force to be constituted which would submit its report within three months.
10.	Problems of Wildlife related to drying of wetlands	The Board refrained from any discussions on the issue since the matter was subjudice.
11.	Abolition of the practice of gifiting animals by Head of the Government/Head of the State	The practice of gifiting of animals by Head of Government/Head of State to be discontinued with immediate effect
12.	Expedite the setting up of National Wildlife Crime Bureau in view of actions by CITES.	Recommended by the Board.
13.	Creation of separate Department of Forests & Wildlife	Views expressed by many members were taken note of and appropriate decision would be arrived at in the appropriate fora.

Package for Farmers

4456. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Davangere and Chitradurga Districts of Karnataka have been severely affected by drought;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has announced some special package for the farmers of Davangere and Chitradurga Districts of Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when this package is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) During 2004-05, the Government of Karnataka had declared parts of several districts in the State as drought affected, which included Davanagere and Chitradurga districts also. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking Central assistance for drought relief, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the drought affected areas in the State for assessment of the situation. This was considered by the High Level Committee (HLC) for approval. On the basis of this approval, Rs. 49.14 crores from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and 1.14 lakh MTs of foodgrains, free of cost, under special component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for relief employment have been released to the State. The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2004-05 amounting to Rs. 67.98 crores have also been released to the State.

[Translation]

Loans against Foodgrains Stored

4457. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to provide loans to farmers on the basis of the receipt issued with regard to their foodgrains stored in godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce any bill in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which this bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to introduce a legislation for making the warehouse receipt a fully negotiable instrument to increase liquidity through the Banking Sector in the rural areas. The bill in this regard would be introduced after the completion of necessary formalities.

Modernisation of Agricultural Research Centres

4458. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether no money has been spent for the modernisation of Agricultural Research Centres during Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the percentage out of Gross Agricultural produce being spent on Agricultural Research;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to modernise Agricultural Research Centres, in view of the increasing import of agricultural products and to meet the needs of the domestic market?

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 Planning Commission did not provide separate budget for renovation/modernisation of infrastructure under National Agricultural Research System, though, an amount of Rs. 1000 crore was proposed in the form of One Time Catch Up Grant for this purpose, while submitting the Tenth Five Year Plan proposals of the Department. In the absence of any separate funding on this account, the Department could not take up large-scale renovation/ modernisation of infrastructure. However, in a very limited scale, this requirement was considered in the Tenth Five Year Plan Expenditure Finance Committees/Standing Finance Committees of various Plan Schemes.

(b) About 0.3% of AGDP is being spent as plan and non-plan total budget of the Department.

(c) During the last five years i.e. 1999-2000 to 2003-2004, the percentage share of total budget allocation of the Department (Plan + Non Plan) is about 0.29%, 0.33%, 0.29%, 0.33% and 0.30%, respectively, based on the Agriculture GDP at current prices.

(d) Planning Commission has already been requested to provide separate budget for large scale renovation/ modernisation of the age-old infrastructure of the National Agricultural Research System.

[English]

Sale of Meat of Exotic Wild Animals

4459. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that meat of exotic wild animals is being sold in the local restaurants in the beach belt of Goa;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the offenders/guilties?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No incident of sale of meat of exotic wild animals in Goa has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Mega Project for Milk Products by Singapore

4460. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Singapore has sent a proposal for setting up a Mega Project for milk products in India;

(b) if so, whether the said project is likely to be set up in Karnataka under a joint venture scheme; 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Compensation to States with Higher Forest Cover

4461. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to compensate the States having forest area more than the national average for incurring expenditure on the maintenance of the forest area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States selected for the purpose indicating the amount proposed for compensation for each State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In response to the representations made by States, the Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended a grant of Rs. 1,000 crores to the States for maintenance of forests. This amount has been distributed among the States based on their forest area and is required to be spent for preservation of forest wealth. The State-wise and year-wise details of this grant are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise & Year-wise details of the Grant-in-aid for maintenance of Forests

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2005-2010
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	65.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	100.00
3.	Assam	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	40.00
4.	Bihar	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	5.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	85.00
6.	Goa	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	3.00
7.	Gujarat	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	20.00
8.	Haryana	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	2.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	20.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	30.00
11.	Jharkhand	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	30.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Karnataka	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	55.00
13.	Kerala	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	115.00
15.	Maharashtra	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	70.00
16.	Manipur	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	30.00
17.	Meghalaya	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	30.00
18.	Mizoram	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
19.	Nagaland	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
20.	Orissa	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	75.00
21.	Punjab	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	2.00
22.	Rajasthan	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00
23.	Sikkim	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60	8.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	30.00
25.	Tripura	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	15.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	20.00
27.	Uttaranchal	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	35.00
28.	West Bengal	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	15.00
	Total	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	1000.00

[English]

Arecanut Research Centre

4462. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Arecanut Trees in Karnataka have been affected by a deadly disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Arecanut Research Centre, Calicut has suggested measures and medicines to counter the aforesaid disease; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to use the expertise of the said institute to protect the Arecanut Trees?

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 Arecanut trees in Karnataka are affected by Yellow Leaf disease which causes slow decline in their health and yield.

(c) and (d) This disease cannot be controlled by any chemical method. However, the following measures have been suggested to maintain arecanut plantations in good health:

(1) Do not neglect the plantations once they are affected;

(2) Provide sufficient drainage to drain out excess water specially during the rainy season. This will reduce root rotting;

(3) Application of organic manure to improve the soil texture and aeration for better development of root system;

(4) Cultural operations, manural applications should be done in proper way and at proper time;

(5) Irrigate the plantations during summer.

(6) Government has advised the farmers to follow the above measures.

Fertilizers Sale Centres and Kisan Sewa Kendras of IFFCO and KRIBHCO

4463. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fertilizers Sales Centres and Kisan Sewa Kendras of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) in the country especially in Maharashtra.

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more such centres in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As on date, 37381 Coop. Societies are engaged in selling IFFCO fertilizer in the country, which include 1699 societies in the State of Maharashtra. IFFCO also distributes its fertilizers through its 159 Farmers Service Centres in the country, no Farmers Service Centre is operating in Maharashtra. Similarly, KRIBHCO is currently operating 61 Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendras (KBSKs) in the country. At present no KBSKs are in operation in the state of Maharashtra.

(b) During the year 2004-05 IFFCO has not opened any new selling centers and KRIBHCO has also not opened any KBSK in the country. As on date, no proposal for opening such new centers is there with IFFCO or KRIBHCO.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of Thangssery Fishing Harbour

4464. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any revised project report for the development of Thangssery fishing harbour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India accorded approval to the proposal for development of fishing harbour at Thangassery in Kollam District in two states. The stage-I fishing harbour at an estimated cost at Rs. 1411.00 lakhs was approved in October 1988 and stage-II at a cost of Rs. 569.50 lakhs was in March 1994 and implementation of this project has been taken up as an Integrated Fishing Harbour project with a total cost of Rs. 1980.50 lakhs. The entire central share to the tune of 50% of the approved cost amounting to Rs. 990.25 lakhs has been released to the State by March 2002. After examination the revised cost estimate report with a cost escalation from Rs. 1980.50 lakhs to Rs. 4385.50 lakhs, the Government of Kerala has been requested in December 2002 to indicate item-wise quantum of cost escalation on account of severe sea erosion occurred in 1994 and delay in disposal of court case.

Mango Research Centre in Gujarat

4465. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to establish a Mango Research Central in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Questions does not arise.

(c) The need of mango research in Gujarat is met through All India Coordinated Research Project Centre located at Paria, district Valsad (Gujarat). In addition, the State Agricultural universities are also addressing relevant issues of mango research.

[Translation]

Development of Horticulture Crops in M.P.

4466. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI VIJAYA KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has set any revised proposal to the Union Government for allocation of funds for the development of Horticulture in the State;

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

(c) by when the approval on the said proposal is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Madhya Pradesh submitted a proposal for development of horticulture in the State under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM).

(b) The State Government was informed that National Horticulture Mission (NHM) is yet to be approved and that the detailed operational guidelines will be finalized and intimated to the State Government in due course.

(c) The approval of the said proposal is likely to be provided after the State Government furnishes the project proposal in accordance with the guidelines for National Horticulture Mission.

[English]

Production of Potato

4467. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main potato growing States;

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in the production of potato in some States during 2004-05;

(c) if so, the name of the States where the production has declined; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The main potato growing states are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka.

(b) to (d) Production estimates of potato does not show any sharp decline from previous year's production. However, there is an increase in overall production from 244.69 lakh MT's (2003-04) to 259.76 lakh MT's (2004-05).

[Translation]

Yamuna Action Plan

4468. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds provided by the Union Government for Yamuna Action Plan during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) the extent of utilisation of these funds by each of the implementing agencies, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has been monitoring the extent of improvement in the quality of water of river Yamuna as a result of various efforts;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of improvement noticed in this regard so far;

(e) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has made critical observations on the failure of the Union Government and the Government of Delhi to clean up the 22 km stretch of the Yamuna passing through the Capital;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for failure in cleaning the Yamuna; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The amount of funds provided by the Union Government under Yamuna Action Plan to the concerned State Governments during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 alongwith funds utilized by these States is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP), the water quality of river Yamuna is being monitored by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on monthly basis. The present water quality (summer average) for river Yamuna in terms of dissolved oxygen (DO) and bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) in comparison of the year 1996 is given in enclosed Statement-II. It may be observed that the water quality of river shows BOD level higher than bathing quality standards of 3.0 mg/l in the entire stretch from Sonepat (Haryana) to Etawah (UP) in 1996. The BOD value in this stretch ranges from 2.50 mg/l to 26.50 mg/l during that year. As against this, the BOD values for the same stretch in 2004 are in the range of 2.3-26.50 mg/l. While these values are within the specified limits in the towns of Haryana, the position has not been possible to improve in the States of Delhi and UP as the cities under these States have added significant pollution load during the intervening years due to population increase and increased sewage generation.

(e) to (g) Hon'ble Supreme Court during recent hearing on 12.04.2005 Under WP (C) No. 725 of 1994 in the matter of news item published in Hindustan Times- "And quiet flows the maily Yamuna", has directed the Union Ministry of Urban Development to examine the matter giving reasons for non-achievement of various targets initiated earlier to the Hon'ble Court and for setting up the minimum time to be taken to ensure clean water of class 'C' category in river Yamuna.

The main reasons for continued pollution of river Yamuna in Delhi are:

(i) Installed capacity of STPs not being fully utilized at present, as out of a total installed capacity of about 2330 mld, only about 1545 mld capacity is utilized due to silting/settlement of about 91 Km out of total length of 131 kms of trunk sewers.

(ii) Gap of about 580 mld in installed capacity of STPs as out of generation of about 2910 mld of sewage, the installed capacity of STPs is 2300 mld only at present.

The following major item of works are required to be implemented for bringing river water quality to the desired class in Delhi stretch of Yamuna:

(a) Rehabilitation/installation of additional sewage treatment capacity of about 580 mld.

(b) Rehabilitation of full length of about 91 kms. of trunk sewers.

(c) Provision of sewerage facilities in all the unauthorized & resettlement colonies and urban villages.

(d) Replacement of all undersized sewers by 250 mm dia sewers.

(e) Use of treated sewage for horticulture/agriculture.

(f) Commission of all the 15 CETPs in Delhi;

(g) Shifting of all the slums located on the banks of river and major drains

(h) Maintenance of minimum flow in the river of 10 cumecs to be discharged by the 5 riparian States, namely, Haryana, UP, Delhi, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh in the river Yamuna.

YAP-II project under implementation by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi with funding from Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) mainly includes;

(i) Installation of 135 mld capacity of STP and

(ii) Rehabilitation about 30 kms of trunk sewers.

The remaining item of works to be taken up for abatement of pollution of river Yamuna in Delhi as mentioned above are to be implemented by Govt. of NCT of Delhi through their own resources including the proposed YAP-III project with JBIC funding. As per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a high powered committee under the Chairmanship of the Union Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development was constituted for preparation of an Integrated Action Plan for cleaning of River Yamuna in Delhi. The Integrated Action Plan has been prepared for implementation and submitted to the Apex Court in November, 2004.

Statement

Details of Fund released and Fund utilized under Yamuna Action Plan

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Action Plan/ State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		Fund Released	Fund* Utilized	Fund Released	Fund Utilized	Fund Released	Fund Utilized
	Yamuna Action Plan (YAP)						
1.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Uttar Pradesh	50.00	159.28	0.00	14.48	0.00	0.00
3.	Haryana	237.00	391.77	0.00	155.47	190.00	13.32
	Total	287.00	551.05	0.00	169.95	190.00	13.32
	Extended Phase (YAP)						
1.	Delhi	9185.00	8509.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Uttar Pradesh	604.00	816.17	0.00	42.26	0.00	0.00
3.	Haryana	0.00	152.01	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00
	Total:	9789.00	9477.92	0.00	42.42	0.00	0.00
	YAP Phase-II						
1.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total:	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total (YAP)	10076.00	10028.97	50.00	212.37	190.00	13.32

*Funds utilised by the State Govt. includes the balance carried over from the preceding year.

Statement II

Summer Average (March-June) 1996—2004 Yamuna Action Plan

Sl.No.	Site	<.....1996.....>		<.....2004.....>	
		DO (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)	DO (mg/l)	BOD (mg/l)
1	2	3	4	5	6
A. Haryana					
1.	Tajewala	11.70	1.20	9.12	1.00
2.	Kalanaur	10.40	1.05	8.80	2.30

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Sonepat	9.75	3.00	7.62	3.00
4.	Palla	13.95	6.00	8.25	2.30
B. Delhi					
5.	Nizamudin Bridge	0.30	25.00	0.00	26.50
C. Uttar Pradesh					
6.	Agra Canal	0.35	26.50	0.35	21.80
7.	Majhawali	0.50	22.00	5.75	21.30
8.	Mathura	8.10	4.00	5.75	8.30
9.	Mathura D/S	8.50	2.50	7.40	9.80
10.	Agra U/S	10.65	4.50	12.35	14.50
11.	Agra D/S	1.65	9.00	7.15	20.00
12.	Batteshwar	13.90	11.00	8.08	12.50
13.	Etawah	11.16	7.00	11.75	6.50
14.	UDI	9.71	2.00	9.50	1.30
15.	Auraiya Juhika	8.14	5.00	9.35	5.50

*...>Summer average (March + April + June)

Minimum Wages

4469. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the payment of minimum wages is not being made to the workers due to negligence of Labour Inspector and corruption tendency in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Payment of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is the primary responsibility of the employers. Its enforcement is secured by the Central and State Governments through their respective enforcement machineries. So far as the Central Sphere is concerned, there is no specific complaint received regarding minimum wages not being paid due to negligence of labour inspectors/officials.

National Policy for Agriculture Pension to Old Farmers

4470. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a national policy for providing Agriculture Pension to old farmers on the lines of old age pension scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Govenrment.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Misuse of Water Resources

4471. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken an assessment exercise of violation of cropping pattern norms in the country for checking misuse of water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating any comprehensive statutory measures for proper compliance of copping patterns for well co-ordinated efforts on the parts of States for conservation of water;

(d) if so, the detials thereof; and

(e) if not, 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) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The Government is promoting participatory approach by involving water user's associations and local bodies etc. in management of water resources. The state Governments are advised to evolve suitable cropping pattern in consultation with State Agricultural Universities keeping in view the availability of water resources in the states.

Plantation under National Afforestation Programme

4472. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that dangerous development is taking place under the National Afforestation Programme in which the implementing agencies are planting useless species like Acacia and Eucalyptus;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to issue any strict directives to stop such activities and promote planting of useful species like Peepal, Amla, Neem, Mango, Seesham and Tamarined etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the proposed National Forest Policy covers these aspects alongwith providing alternatives to wood for commercial purposes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP), species for planting are chosen after detailed discussions with the local community and as per the choice and demand of the members of the Village Forest Committee. As regards planting of Eucalyptus and Acacia, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun has also reported that these species are suitable for planting on eroded and exposed soils. Keeping in view the needs of the local community and the specific ecological factors, it is considered appropriate to encourage plantation of locally occurring trees species without specifically prohibiting plantation of Eucalyptus and Acacia trees.

(d) and (e) As regards use of alternative raw material, the National Forest Policy, 1988 encourages maximising the substitution of wood.

Activities of Food Corporation of India

4473. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal for diverting some of the activities of Food Corporation of India (FCI) to other agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Expert Committee has been setup or consultancy firm has been hired to carry out the exercise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, the Government has approved the appointment of M/s McKinsey & Co. by the Food Corporation of India to conduct a study with the objective of bringing about major improvement in the functioning of the FCI to control inefficiencies that increase the food subsidy burden.

Upliftment of Salt Workers

4474. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes introduced by the Government for upliftment of salt workers in Gujarat during last three years and the funds allocated during the said period;

(b) whether there are certain fixed standards for determining the introduction of these schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on the progress of the scheme implemented for the uplifgtment of the salt workers in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) As per details furnished by the Government of Gujarat, the following Schemes were under implementation during last three years:

(i) Scheme of Salt Workers Welfare Centres (45 Centers & 59 Balwadis).

(ii) Accidental death Group Insurance Scheme for unorganised Salt workers (applicable to all the unorganized sector workers of the State which includes Salt workers)

(iii) Financial assistance for serious diseases for Salt and unorganised workers of the State.

(iv) Financial assistance for construction of pucca quarters for Salt workers of the State, the funds allocated during the last three years are as under:

2002-03	:	34,41,000/-
2003-04		21,00,000/-
2004-05	:	93,92,000/-

In addition, Government of India (GOI) has also introduced Namak Mazdoor Awaas Yojana w.e.f. 2003. 3000 houses are proposed to be constructed in Gujarat during the current 5-year plan period. The cost of each house is Rs. 50,000/- out of which 90% contribution is to come from the GOI. 2420 salt workers have been identified for the allotment of houses and administrative sanction has been issued in respect of 1864 houses and an amount of Rs. 294 lakh approx. released to the Government of Gujarat towards the first installment. Besides, GOI is also providing financial assistance for improving potable water supply, construction of rest-sheds, recreational facilities etc. to the salt workers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Scheme-wise standards for the intoduction of the scheme in respect of Government of Gujarat are as under:

(i) Salt workers welfare centers (Nos. 45)

— The children of the Salt workers aged 0 to 6 years are to be enrolled in the Balwadi for providing pre-primary education and providing nutrious break fast. The State Government of Gujarat runs creches for the children (upto 6 years) of Salt workers.

(ii) All the unorganised Salt workers of the aged 14 to 70 years are insured for the death or partial/ permanent disability due to an accident.

— premium to be borne by the State Government,

— the insurance coverage amount is as under with effect from 26.1.2005, Rs. 1,00,000/- for accidental death and permanent disability, Rs. 50,000/- for partial disability.

(iii) 100% financial assistance of estimated cost of serious diseases.

(iv) 75% of the construction cost for the pucca quarters and the upper limit is Rs. 30,000/-. (This scheme is discontinued from 1.1.2005).

In respect of Namak Mazdoor Awaas Yojana of the GOI, working in salt industry for a period of 5 years is essential.

Development of Bio-technology in Agriculture

4475. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to develop bio-technology in the country as a measure of holistic agricultural development in the country;

(b) whether the apprehension expressed about the negative effects of bio-technology are true;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the salient features of International Rice Genome Sequencing Project; and

(e) the benefits have been reaped by India as a global partner in this project?

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 measures taken to develop biotechnology for holistic agricultural development include supporting the biotechnology related research activities mainly by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the areas of transgenic development, diagnostics, resistance to stresses, quality of products, edible vaccines, and molecular breeding. A mechanism for environmental and biosafety evaluation and release of GM crops for cultivation and use has been put in place under the Environment Protection Act 1986.

(b) and (c) The Department of Biotechnology has developed an elaborate regulatory mechanism for the health and environment risk analysis of the biotechnology products before they are released. There is no scientific evidence about the negative effects of released biotech crops.

(d) The International Rice Genome Sequencing Project (IRGSP) is a consortium of publicly funded laboratories from ten countries including Japan, the United States of America, China, Taiwan, Korea, India, Thailand, France, Brazil, and the United Kingdom. The complete rice genome sequence of the IRGSP is in public domain and is serving as a free global resource for rapid discovery of genes and marker for crop improvement by scientists worldwide.

(e) Through the participation in IRGSP, the following benefits have been reaped so far by India:

1. Development of world class genome sequencing facilities
2. Trained human resource in the frontier area of genomics
3. A database of rice genes (*Vanshanu Dhan*) has been developed for rice researchers.
4. Several DNA markers have been identified for improving quality traits and salinity tolerance
5. The first disease resistance gene has been isolated for rice Blast disease.

[Translation]

Cutting of Trees by Project Authorities

4476. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a power plant of 675 MW generation capacity was set up after the privatisation of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) and thousands of trees were cut down by the satellite company at the land where power plant was set up;

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

(c) the details of complaints received and inquiry conducted in this regard, if any?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A complaint has been received in the Ministry regarding construction of 675 MW power plant on forest land by M/s Sterlite Industries, partner of BALCO in Korba District, Chhattisgarh. It has been stated in the complaint that the above power plant was being constructed on forest land by cutting about 7 thousand green trees and without seeking the clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests. The State Government was requested to conduct an inquiry into the matter. As per information received from the State Government, the land in question is revenue land and 422 trees have been cut without permission and action as per land revenue code has been initiated by the Revenue Department of the State.

Procurement of Rye by NAFED

4477. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED is unable to procure of Rye due to shortage of godowns;

(b) if so, the opinion of the Government thereto;

(c) the name of the items procured by the NAFED from the farmers till now and the quantity of these produces procured during the last three years; and

(d) the further steps taken by the Government to procure Rye from 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) and (b) No, Sir. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), as a Central agency, has procured 10.08 lakh MT mustard up to 17.4.2005 under Price Support Scheme.

(c) The names of the items alongwith their quantities procured by NAFED from farmers from 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) NAFED has made adequate arrangements for procurement of mustard under Price Support Scheme (PSS). This inte-alia includes procurement of gunny bags, opening of procurement centers, sanctioning of Cash Credit Limited through Reserve Bank of India and booking of storage space.

Statement

Procurement of Oilseeds and Pulses by NAFED under PSS from 2002-03 to 2004-05

Sl.No.	Year	Commodity	Crop Season	MSP (Rs. Per Qtl)	Quantity Procured (in MTs)	Value (in Rs. Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	2002-03	Mustardseed	Rabi-2002	1300	467629	65192.23
2.	2002-03	Safflower Seed	Rabi-2002	1300	2020	293.46
3.	2002-03	Copra	2002 Season	3300 (milling) 3550 Ball)	7468	2518.50
4.	2002-03	Sunflower Seed	Rabi-2002	1185	28	3.81
5.	2002-03	Urad	Kharif-2002	1330+5*	17148	2462.11
6.	2002-03	Toor/Arhar	Kharif-2002	1320+5*	50	6.68
7.	2003-04	Copra milling	2003 Season	2840 (A&N) Island)	824	234.02
8.	2003-04 & 2004-05	Urad	Kharif 2003	1370	151,142	23306.10
9.	2003-04	Moong	Kharif 2003	1370	2488	383.65
10.	2003-04 & 2004-05	Gram	Rabi 2004	1400	279077	43536.01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	2004-05	Mustard Seed	Rabi 2004	1600	18577	2972.36
12.	2004-05	Sunflower Seed	Rabi 2004	1250	2330	291.25
13.	2004-05	Safflower Seed	Rabi 2004	1500	71	10.65
14.	2004-05	Groundnut	Kharif 2004	1500	247	37.35
15.	2004-05	Urad	Kharif 2004	1410	280	39.48
16.	2004-05	Mustard Seed	Rabi 2005	1700	10,08,556 (17.4.05)	181537.00
17.	2004-05	Safflower seed	Rabi 2005	1550	14943 (18.4.05)	2008.62
18.	2004-05	Sunflower seed	Rabi 2005	1340	28	3.75
19.	2004-05	Gram	Rabi 2005	1425	57641 (17.4.05)	9320.55
20.	2004-05	Masoor	Rabi 2005	1525	4755 (17.4.05)	821.19

*Special drought relief.

[English]

Dual Price Ceiling

4478. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of formulations have two ceiling prices based on bulk drug from basic stage or otherwise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As per para 9 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1995, (DPCO' 95) the Government may from time to time, by notification in the Official Gazette fix the ceiling price of a Scheduled formulation in accordance with the formula laid down in paragraph 7 of DPCO' 95, keeping in view the cost or efficiency, or both, of major manufacturers of such formulations and such price shall operate as the ceiling sale price for all such packs including those sold under generic name and for every manufacturer of such formulations.

Coconut Water as alternative to Soft Drinks

4479. SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote tender coconut water and palm syrup as an alternative to Soft drinks; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture through the Coconut Development Board has been promoting tender coconut water as a health and nutritional drink for the past one decade.

The steps taken for promotion of tender coconut water in the country are as given below:

- Mobile carts were distributed for the sale of tender coconut in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.
- A Technology for packing and preservation of tender coconut water has been developed through Defence Food Researh Laboratory (DFRL) and transferred to private entrepreneurs. Presently, three units are commercially involved in packaging of tender coconut water in the country, one each in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- One lakh packed tender coconut water packets were distributed to the victims of Gujarat Earthquake in order to make awareness about the product as a revitalizing health drink.
- Many Seminars were organized to create awareness on the health aspects of tender coconut. Tender Coconut water drinking competitions were organized in different part of the country for making awareness about tender coconut water.
- Many exhibitions were organised at State/ National/International levels for promotion of coconut products including packed tender coconut water by giving opportunity to the entrepreneurs who are involved in packing of tender coconut water.
- Advertisement through electronic media, advertisement film (TV-Commercial) conveying the message on its health benefits were telecast in the National Net Work and local channels in different languages.
- Wide advertisement through print media like newspapers, magazines/dailies, Health Magazines, etc are being regularly issued.
- Financial Assistance limited to 25% or upto Rs. 50.00 Lakhs is being provided as back ended subsidy to industrial units for developing infrastructure for packaging and preservation of tender coconut water.
- In addtion of this, 50% of the cost limited to Rs. 10.00 lakhs is provided for various Market Promotional activities including packed tender coconut water.
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) under its plan schemes provides assistance in the form grant subject to 25% of the cost of plant machinery and technical civil works upto Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas for setting up/ expansion/up-gradation of food processing units which includes processing of food products of coconut and palms trees.

[Translation]

Stock of Foodgrains

4480. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the current stock of foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether the said stock is sufficient to cater to the need of the country during the current year; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient foodgrains to the Below Poverty Line families through the fair price shops?

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 stock of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) as on 1.3.2005 is 194.08 lakh tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Foodgrains to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families including AAY under Targetted Public Distribution System are allotted @ 35 Kg. per family per month on the basis of number of families identified and ration card issued by each States/UT subject to the population projections of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 and the State-wise poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94, whichever is less. On this basis, the allocation of foodgrains is made by the Central Government. Under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), it is the responsibility of the State Governments to lift the foodgrains and distribute the same to BPL families through Fair Price Shops.

[English]

Precision Farming Techniques

4481. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any programme to introduce precision farming techniques for increasing agricultural production by the Southern States of the country;

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

(c) if not, the time by which such techniques are likely to be made operational and the modalities drawn in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has set up Precision Farming Development Centre (PFDC) in different parts of the country including the Southern States for developing precision farming techniques and its dissemination through training and demonstrations. The PFDCs are located at the following places in the Southern States:

1. Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
2. Kerala Agricultural University, Tavanur, Kerala
3. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore
4. University of Agricultural Sciences

Sugar Mills in West Bengal

4482. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sugar mills functioning in West Bengal as on date, sector-wise;

(b) the details of annual turnover thereof, sector-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up sugar mills in co-operative sector in West Bengal during the current year;

(d) if so, the locations where these co-operative sugar mills are proposed to be established; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Out of the two installed sugar mills in West Bengal, one sugar mill in Private Sector functioned during the season 2004-2005 upto 4.2.2005.

(b) The Central Government does not maintain the information regarding annual turnover of the sugar mills in the country.

(c) to (e) Central Government does not set up sugar mills in any part of the country. The Sugar industry has been delicensed with effect from 31.8.1998. The entrepreneurs are now free to set up sugar mills as per techno-economic viability of their project maintaining a distance of 15 kms from the existing sugar mills.

Forestry Plantation

4483. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is thick forest in Tamil Nadu particularly in Periyakulam Constituency;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to introduce forestry plantation such as sandalwood, sal and teak trees in the dry lands which will safeguard the fertility of the lands and environment as well as stop illegal smuggling of costly wood;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the same will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per the information made available by Tamil Nadu Forest Department, the area is rich in

biodiversity. Sandalwood plantations in the past have not given encouraging result as heartwood developed is of poor quality. Sal does not occur naturally in the area. Because of aforesaid reasons, forestry plantations of sandal and sal trees are not being undertaken. To discourage monoculture, forestry plantation of teak is not contemplated. With a view to encouraging bio-diversity conservation, indigenously occurring natural tree prices and medicinal plants are being regenerated by involving local people. However, on patta lands and other non-forest lands, planting of teak and other species is being encouraged by Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

[Translation]

Policy to Develop Places as Tourist Spots

4484. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the policy formulated by the Government to develop some places as a tourist spot;

(b) whether the Government proposes to develop Jabalpur as a tourist centre; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India identifies tourist spots for development in collaboration with the State Governments/Union Territories under its scheme of Product/Infrastructure development of tourism circuits and destinations. The assistance is subject to the proposal sent by the State Governments. No proposal has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for development of Jabalpur during the year 2004-05.

[English]

Promotion of Production of Medicinal Plants

4485. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any agreement with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of United Nations for promoting production of medicinal plants through organic production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and condition; and

(c) by when it is likely to become functional?

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) No bi-lateral agreement on the subject between Government of India and FAO is under negotiation. However, the International Fund for Agricultural Development has extended 'Technical Assistance Grant' to the FAO to work on organic production, marketing, certification and processing of medicinal, aromatic and dye plants not only in this country but also in Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. FAO has not so far indicated a possible date for launch of this multi-lateral initiative.

Employment Guarantee Programme for Urban Areas

4486. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Employment Guarantee Programme for urban areas as reported in "Economic Times" dated February 16, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been considered first and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has already been tabled in the Parliament.

Enhancement of Agricultural Productivity

4487. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate and the percentage of contribution of each Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery to the National GDP during Ninth Five Year Plan and the total outlays earmarked against each sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to enhance agricultural productivity in the country during Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the target sets and achievements made for agriculture sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan, 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 growth rate and the percentage contribution of Agriculture, and its allied sectors, *viz.* Forestry & Logging and Fishing and for Agriculture including allied sectors to GDP during the 9th Plan is given in the enclosed Statement. The total outlay earmarked for agriculture & allied activities comprising crop husbandry, animal husbandry, dairy development, agricultural research & education, forestry & wild life, plantations, agricultural marketing, food, storage & warehousing, soil & water conservation, agricultural financial institutions, other agricultural programmes & cooperation during 10th Five Year Plan is Rs. 58933 crores.

(b) In the Tenth Five Year Plan the focus has been laid on raising the productivity of land and water resources on a sustainable basis. Towards attaining this objective, emphasis has been given on increased cropping intensity in agriculture. Thrust areas which have been identified for focused and priority attention include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, agriculture credit, horticulture with focus on backward and forward linkages, development/strengthening of agriculture marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization and agricultural research.

(c) The target for the 9th Five Year Plan was set at 3.9% at All India level. However, no separate targets were set for the States. The annual average growth rate of agricultural including allied sectors in 9th Plan (1997-2002) was 2.1%

Statement

Growth Rate & Percentage contribution of Agriculture including forestry & fishing during Ninth Plan

	Agriculture@		Forestry & logging		Fishing		Agriculture & Allied Sectors	
	Growth rate %	% contribution to GDP	Growth rate %	% contribution to GDP	Growth rate %	% contribution to GDP	Growth rate %	% contribution to GDP
1997-98	-2.8	24.3	2.1	1.2	1.9	1.0	-2.4	26.5
1998-99	6.9	24.3	1.5	1.1	-3.9	0.9	6.2	26.4
1999-00	-0.1	22.9	3.7	1.1	7.0	1.0	0.3	25.0
2000-01	-0.4	21.9	2.4	1.1	4.0	1.0	-0.1	23.9
2001-02	6.5	22.0	1.5	1.0	7.7	1.0	6.3	24.0

@Excludes allied sectors of forestry & logging and fishing.

Pollution Control with Coordination of UNEP

4488. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of development in Environment and Forest sector of the country during the last two years in co-ordination with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and

(b) the extent to which co-ordination of UNEP has been helpful in prevention and controlling and Air-Pollution in Metropolitan cities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) UNEP has provided technical assistance under the Global Environment Facility to India in the areas of promoting industrial energy efficiency through cleaner production, assessment of soil organic carbon stocks, management of Agro-biodiversity for sustainable land use, and technology transfer networks and for concept development for sustainable urban transport systems in selected Asian countries.

(b) Currently there is no activity with UNEP in preventing and controlling the Air-Pollution in Metropolitan cities of the country.

[Translation]

Pending Irrigation Projects

4489. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for five Multi-purpose Major Projects, 3 Medium and 32 Minor Irrigation projects under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation are lying pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, by when the said proposals are likely to be considered and work likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has forwarded a list of identified projects consisting of 1 major, 3 medium and 32 minor irrigation projects for consideration under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme. Government of Madhya Pradesh has been advised to furnish necessary details for processing the case for seeking external funding. Complete details and clearances essentially required for posing the proposal for external assistance are still awaited from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Encouragement of Cultivation of Herbal, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

4490. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes being implemented to encourage herbal, medicinal and aromatic plants cultivation in the country particularly in North-Eastern States;

(b) the assistance provided to each State for the purpose during the last three years and the current financial year;

(c) the success achieved as a result thereof during the said period; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to stop the extinction of many valuable medicinal plants?

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 Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under which assistance is being extended to the farmers for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. Besides, the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is providing assistance to encourage cultivation of medicinal plants in the country including North Eastern States.

(b) The State-wise details of assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperative for the development of medicinal and aromatic plants in the North Eastern States during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is given in the enclosed statement. The State-wise details of assistance provided by the National Medicinal Plants Board Medicinal Plants Board in the North Eastern States is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Under the Technology Mission in North Eastern States, an additional area of 1125 hectares of medicinal plants and 1683 hectares of aromatic plants have covered.

As a precautionary measure to conserve and to stop the extinction of valuable medicinal plants, the Government is providing assistance for establishment of nursery and progeny gardens and is promoting *ex-situ* and *in-situ* cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants.

Statement I

Assistance provided under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in NE States including Sikkim for Medicinal & Aromatic Plants during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Arunachal Pradesh	21.00	39.95	77.00
Assam	4.80	31.50	13.50
Manipur	8.00	10.50	—
Meghalaya	14.25	1.95	12.20
Mizoram	10.55	2.50	13.00
Nagaland	28.96	18.50	18.10
Sikkim	23.30	—	5.30

Statement II

The State-wise (North Eastern States) assistance provided by the National Medicinal Plants Board during the last three years for the development of medicinal plants

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00	36.51	100.43
2.	Manipur	—	36.23	463.31
3.	Nagaland	—	8.10	22.11
4.	Sikkim	—	1.95	37.39
5.	Tripura	—	—	11.84
	Total	20.00	82.79	635.08

[Translation]

Protection to Farmer against Unstable Prices

4491. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by the Government to provide protection to the farmers against unstable prices of agricultural produces;

(b) whether the farmers are being fully protected through these measures;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take concrete measures in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (f) The main objective policy for agricultural produce is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. With a view to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce, the Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies for procurement of commodities for which MSP has been announced. These agencies undertake procurement as and when market prices fall below MSP.

The Government implements the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in respect of horticulture commodities which are not covered under the MSP scheme. In order to protect the growers of horticultural commodities from distress sales in the event of bumper crop, MIS is implemented for a particular commodity on the request of the State Government which is ready to bear 50% loss (25% in case of North-Eastern States), if any, in its implementation. Since poor marketing infrastructure has been a serious constraint which has prevented farmers from realizing their due share in the prices paid by the ultimate consumer, Government has identified marketing as a thrust area for focused and priority attention. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of marketing and accordingly provided for the new scheme "Development/Strengthening of Agriculture Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization".

Guava Crop affected by Welt Disease

4492. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the production of Guava has decreased due to "Welt Disease" in Uttar Pradesh particularly in the Allahabad region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to combat this disease and the benefit of the new technique is likely to be provided to the farmers of this areas?

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) Guava wilt is a major problem in Uttar Pradesh. Central Institute for Sub Tropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow have formulated a package of recommendations to combat this problem which is being disseminated to the guava growers of the State through demonstration and training programmes. So far, 22 such demonstrations have been organized by CISH, Lucknow on farmers' fields. National Horticulture Board have provided financial assistance to CISH, Lucknow for this purpose for introduction of new technologies.

[English]

Birupa-Genguti Projects of Orissa

4493. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Birupa-Genguti Project in Orissa has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the budgetary allocation made for the project so far and proposed for 2005-06; and

(d) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Birupa-Genguti Island Irrigation Project in Orissa consists of two irrigation canals namely Jaypur Minor of 13.84 kilometer (km) and Mulabasanta Minor of 11.54 km with its subminor to provide irrigation to 3062 hectare (ha) of land. The Mulabasanta Minor has been completed up to 10.30 km and irrigation potential of 2500 ha has been created. The balance of about 3.54 km length of Jaypur Minor could not be completed due to delay in land acquisition.

(c) The allocation/expenditure made for the project, so far is Rs. 1434.03 lakh consisting of Rs. 936.03 lakh from State Plan and Rs. 498 lakh from the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development. The proposed allocation for 2005-06 is Rs. 34 lakh in the State's Non-Plan budget.

(d) As per the information received from the State Government, the scheduled year of completion of the project is 2008-09.

Prices of Essential Medicines

4494. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small scale units have been instrumental in bringing down the prices of essential medicines in the country;

(b) if so, whether the provisions of schedule M made mandatory in January 2005 involved huge investment in plant and machinery which have checked the growth of small scale drug units; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure development of these small scale units?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 relating to Good Manufacturing Practices and requirements of premises, plant and equipment for pharmaceutical products was amended vide GSR 894(E) dated 11.12.2001 for maintenances of quality control in production of drugs. The difficulties expressed by the manufacturers especially those belonging to small scale sector in respect of some provisions relating to additional space etc., were further examined and a Gazette notification GSR 738(E) containing Draft Rules providing appropriate relaxation has been published on 8.11.04.

Financial assistance is available for technology upgradation to small scale drug and pharmaceutical units under Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme. Small Scale industry units are exempted from implementing prices for some of the formulations for which Government fixes prices under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control)

Order, 1995, as per Gazette Notification S.O. No. 134 (E) dated 2nd March, 1995.

Poultry Sector

4495. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has explored the possibilities of employment generation through poultry;

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

(c) the number of persons/employment generated during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government is giving some encouragement to poultry in the country; and

(e) if so, the details of the measures 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) to (c) The Government is encouraging Rural backyard poultry development primarily for nutritional supplementation and subsidiary income of the weaker section of the society especially women. The Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to State Poultry Farms" since 1999-2000 under which low input technology birds (improved indigenous birds) are made available to the beneficiaries for rearing. The beneficiaries may consume some of the products like egg/meat and sell the surplus. The numbers of bridges kept by the beneficiaries very widely but usually in the range of 15-20 birds. It is not possible to assess the degree of employment generated due to involvement of the whole family.

However, presently it is estimated that around 2 million people are engaged in poultry and allied activities, mostly in organized, commercial sector. This does not include farmers maintaining backyard poultry.

(d) and (e) Besides, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to State Poultry Farms", this Department is also implementing the Central Sector Scheme "Central Poultry Development Organization" for taking up regional development of rural poultry. A new scheme "Dairy/Poultry venture Capital Fund" has been launched during the year 2004-05, wherein there is a provision to grant subsidy on interest payment.

The Central Poultry Development Advisory council has been recently re-constituted and a meeting was held on 2nd February, 2005, in which various issues of both organized and unorganized sectors were discussed.

Price Stabilisation Fund

4496. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Price Stablisation Fund" becomes functional;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to bring 'cotton and orange' growers under the purview of the fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Price Stablisation Fund (PSF) has been established with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore which includes Rs. 482.88 crore as a one time contribution by the Central Government and Rs. 17.12 crore as a non-refundable initial contribution by the Participating growers @ Rs. 500/- per grower. The objective of the Scheme is to provide relief to the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco when the prices of these commodities fall below a specific level. So far, 30,605 growers have enrolled themselves under the Scheme. Commodity-wise enrolment of growers is - Rubber-18,307, Coffee-9,521 and Tea-2,777. No tobacco grower has so far enrolled under the Scheme. The price spectrum band for the year 2003 in respect of tea, coffee and rubber was announced based on which the pay-in and pay-out liability, in respect of Members enrolled upto 31st March 2004, was made. The price spectrum band for these commodities for the year 2004 has also recently been announced.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to include additional crops like cotton and orange under the PSF Scheme.

Crops like cotton are covered under the Price Support Scheme. While cotton is covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme, orange is covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

Conservation of Species of Goat and Buffaloes

4497. SHRI KULDEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population "Chakarangari" specie of goat and "Bhadwari Buffaloes" in the Yamuna Chambal basis in dwindling; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the conservation of the said species?

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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Minimum Support Price of Soyabean

4498. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Cost and Price Commission considers the minimum support price proposed by the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to declare the minimum support price of Soyabean as proposed by the State Government this year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) While formulating its recommendations on price policy the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) takes into account, among other things, the views of the State Governments, including those of the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) The Government decides on the support price for various agricultural commodities, including Soyabean, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which, in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of support prices.

[English]

Genetically Modified Crops

4499. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a genetically modified strain of sunflower-yellow, vitamin-enriched rice has been developed by the British scientists for transfer to countries like India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether agricultural experts and scientists have expressed doubts over this new variety; and

(d) if so, 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) British scientists have been reported to have developed a new genetically modified strain of sunflower-yellow, vitamin-enriched rice by introducing genes for production of high levels of beta-carotene. No proposal has been received for its transfer of India.

(c) and (d) It is a recent report. Testing/evaluation is yet to be carried out.

Increase in Foodgrains Quota for BPL Families

4500. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the allocation of foodgrains for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families from 35 kg to 50 kg per family;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Scheme for SCs/STs

4501. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched by Ministry of Labour for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) whether a scheme is being run to provide refresher courses to the SCs/STs candidates registered in the employment exchange;

(c) if so, whether special training facilities for these categories are also being provided in order to ensure their proper representation in various departments of the Government; and

(d) the details of amount spent on the pre-recruitment training programmes and other activities for the education and guidance of these castes during the Tenth Five Year Plan year-wise, State-wise and caste-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing schemes to increase the scope of employability of educated SC/ST job seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges. It includes schemes to render career counseling, vocational guidance services, development of skill level in typing/shorthand and also short term training on Computer operations.

(c) Through Special Coaching Scheme SCs/STs registered job seekers with the Employment Exchanges are provided coaching of 11 months duration so as to prepare them to compete in the examinations organized by various public sector Recruitment Agencies/Selection Boards for Group C posts.

(d) The Ministry of Labour and Employment does not spend any amount on pre-recruitment training programmes. Such training programmes are organized on behalf of the establishments and the cost of such programmes is borne by them.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

4502. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the farmers, crops and area of agricultural land covered under National Agriculture Crop Insurance Scheme in Rajasthan as on date;

(b) the procedure of determining the rate of premium for the said insurance scheme, crop-wise;

(c) the details of the percentage share of premium payable by farmers, the State Governments and the Union Government;

(d) the total amount of premium collected for the above scheme in Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) the details of the crops damaged and amount given as compensation for the insured agriculture crops under the said scheme in Rajasthan during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(f) the details of the loss of insured crops and the amount of funds paid as compensation for it in Rajasthan during the current year; and

(g) the rate of compensation amount given for the insured crops in Rajasthan during the current year, crop-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) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is in implementation in Rajasthan since Kharif 2003 season. The crops covered are: bajra, guar, arhar, soyabean, sesamum, moth, maize, jowar, groundnut, moong, castor, urd, paddy and cowpea. During last three crop seasons (from Kharif 2003 to Kharif 2004) 25.44 lakh farmers over an area of 73.42 lakh hectare have been covered.

(b) Flat rates of premium ranging between 1.5% to 3.5% for food and oil seeds crops are charged. For annual commercial/horticultural crops actuarial rates of premium are levied. Actuarial rates of premium are worked out on the basis of normal distribution method.

(c) The percentage of premium payable by small and marginal farmers is 90%, while other farmers are required to pay 100% of the premium. At present, 10% premium subsidy is payable to small and marginal farmers which is equally shared by the centre and concerned State Governments.

(d) to (f) The total amount of premium collected by the Implementing Agency during the last three crop seasons is Rs. 4174.34 lakh in Rajasthan. The insured crops of bajra, guar, arhar, soyabean, seasmum, moth, maize, jowar, groundnut, moong, castor, urd, paddy and cowpea have suffered losses current year (*i.e.* Kharif 2004). Crop season-wise premium collected and claims paid/payable are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Crop Season	Premium Collected	Claims Paid	Claims Payable
Kharif 2003	94.75	2.47	—
Rabi 2003-04	26.27	11.72	—
Kharif 2004	4053.32	97.66	11064.71
Total	4174.34	111.85	11064.71

(g) Payable claims for each crop in the unit area are worked out on the basis of shortfall in the yield which differ from area to area and crop to crop. Crop-wise payable claims for Kharif 2004 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Crop-wise payable claims during Kharif 2004 in Rajasthan

Sl.No.	Crop	Claims (Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Bajra	450482545.36
2.	Guar	280414158.30
3.	Arhar	0.0
4.	Soyabean	9700035.76
5.	Sesamum	38566659.58
6.	Moth	58206058.62
7	Maize	62467676.68
8.	Jowar	56428575.91
9.	Groundnut	73708079.66
10.	Moong	83826960.18
11.	Castor	N.A.
12.	Urd	2154429.71
13.	Paddy	0.0
14.	Cowpea	282228.33
	Total	1116237408.09

Arrival of Tourists to Himachal Pradesh

4503. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for arrival of tourists in Himachal Pradesh during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the number of tourists visited Himachal Pradesh since 2002, till-date;

(b) the number of projects being run for creating additional accommodation under tourism projects in Himachal Pradesh and amount released to State Government as a central share during the current plan; and

(c) the amount provided for Destination Tourism, Rural Tourism, Eco-Tourism and the projects earning high

revenue as a central share to Government of Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No target has been fixed for tourist arrivals in Himachal Pradesh during the Tenth Five year Plan. The details of tourist arrivals in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Domestic	Foreign
2002	4958917	144383
2003	5543414	167902
2004	6345069	204344

(b) and (c) During the Tenth Plan, the following projects have been sanctioned in Himachal Pradesh:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Name of Project	Scheme	Amount sanctioned
2002-03	Himalayan Circuit (Chandigarh-Kullu-Manali-Lahaul/Spiti-Leh)	Tourist Circuit	793.38
2002-03	Renovation of Ancient Temple at Dada Siba (District Kangra)	Destination Development	7.81
2003-04	Rural Tourism at Pragpur (District Kangra)	Rural Tourism	50.00
2003-04	Development of Naggar Village (District Kullu)	Rural Tourism	50.00
2004-05	Renovation/Revitalization of Heritage Hotel Castle Naggar (District Kullu) and Palace Hotel Chail (District Solan)	Destination Development	500.00
2004-05	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Shimla	Tourist Circuit	800.00
2004-05	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Kangra	Tourist Circuit	800.00
2004-05	Development of Sirmour	Destination Development	500.00
2004-05	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at Village Naggar (District Kullu)	UNDP Endogenous	20.00

[English]

Adoption of Alternative Cropping

4504. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government for adoption of alternative cropping, dry land development, cultivation on various tracts of wastelands, speedy transfer of technologies to the farmers through information and communication technology, introduction of contract farming system and ensuring availability of quality seeds to farmers; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Marketing of Mango

4505. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bumper mango crop is expected this year;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any assessment of the crop;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for marketing as well as export of mango crop during the current 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) to (c) The Government has not made any assessment of the production of mango during this year;

(d) The Government is providing assistance for the marketing of horticultural produce by creating infrastructure for markets and providing market intelligence. The Agricultural and Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is also providing assistance for market development, infrastructure, quality development and transport assistance for exports of mangoes.

Funds Allocated to Animal Welfare Board of India

4506. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the schemes meant for animal welfare are being looked into by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds allotted to AWBI during the last three years; and

(d) the details of institutions/Non-Governmental Organizations registered by AWBI and provided grants during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Following schemes meant for animal welfare are being implemented by the Animal Welfare Board of India:

(i) Scheme for provision of Shelter House for looking after the animals.

(ii) Scheme for Provision of Ambulance services to animals in distress.

(iii) Scheme for Birth Control & Immunization of stray dogs.

(iv) Scheme for Relief to Animals during natural calamities and unforeseen circumstances.

(v) Animal Welfare Board.

(c) The details of funds provided to AWBI during last three years is as given thereunder:

Plan funds (Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Scheme	Year		
		2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
1.	Scheme for provision of Shelter House for looking after the animals.	228.24	Nil*	Nil*
2.	Scheme for Provision of Ambulance services to animals in distress.	28.65	Nil*	Nil*
3.	Scheme for Birth Control & Immunization of stray dogs.	151.75	Nil*	Nil*
4.	Scheme for Relief to Animals during natural calamities and unforeseen circumstances.	30.00	Nil*	Nil*
5.	Animal Welfare Board.	495.00	495.00	465.00

*The Schemes from Sl.No. 1 to 4 were transferred to the Animal Welfare Board of India during 2004-05 for implementation.

(d) The details of institutions/Non-Governmental Organizations registered by Animal Welfare Board of India and provided grants during the above period is as given hereunder:

Year	No. of AWOs registered during the year	Total No. of AWOs as at the end of the year	Total No. of AWOs given grant during the year
2002-03	222	1895	974
2003-04	200	2095	809
2004-05	79	2174	1053

[Translation]

Amendment to Maternity Act, 1961

4507. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to extend maternity benefits to the women workers in unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to accord priority in implementing the recommendations made by the Planning Commission in this regard;

(d) if so, the amount of assistance proposed to be given particularly to each pregnant woman working in unorganised sector;

(e) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to amend the Maternity Act, 1961;

(f) if so, the details of the proposed amendment;

(g) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(h) whether the Government has made State-wise assessment of funds to be spent under the said scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 applies in the first instance to mines, factories, circus industry, plantations and shops or establishments employing 10 or more persons including any such establishment belonging to Government except those employees who are covered under the ESI Act, 1948. The maternity benefits are available to the women workers engaged in occupations of beedi, certain non-coal mines and cine industry under the Welfare Funds being implemented by the Ministry of Labour & Employment. The Government is also contemplating the enactment of the Unorganised Sector Workers Bill, 2004. The draft bill, inter-alia, envisages maternity benefit to the women workers in the unorganised sector.

(e) to (i) A proposal to raise the medical bonus payable under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 1000/- and to give power to Central Government to revise medical bonus from time to time is under consideration of the Government. The payment of medical bonus under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 is employers liability to State-wise assessment of funds can not be worked out.

Beneficiaries from Employees Pension Scheme

4508. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees benefitted from the existing Employees Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 during the last three years and current year, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the amount disbursed by the Government under the said Pension Scheme, year-wise;

(c) the number of institution and number of classified institution where the said Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 is implemented;

(d) whether the annual evaluation and review of benefits and rate of subscription of the said Employees Pension Scheme have been carried out; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The details of amounts disbursed to pensioners by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount Disbursed (Rs. in Crore)
2001-2002	1635.22
2002-2003	1998.58
2003-2004	2354.94

(c) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 is implemented in respect of establishments to which the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952 applies (180 class of establishments). As on 31.03.2004 the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 was in force in respect of 3,70,386 establishments.

(d) and (e) The Annual Valuation upto the year 2002-03 has been carried out by the Valuer. The recommendation made by the Value and Consultant Actuary are to be further considered by the Central Board of trustees (Employees Provident Fund).

Statement

Region-wise Pensioners under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995

Sl.No.	Region	No. of Pensioners			
		2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	As on 30.09.2004
1.	Andhra Pradesh	127823	147868	185475	208915
2.	Bihar	33924	43638	54340	55146
3.	Chhattisgarh	10314	13128	15558	15558
4.	Delhi	21404	26810	32496	33790
5.	Goa	4748	5892	6815	7472
6.	Gujarat	67996	91211	110523	121377
7.	Haryana	5820	5727	8699	9127
8.	Himachal Pradesh	26532	32981	37604	40478
9.	Jharkhand	24953	33538	41804	46275
10.	Karnataka	109613	135394	161345	174439
11.	Kerala	88955	105932	125494	136270
12.	Madhya Pradesh	48536	58695	68496	73798
13.	Maharashtra	171978	223150	276222	304361
14.	North East	9299	11575	13741	14857
15.	Orissa	28054	33832	38932	41873
16.	Punjab	27772	34023	39881	42916
17.	Rajasthan	32052	40518	47355	51327
18.	Tamil Nadu	168051	204631	243887	261220
19.	Uttaranchal	10426	12155	15431	16521
20.	Uttar Pradesh	78512	100215	1294653	139361
21.	West Bengal	71918	80757	103280	115221
	Total	1168779	1441670	1758841	1908302

[English]

Unclaimed/Imperative Accounts of EPF

4509. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) the total amount lying in inoperative accounts of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) as on March 31, 2005 *i.e.* accounts in which no contribution have been received since March 31, 2004 alongwith the number of workers involved therein;

(b) the total amount lying in Unclaimed Accounts of EPF as on March 31, 2005, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has found out the reasons for unclaiming of EPF amount;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action being taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government has any plan to arrest the growth of Unclaimed Accounts and inoperative accounts and to return the thousands of crores of rupees to poor workers and not misappropriate the same; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The amount lying in Unclaimed Deposit Accounts as on March 2005 will be known only after compilation of Final Accounts *i.e.* by 30.06.2005. However, the figure as on 31.03.2004 stands at Rs. 942.95 crore (un-audited).

(c) The reasons responsible for Unclaimed Deposits are:

- Non-availability of the latest address of the employees.
- Desire to earn more returns on Provident Fund accumulations.
- Multiple accounts of a member.
- Non-submission of claims for transfer/final settlement.

(d) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation under the 'Re-inventing EPF India' Project has initiated allotment of nationally unique social security number to the members. This will enable the members who are having more than one accounts scattered in different places to merge into one account and thus the un-claimed deposit account will be drastically reduced.

Efforts are regularly made by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation for tracing the whereabouts of the beneficiaries through advertisements in newspapers, Trade Unions and the Employers. A special drive was launched by EPFO to settle the unclaimed deposit accounts on top priority and to reduce the multiple accounts of single member by way of balance transfer to his running account.

(e) and (f) As per the provision contained in Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952, the money lying in Unclaimed Deposit Account cannot be utilised by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation except for payment to the concerned members or other eligible persons after his death. The Government cannot utilise the amount lying in Unclaimed Deposits as this is a liability and Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is legally bound to repay the same alongwith the interest due, as and when any claim is preferred for settlement. However, to get the claim settled, the member concerned or other eligible persons have to file/prefer the claim for settlement.

[Translation]

Supply of Sugar to BPL Families

4510. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has arranged for supplying sugar to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families holding special ration cards;

(b) if so, the quantum of sugar allocated and disbursed during the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has stopped the supply of sugar to the Public Distribution System (PDS) outlets in Bihar since 1999;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to regularise the supply of sugar under PDS?

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

(b) The quantum of levy sugar allocated during the current sugar year (October' 04—September' 05) State-wise, till may 2005, is the distribution of this levy sugar is, thereafter undertaken by the State Governments details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Bihar is a direct allottee State since 1.1.2000. The Central Government makes direct allocation of levy sugar to Bihar for lifting and distribution under Public Distribution System.

Statement

Monthly Allotment of Levy Sugar during October 2004 to May 2005

(In '000' Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/U.Ts.	Octo'04	Nov'04	Dec'04	Jan'05	Feb'05	Mar'05	Apr'05	May'05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.53	9.72	9.72	9.72	9.72	9.72	9.72	9.72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.89	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.84	0.87	0.84	0.84
3.	Assam	19.14	19.14	18.42	19.14	18.42	18.44	19.14	18.42
4.	Bihar	22.45	22.45	20.56	22.79	20.56	20.56	21.30	21.30
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.52	4.52	4.41	4.51	4.51	4.51	4.51	4.51
6.	Delhi	3.91	2.76	2.76	2.74	2.74	2.76	2.75	2.76
7.	Goa	0.12	0.12	0.19	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
8.	Gujarat	8.31	5.87	5.87	5.87	5.87	5.87	5.87	5.87
9.	Haryana	3.49	3.49	2.53	2.50	2.50	2.53	2.50	2.50
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.07	5.07	4.37	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.70
11.	Jammu-Kashmir	7.68	7.25	7.21	7.13	7.57	7.15	7.13	7.13
12.	Jharkhand	7.60	7.60	6.96	7.72	6.96	6.96	7.21	7.21
13.	Karnataka	11.37	8.69	8.69	8.69	8.69	8.69	8.69	8.69
14.	Kerala	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11	4.11
15.	Madhya Pradesh	15.27	12.50	12.53	12.50	12.50	12.53	12.50	12.50
16.	Maharashtra	13.97	18.48	13.94	13.94	13.94	13.94	13.94	13.94
17.	Manipur	1.93	1.89	1.81	1.81	1.81	1.81	1.81	1.81
18.	Meghalaya	1.84	1.84	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74
19.	Mizoram	0.71	0.69	0.74	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20.	Nagaland	1.24	1.19	1.24	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
21.	Orissa	8.73	8.73	8.73	8.73	9.73	8.73	8.73	8.73
22.	Punjab	2.74	1.54	1.55	1.53	1.53	1.53	1.53	1.53
23.	Rajasthan	10.00	10.00	7.46	7.46	7.46	7.46	7.46	7.46
24.	Sikkim	0.42	0.42	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39
25.	Tamil Nadu	14.22	10.83	10.83	10.83	10.83	10.83	10.83	10.83
26.	Tripura	2.69	2.69	2.69	2.69	2.69	2.69	2.69	2.69
27.	Uttar Pradesh	40.62	33.04	33.04	40.62	33.04	31.77	33.04	33.04
28.	Uttaranchal	6.54	6.15	6.13	6.42	6.03	6.05	6.03	6.03
29.	West Bengal	22.02	14.22	14.22	14.22	14.22	14.23	14.23	14.23
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.42	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39
31.	Chandigarh	0.18	0.6	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.06
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
33.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
34.	Lakshadweep	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
35.	Pondicherry	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18
36.	Bhutan	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31
	Grand Total	257.39	226.95	214.81	226.07	215.83	213.72	216.51	215.7

Fruits Spoiled by Diseases

4511. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has suffered huge losses as huge quantity of fruits are destroyed due to diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research has been conducted by the Government to check these diseases;

(d) if not, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The extent of losses vary from crop to crop, disease to disease and season to season. The major losses occur due to anthracnose fruit rot, stem-end rot and aspergillus in mango; anthracnose fruit rot in papaya; fruit spot, phomopsis fruit rot in pomegranate; aspergillus, yeast, powdery mildew, downy mildew and anthracnose in grape; anthracnose fruit rot in banana and aspergillus fruit rot in citrus, cigar end rot, anthracnose, crown rot and four viral diseases viz. bunchy top, bract mosaic, streak and mosaic in banana and plantains.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Research is conducted at various ICAR Institutes/National Research Centres/State Agriculture

Universities. Research on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in fruit crops before harvest to reduce the post harvest losses have been conducted. Fungicide spray schedule for various diseases have been standardized. A comprehensive study has been conducted in assessing the pre and post harvest losses in case of citrus at Nagpur and a complete package of recommendation/ technologies to reduce the post harvest losses in citrus fruits has been worked out. The technologies developed have helped in reducing the post harvest losses in citrus and also extending the shelf life of fruits. With regard to arid fruit crops research is in progress to identify the important diseases, their casual organisms and their control measures. The National Research Centre for Grape has developed diseases forecasting model for powdery mildew, downy mildew and anthracnose. Several, new/safe fungicides were also tested for the management of diseases in grapes. Besides, many environmental friendly organic, bio-control agents and botanicals are recommended in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Schedule.

Estimates for the Agricultural Yield

4512. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn estimates several times for agricultural yields for the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details of each estimate and number of times were drawn;

(c) the quantum of agricultural yield as per the estimates drawn every time;

(d) the reasons for the difference between the quantum of yield according to the first and the final estimates;

(e) whether the losses suffered in North-India due to hailstorms and excessive rains in the month of March were taken into account while drawing the final estimates; and

(f) 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) As per practice, four advance estimates of production in respect of cereals, including coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds and other commercial crops, namely, cotton, jute, mesta and sugarcane are released every year at an interval of three months starting from September/October and ending with June/July. For the year 2004-05, three advance estimates of production have been brought out so far, the latest being the third advance estimates brought out on 23rd March 2005. However, yield estimates are not given as part of advance estimates because these estimates are not based on complete data on yield derived from crop cutting experiments. The figures of production as per the three advance estimates already made are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(d) The final estimates of production and yield for the year 2004-05 are to be brought out six months after the completion of the agriculture. Thus, for 2004-05, the final estimates are due in December 2005. However, it may be stated that the first advance estimates are not comparable with other estimates as the figures relate only to Kharif crops.

(e) and (f) The final estimates to be furnished by the State Agricultural Statistics Authorities (SASAs) of individual States will reflect the impact of weather related factors.

Statement I

Advance Estimates of Production of Foodgrains for the year 2004-05

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	Season	1st Advance Estimates*	2nd Advance Estimates**	3rd Advance Estimates***
1	2	3	4	5
Rice	Kharif	71.1	73.29	72.43
	Rabi		14.51	14.69
	Total		87.80	87.12

1	2	3	4	5
Wheat	Rabi		73.03	74.05
Jowar	Kharif	3.58	3.94	3.98
	Rabi		3.59	3.68
	Total		7.53	7.66
Bajra	Kharif	5.76	6.46	6.93
	Rabi			
	Total			
Maize	Kharif	12.07	11.35	12.27
	Rabi		2.23	2.60
	Total		13.58	14.87
Ragi	Kharif	2.52	2.45	2.54
	Rabi			
	Total			
Small Millets	Kharif	0.57	0.40	0.46
Barley	Rabi		1.46	1.80
Coarse Cereals	Kharif	24.50	24.60	26.18
	Rabi		7.28	8.08
	Total		31.88	34.26
Cereals	Kharif	95.60	97.89	98.61
	Rabi		94.82	96.82
	Total		192.71	195.43
Tur	Kharif	2.37	2.26	2.46
Other Kharif Pulses	Kharif	2.37	2.78	2.91
Gram	Rabi		5.78	6.30
Other Rabi Pulses	Rabi		2.85	3.24
Total Pulses	Kharif	4.69	5.04	5.47
	Rabi		8.63	9.54
	Total		13.67	15.01
Total Foodgrains	Kharif	100.29	102.94	104.08
	Rabi		103.45	106.36
	Total		206.39	210.44

*Released on 18.09.2004
**Released on 19.01.2005
***Released on 23.03.2005

Statement II

Advance Estimates of Production of Oilseeds and other Commercial Crops for the year 2004-05

(Lakh Tonnes)

Crop	Season	1st Advance Estimates*	2nd Advance Estimates**	3rd Advance Estimates***
Groundnut	Kharif	62.96	49.48	52.10
	Rabi		15.28	17.35
	Total		64.76	69.45
Castorseed	Kharif	6.56	7.64	6.21
Sesamum	Kharif	5.01	6.48	5.01
Nigerseed	Kharif	0.86	0.69	1.10
Rapeseed & Mustard	Rabi		75.89	76.40
Linseed	Rabi		1.49	1.58
Safflower	Rabi		1.54	1.62
Sunflower	Kharif	3.52	5.80	6.50
	Rabi		6.61	7.65
	Total		12.41	14.15
Soyabean	Kharif	75.56	77.52	75.93
Total Nine Oilseeds	Kharif	154.47	147.61	146.85
	Rabi		100.81	104.60
	Total		248.42	251.45
Cotton#	Total	138.51	170.68	160.66
Jute##	Total	98.47	88.76	91.34
Mesta##	Total	9.17	8.34	8.26
Jute & Mesta##	Total	107.64	97.10	99.60
Sugarcane (Cane)	Total	2354.54	2341.53	2346.73

#Lakh bales of 170 kgs each
##Lakhs bales of 180 kgs. each
*Released on 18.09.2004
**Released on 19.01.2005
***Released on 23.03.2005

[English]

Diversification of Pulses in Rice-Wheat Fields

4513. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has made some proposal for diversification to pulses in rice-wheat fields in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Pending Irrigation Projects

4514. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some irrigation projects of States are still awaiting clearance from the Union Government since the beginning of Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons for inordinate delay in each project and by when all the projects are likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no project of 2nd Five Year Plan except the Kabini Project of Karnataka in the Cauvery Basin, to get investment approval. There are 101 major/medium irrigation projects under various stages of appraisal and 82 major/medium irrigation projects accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources subject to certain observations submitted by the State Governments in various plan periods to receive investment approval. Common reasons for delay in clearance of projects are inadequate surveys and investigation, hydrological studies, irrigation planning, estimate and economic analysis, etc. lack of attention to international and inter-State aspects, conjunctive use of surface and ground water, concurrence of state finance etc. absence of environmental and forest clearance, clearances of resettlement and rehabilitation plans, etc. while submitting detailed project Report to the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. The clearance of the project depends upon the promptness with which the State Government comply with the observations of the Central appraising agencies.

National Coastal Protection Project

4515. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP) has been drawn by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, phase-wise and estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether funding will be through external agencies; and

(d) if so, the details of share of funding agencies including the Union, State Governments and maritime states, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No Sir, The National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP) has not been finalised.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Godowns for Foodgrains

4516. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI HARILAL MADHAVAJI BHAI PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

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

(a) the number of godowns for storage of foodgrains alongwith their storage capacity, State-wise;

(b) whether a number of these godowns are in a dilapidated condition and unsuitable for storage of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the funds released for repair of old godowns and construction of new godowns during the last three years, State-wise?

(d) by when the work is likely to be completed; and

(e) the number of States which have so far submitted the utilization report?

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 State-wise details of the number of godowns and the storage capacity with FCI, CWC and SWCs are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) No, Sir. The godowns with the FCI and CWC are being maintained regularly.

(c) The details of funds released by the FCI and CWC for annual maintenance and repair of godowns and construction of new godowns during the last three years, State-wise; are given in the enclosed statement-II, III, IV and V respectively.

(d) The ongoing godown construction works at Leh, Badgaon, Kupwara, Salem, Tumkur, Keylong, Lunglei and Lawngtalai are likely to be completed during the current financial year 2005-06.

(e) Government releases funds directly to the FCI for construction of godowns while the CWC undertakes construction of new godowns out of its own funds under the IEBR Schemes. Therefore the States do not have to submit utilization reports.

Statement I

State-wise details of the number of godowns and the storage capacity with the FCI, CWC and SWCs

(As on 1st March, 2005)

State/UT	FCI		CWC		SWCs	
	Number of godowns (Owned & hired/ Covered and CAP)	Storage Capacity (in Lakh MTs)	Number of godowns (Owned & hired/ Covered and CAP)	Storage Capacity (in Lakh MTs)	Number of godowns (Owned & hired/ Covered and CAP)	Storage Capacity (in Lakh MTs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bihar	41	4.92	13	0.97	46	2.10
Jharkhand	15	1.11	3	0.36	—	—
Orissa	67	6.10	11	1.88	60	4.05
West Bengal	43	10.69	40	6.68	33	2.50
Sikkim	2	0.11	—	—	—	—
Assam	33	2.52	6	0.66	43	2.48
Arunachal Pradesh	4	0.18	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	5	0.19	—	—	5	0.11
Mizoram	5	0.18	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	5	0.31	2	0.24	—	—
Manipur	3	0.18	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	5	0.27	1	0.13	—	—
Delhi	10	3.70	11	1.81	—	—
Haryana	137	23.02	24	4.36	106	16.27
Himachal Pradesh	16	0.26	3	0.07	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	15	1.03	1	0.21	—	—
Punjab	498	79.26	30	7.85	118	59.88
Chandigarh	14	1.09	1	0.14	—	—
Rajasthan	63	9.31	27	3.61	87	6.91
Uttar Pradesh	129	25.71	50	11.40	158	28.71
Uttaranchal	28	2.00	7	0.76	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	133	33.75	50	13.96	143	22.76
Kerala	29	5.36	9	1.29	62	1.92
Karnataka	56	6.23	32	4.52	113	6.36
Tamil Nadu	32	7.78	26	7.73	65	6.33
Pondicherry	3	0.42	1	0.09	—	—
Gujarat	31	5.70	29	6.67	51	1.94
Maharashtra	61	15.65	59	14.93	164	12.12
Goa	1	0.15	2	0.61	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	61	5.42	31	6.72	230	11.30
Chhattisgarh	54	8.61	10	2.37	102	6.06
Grand Total	1599	261.21	479	100.02	1586	191.80

Statement II

The expenditure incurred by FCI on Annual Repairs and Maintenance Operation & Special Repair works during the last 3 years i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05, State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

Region	Year		
	2002-03 FCI	2003-04 FCI	2004-05 FCI
1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	89.38	85.52	92.34
Punjab	198.10	228.19	229.93

1	2	3	4
Haryana	60.58	84.57	89.26
Uttar Pradesh	318.85	320.68	292.00
Delhi	92.00	69.60	163.15
Rajasthan	87.32	76.00	61.75
Himachal Pradesh	2.71	0.00	3.89
Andhra Pradesh	331.90	335.81	352.86
Tamil Nadu	106.18	111.57	147.30
Karnataka	145.09	103.64	82.86
Kerala	217.47	150.12	205.32
Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh	179.42	172.44	369.43
Maharashtra	337.73	377.64	348.36
Gujarat	122.58	139.85	162.31
Assam	138.92	264.78	228.30
Bihar & Jharkhand	97.35	125.76	183.54
Orissa	118.02	116.30	136.93
NEF Shillong	70.51	73.06	60.91
West Bengal	284.59	431.40	401.29
Total	2998.70	3266.93	3611.73

Statement III

Amount released by CWC for Annual repairs of godowns during the last three years, State-wise

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

	Year		
Name of State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Gujarat	84.55	15.00	60.55
Karnataka & Kerala	36.32	8.88	47.80
M.P. & Chhattisgarh	60.36	10.57	20.00
Orissa	4.67	2.59	2.23

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	38.01	15.32	42.38
Tamil Nadu	21.93	10.97	51.16
Delhi, Haryana, Punjab & Rajasthan	193.52	116.82	233.37
Andhra Pradesh	132.99	64.53	138.00
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	96.41	13.19	54.01
Maharashtra & Goa	154.01	74.50	187.71
Bihar	14.54	2.15	15.72
Assam	6.54	10.22	11.60
Total	843.85	344.74	864.53

Statement IV

The expenditure incurred by FCI on construction of new godowns during the last three years i.e. from 2002-03 to 2004-05 State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Year		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Punjab	36.72	180.95	27.82
Rajasthan	182.75	5.31	12.07
Haryana	49.54	99.43	55.45
Uttar Pradesh	77.54	172.67	53.05
Jammu and Kashmir	222.66	99.67	428.25
Himachal Pradesh	34.96	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	493.12	147.97	289.69
Tamil Nadu	80.71	32.98	12.94
Karnataka	160.27	205.55	184.43
Orissa	58.37	137.05	30.30
Maharashtra	27.10	62.77	52.87
Gujarat	9.00	124.23	5.86

1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh	20.60	39.43	45.72
Sikkim	44.89	3.66	—
Manipur	25.04	—	78.43
Tripura	28.94	20.58	102.12
Nagaland	22.07	14.83	29.92
Assam	—	—	28.14
Mizoram	—	—	173.43
Grand Total	1574.28	1347.08	1610.49

Statement V

The expenditure incurred by CWC on construction of new godowns during the last three years i.e. from 2002-03 to 2004-05 State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Gujarat	703.86	1512.27	524.83
Karnataka and Kerala	833.82	309.64	208.14
Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	247.88	225.75	107.85
Orissa	495.21	128.92	0.44
West Bengal	507.08	660.03	496.62
Tamil Nadu	246.04	154.36	109.85
Delhi, Haryana, Punjab & Rajasthan	1760.66	837.91	842.98
Andhra Pradesh	1335.00	300.13	108.79
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	848.85	446.44	286.56
Maharashtra & Goa	1179.28	1269.04	1778.73
Bihar	0.00	42.43	71.75
Assam	203.77	132.25	0.00
Total	8361.45	6019.17	4516.54

National Social Security Number

4517. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has dropped its plan to give National Social Security Number (NSSN) to its subscribers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total amount spent for the introduction of NSSN?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHARA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The amount incurred so far in connection with the issue of the National Social Security Number is approximately Rs. 6.7 crores.

[Translation]

Water Harvesting Scheme

4518. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to start any water harvesting scheme in the country;

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

(c) the amount likely to be spent and allocated on implementation of the said scheme by the Government; and

(d) by when this scheme is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources has proposed a scheme for "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting" for implementation during the remaining two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores. State-wise details are being finalized.

Delay in Issuing Notification

4519. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether 9.5 percent rate of interest in respect of Employees Provident Fund has not been made applicable so far even after taking a decision in this regard due to failure in issuing the notification;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the time by when a notification is likely to be issued;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the financial loss being suffered due to delay in issuing the above notification; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government is yet to declare the rate of interest for the year 2004-2005.

(c) and (d) There is no direct financial loss occurring to EPF members on account of delay in declaration of rate of interest.

Agricultural Research on International Level of Agricultural Yield

4520. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research to bring the level of agricultural yield in the country at par with international level has been conducted or is being conducted by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Agricultural yields depend on length of growing period governed by latitudes, related climatic parameters, genetic endowment of varieties, agronomic management etc. In order to increase the level of agricultural yield in the country, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Universities have undertaken research on development of (i) hybrids and improved varieties of field and horticultural crops including genetically modified varieties, (ii) site specific integrated nutrient management, (iii) integrated water management, (iv) integrated pest management, (v) resource conservation technologies, (vi) farming system models, and (vii) animals, fish and shrimp breeding and management.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Seminar of Ministers of Tourism

4521. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Seminar of Union and State Tourism Ministers was held recently in Delhi on tourism sector; and

(b) if so, the details of deliberations alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had recently organized an All India State Tourism Ministers Conference in Delhi. A copy of the Resolutions passed during this Conference is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Resolutions of All India State Tourism Ministers' Conference held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 4th and 5th March, 2005

The Conference of All India State Tourism Ministers under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge) held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 4th and 5th March 2005 unanimously passed the following resolutions:

1. Tourism is a major driver of economic growth and employment creation. States will work towards making it the priority sector in the States' planning process with enhanced financial outlays.

2. States will endeavour for development of quality manpower and "Athithi Devo Bhavah" campaign would be taken forward for quality manpower development in collaboration with the State Governments.

3. States would strive for development of world class infrastructure at tourism sites including improvement of urban infrastructure and ensuring better connectivity to major tourist destinations.

4. States would work towards streamlining their land policy by re-zoning and redefining land use to facilitate development of adequate hotel rooms in metro cities and at tourism sites.

5. Each State will strive to have one or more airport to be declared and equipped as an international airport allowing scheduled foreign airlines to land.

6. States agreed to work towards rationality and uniformity of taxes so as to make their destinations competitive. It was agreed that this alone would lead to increased tourist arrivals and generate higher revenues. The model of uniform taxation regime in each zone will also be examined by the States.

7. States would work toward reduction/removal of State Sales Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to make the domestic air fare competitive for boosting domestic tourism. The declaration of ATF as "declared good", where uniform CST of 4% is levied, will also be taken up for implementation. The proposal of a basic fare and a separate surcharge on ATF to the concerned destinations will be examined by Ministry of Civil Aviation.

8. States would take up the issue of operation and maintenance of tourist infrastructure through Public-Private Partnerships.

9. States resolved to make all tourist sites "Plastic Free" and also take necessary steps to develop the area in and around the important monuments "Free From Vehicular Traffic" and give due regard to the sustainability of the environment. There will also be an effort towards better maintenance of tourist destinations and also opening of souvenir shops and public conveniences at these sites.

10. States should give a separate and distinct "TV" series for Tourist Vehicles of recognized tourist transport operators.

Per Hectare Production of Paddy, Oilseeds, Cotton and Pulses

4522. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per hectare production of paddy, oilseeds, cotton and pulses in Orissa as on date;

(b) whether improved seeds have been developed in the field of agricultural research in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As the agriculture year 2004-05 (July-June) is not yet over, no firm estimates of area, production and yield are available for this year. However, the productivity figures for 2003-04 and the figures of average productivity of five years from 1998-99 to 2002-03 in respect of paddy, oilseeds, cotton and pulses in Orissa are shown in the table below:

(Productivity in tonnes/hectare)

Crop	Productivity	
	Average (1998-99 to 2002-03)	2003-04
Paddy	1.73	2.27
Total Oilseeds	0.43	0.52
Cotton	0.24	0.41
Total Pulses	0.37	0.38

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The improved varieties of seeds developed for Orissa are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Crop	Improved	Varieties
Paddy		Sneha, Annada, Neela, Khandagiri, Tulasi, Vandan, Ghanteshwari, Annapuma, Mahalaxmi, Seema, Salivahana, Samalei, Utkalaprabha. CR 1002, CR 1014, Samaltha, Manika, Urvashi, Manila Lunishree, CSR 10, Narendra Dhan 97, Narendra Dhan 359, Mahamaya, Jawahar Rice, Pooja
Oilseeds	Sesaum	Prachi (ORM-17)
	Nigerseed	JNC-6, Puja, NRS-96-1
	Sunflower	MLSFH-47 (H), MLSFH-82 (AH-11-21), PRO-009 (PROSUN-09)
	Linseed	LMH-62 (Padmani)
	Groundnut	DH-86
	Rapeseed & Mustard	JB-6
	Soyabean	MAUS-71, RAUS 5 (Pratap Soya)
Cotton		Savita, Bunny
Pulses	Chickpea	Vihar (Phule G 95311)
	Mungbean	Kamadeva (OUN-11-5)
	Fieldpea	HUDP 15 (Malviya Matar 15), DDR 23

Production of Groundnuts

4523. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing research farms for groundnuts in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the groundnut seed research farm in the Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu has been closed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up oil seed research farm especially for groundnuts in the said district;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reopen the said farm?

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) Under Centrally sponsored 'All India Coordinated Research Project on Groundnut (AICRP-G)' there are three regular centres, namely, Vriddhachalam (Cuddalore District), Aliyarnagar (District Pollachi) and Bhavanisgar (District Sakthi) and one voluntary centre, Coimbatore, which undertake research on groundnut improvement, management and protection aspects in Tamil Nadu State.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There is Oilseeds Experiment Station at Tindivanam in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu which still functions under Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and carries out researches on important dry land oilseed crops like castor, sesame, including groundnut. In addition, for validation of technologies including variety evaluation of AICRP-G programme, Tindivanam is being used as a testing Centre. Under the AICRP-G programme, multidisciplinary groundnut research is being carried out at Regional Research Station. Vriddhachalam, which has agro-ecological conditions similar to that of Tindivanam.

(d) to (f) Since the Oilseed Experiment Station at Tindivanam in Villipuram district of Tamil Nadu continues to function, the question of reopening it or setting up a new research farm does not arise.

[Translation]

Loss caused by Hailstorm in Rajasthan

4524. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
MOHD. SHAHID:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the loss suffered due to heavy rain and hailstorm in the western part of the country including Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of the crops affected by this calamity;

(c) whether the Government has decided a compensation package to these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the said package is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for matters relating to management of all natural calamities (other than drought), including hailstorm and necessary information is being collected from that Ministry.

[English]

Extension of ESI Medical Facilities

4525. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to extend the ESI medical facilities to the voluntarily retired employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Under the ESI Act, workers in insurable employment are eligible to receive medical benefits alongwith their dependent family members. Further, workers who leave the insurable employment upon attaining the age of superannuation are also eligible to receive medical benefits alongwith their spouses.

[Translation]

Fire in Forests

4526. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:

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

(a) the number of forest fires that have occurred during the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for the same;

(c) the loss estimated by the Government in this regard, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government is taking any assistance from foreign firms to mitigate the forest fires in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to protect the forest from forest fires?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) State-wise figures for forest fires for last three years as reported by the States and Union Territories are indicated enclosed Statement.

(b) Almost all the forest fires are man made (unintentional or intentional). Intentional fires are set in the forests for various reasons such as collection of minor forest produce, to get fresh succulent grasses or to propitiate the local deity etc.

(c) The monitory losses, State-wise are indicated in Annexure-I. However these losses don't include intangible losses such as loss of Biodiversity, loss of soil fertility, damage to regeneration, adverse impact on environment etc.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Central assistance has been provided upto 2004-05 to the States and Union Territories under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme for prevention and control of forest fires. The funds were provided for creation and maintenance of fire lines, fire watchers, construction of watch towers, water harvesting structures, field vehicles, assistance to village forest committees, training, awareness and publicity.

Statement

Incidence of Forest Fires (As reported by States/UTs)

States/UTs	Year 2001-02		Year 2002-03		Year 2003-04	
	No of Incidents	Losses (Rs. in lakhs)	No of Incidents	Losses (Rs. in lakhs)	No of Incidents	Losses (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Other States						
Andhra Pradesh	185	0.28	154	*	274	2.02
Arunachal Pradesh	3	17.23	Nil	Nil	1	12.29
Bihar	*	*	134	*	80	*
Chhattisgarh	113		223	2.09	365	0.10
Gujarat	559	17.87	695	8.31	885	13.68
Goa	*	*	2	*	*	*
Haryana	52	*	36	*	25	*
Himachal Pradesh	282	40.26	550	74.30	769	86.41

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu and Kashmir	175	*	413	*	23	*
Jharkhand	*	*	*	*	*	*
Karnataka	104	Nil	51	0.26	40	0.25
Kerala	580	3.31	258	0.63	1019	4.06
Madhya Pradesh	451	0.01	481	0.47	*	*
Maharashtra	2023	23.00	1723	15.00	1969	11.00
Orissa	29	4.58	15	2.85	157	0.25
Punjab	133	24.34	455	27.71	254	17.08
Rajasthan	36	*	11	0.15	15	0.04
Tamil Nadu	231	*	339	*	2	*
Uttar Pradesh	226	2.70	75	1.17	84	1.19
Uttaranchal	367	1.17	498	5.19	1025	10.12
West Bengal	55	3.04	82	*	202	*
NE & Sikkim						
Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Manipur	*	*	*	*	*	*
Meghalaya	*	*	*	*	*	*
Mizoram	7	1.65	13	0.10	13	1.27
Nagaland	*	*	*	*	*	*
Sikkim	9	*	14	*	18	*
Tripura	201	0.10	*	*	*	*
UTs						
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	*	*	Nil	Nil	4	9.90
Chandigarh	*	*	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11	*	25	*	8	*
Daman and Diu	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lakshewadeep	*	*	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
NCT Delhi	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pondichery	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

*Not available

[English]

Agricultural Research Institutions

4527. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major public and private sector agricultural research institutions in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to redefine the roles and responsibilities of the institutions under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State agricultural universities to minimise overlaps and duplications; and

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard alongwith the progress made to such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The details of major public sector agricultural research institutions, which are in the domain of ICAR, and State Agricultural Universities, are given in the statement enclosed. However, the private sector agricultural research institutions are not in the domain of ICAR.

(b) and (c) There are no proposals, at present, to redefine the roles and responsibilities of ICAR institutes and State Agricultural University. However, under Zero Based Budgeting, every effort has been made to minimize overlaps and duplications. Accordingly, all the ICAR Institutes have been integrated into 71 major Plan Schemes, on the directions of Planning Commission, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of ICAR Plan Schemes

I. CROP SCIENCE

1. **National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources, New Delhi**

National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources, New Delhi

i. AICRP on Under Utilised Crops

ii. NRC-DNA Finger Printing, New Delhi

2. **IARI, New Delhi**

IARI, New Delhi (included Indo Israel)

i. AICRP on Pesticides Residues

ii. AICRP on Nematodes

iii. NRC Plant Biotechnology

iv. Directorate of Maize Research, New Delhi

v. AICRP on Maize

vi. National Centre for Integrated Pest Management

vii. AICRP Floriculture

Network Programme on Insect Biosystematics (Part of IARI)

Network Project on Transgencis (Part of NRC Plant Biotechnology)

3. **Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack**

Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack

i. Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad

ii. AICRP Rice, Hyderabad

4. **Vivekananda Parvitya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora**

5. **Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur**

Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur

i. AICRP on Chickpea

ii. AICRP on MULLARP

iii. AICRP on Pigeon Pea

iv. AICRP on Arid Legumes

6. **Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal**

Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal

i. AICRP on Wheat & Barley Improvement Project, Karnal

7. **NRC Sorghum, Hyderabad**

NRC Sorghum, Hyderabad

i. AICRP Sorghum, Hyderabad

ii. AICRP on Pearl Millets, Jodhpur

iii. AICRP on Small Millets, Bangalore

8. Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi

Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi

i. AICRP on Forage Crops

ii. AICRP on Agroforestry

iii. NRC Agroforestry

9. Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajamundry

Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajamundry

i. Network Project on Tobacco

10. Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow

Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow

i. Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore

ii. AICRP on Sugarcane, Lucknow

11. Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur

Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur

i. AICRP on Cotton, Coimbatore

ii. Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore

iii. AICRP on Jute and Allied Fibres

iv. Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)

v. Technology Mission on Jute (TMJ)

12. Directorate of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad

Directorate of Oilseed Research, Hyderabad

i. NRC Groundnut, Junagarh

ii. AICRP on Groundnut, Junagarh

iii. NRC Soybean, Indore

iv. AICRP on Soybean, Indore

v. NRC-Rapeseed & Mustard (NRCRM), Bharatpur

vi. AICRP on Rapeseed & Mustard, Bharatpur

vii. AICRP on Sunflower, Safflower, Castor, Hyderabad

viii. AICRP on Linseed, Kanpur

ix. AICRP on Sesame and Niger, Jabalpur

13. Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore

Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore

i. AICRP on Biological Control, Bangalore

ii. AICRP on Honey Bee Research & Training, Hisar

iii. Network on White Grubs & Other Soil Arthropods, Jaipur

iv. Network on Agricultural Acarology, Bangalore

v. Network on Economic Ornithology, Hyderabad

14. Directorate of Seed Research, Mau

Directorate of Seed Research, Mau

i. AICRP component of NSP-Crops

15. National Bureau of Agril. Important Micro-organisms (NBAIM), New Delhi

II. HORTICULTURE

16. Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore

Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore

i. AICRP Tropical Fruits, Bangalore

ii. Central Institute of Sub Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow

iii. AICRP Sub Tropical Fruits, Lucknow

iv. NRC Litchi, Muzaffarpur

v. NRC Citrus, Nagpur

vi. NRC Grapes, Pune

vii. NRC Banana, Trichi

17. Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar

18. Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner

Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner

i. AICRP Arid Fruits

19. Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi

Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi

i. NRC for Mushroom, Solan

ii. AICRP Mushroom, Solan

iii. AICRP Vegetables, Varanasi

iv. National Seed Project Vegetables, Varanasi

v. NRC Onion and Garlic, Pune

20. Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla

Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla

i. AICRP Potato

ii. Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Trivandrum

iii. AICRP Tuber Crops

21. Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod

Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod

i. AICRP Palms

ii. NRC Cashew, Puttur

iii. AICRP Cashew

iv. NRC Oil Palm, Pedavegi, A.P.

22. Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair

23. Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut

Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut

i. AICRP Spices, Calicut

ii. NRC Seed Spices, Ajmer

24. NRC Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand

NRC Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand

i. Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

ii. Network on Betelvine

III. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

25. National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur

26. Central Soil and Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Dehradun

27. Indian Institute of Soil Sciences, Bhopal

Indian Institute of Soil Sciences, Bhopal

i. AICRP in Micro Secondary & Pollutant Elements in Soils and Plants

ii. Network Bio-Fertilizers

iii. AICRP on Soil Test with Crop Response

iv. AICRP on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments

28. Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal

Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal

i. AICRP on Salt Affected Soils & use of Saline Water in Agriculture

29. ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna

ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna

i. NRC for Makhana, Darbhanga

30. Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Bhubaneshwar

Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Bhubaneshwar

i. AICRP on Water Management Research, Bhubaneswar

ii. AICRP on Ground Water Utilisation, Bhubaneswar

31. Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad

Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad

i. AICRP Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad

ii. AICRP on Agrometeorogoly, Hyderabad

iii. Network on Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture, to Climate Change

32. Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur

Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur

i. Network Project on Rodent Control

33. Project Dte. on Cropping System Research, Modipuram

Project Dte. on Cropping System Research, Modipuram

i. AICRP Cropping System Research

ii. Network on Organic Farming

34. NRC-Weed Science, Jabalpur

NRC-Weed Science, Jabalpur

i. AICRP Weed Control, Jabalpur

35. ICAR Research Complex Goa

36. ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani

ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani

i. NRC on Yak

ii. NRC on Mithun Medziphema, Nagaland

iii. NRC on Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim

IV. AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

37. Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal

Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal

i. Network Project on RNAEM, Bhopal

ii. AICRP on FIM, Bhopal

iii. AICRP on Human Engineering and Safety in Agriculture (HESA), Bhopal

iv. AICRP on Renewable Sources of Energy for Ag. and Agro Based Indus.

v. AICRP on Utilization of Animal Energy (UAE), Bhopal

38. Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana

Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana

i. AICRP on Application of Plastic in Agriculture

ii. AICRP on PHT

iii. AICRP on Processing handling & storage of Jaggery and Khandsari, Lucknow

39. Indian Lac Research Institute, Ranchi

40. Central Institute of Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai

41. National Institute of Research on Jute & Allied Fibre Technology, Calcutta

V. ANIMAL SCIENCE

42. National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal

National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal

i. Network project on Animal Genetic Resources

43. National Dairy Research Institute including NRC Animal Biotechnology, Karnal

National Dairy Research Institute including NRC Animal Biotechnology, Karnal

i. NP on R&D Support for Process Upgradation of Indigenous Milk Products for industrial application

ii. Pilot Project on Integrated Rural Development Focussed on Dairying

44. Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Rajasthan

Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Rajasthan

i. Network Programme on Sheep Improvement

45. Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom

Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom

i. AICRP on Goat Improvement

46. Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar

Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar

i. Network Project on Buffaloes Improvement

47. National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology

National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology

i. AICRP-Improvement of Feed Sources & Nutrient Utilisation for raising Animal Production

48. NRC on Camel, Bikaner

49. NRC on Equines, Hisar (included Veterinary Type Culture)

50. Project Directorate-Cattle

Project Directorate-Cattle

i. AICRP on Cattel Research

51. PD on Foot & Mouth Disease, Mukteshwar

52. Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar

Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar

i. Project Directorate on Poultry, Hyderabad

ii. AICRP on Poultry

53. Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar

Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar

i. Network on Gastro Intestinal Parasitism (GIP)

ii. Network on Haemorrahigc Septicemia

iii. Network Programme Blue Tongue Disease

iv. PD on Animal Disease Monitoring and Surveillance

v. High Security Animal Disease

54. NRC on Meat and Meat Products Technology, Hyderabad

55. NRC on Pig

NRC on Pig

i. AICRP-Pig

VI. FISHERIES

56. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin

i. Central Institute Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai

57. Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore

Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore

i. National Research Centre on Cold Water Fisheries, Nainital

58. Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin

59. Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai

60. Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubneshwar

61. National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow

VII. AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS & ECONOMICS

62. Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute

Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute, New Delhi

i. National Centre for Agril. Economics & Policy Research, New Delhi

VIII. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

63. Krishi Vighyan Kendras (New+Old)

64. NRC for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar

65. Directorate of Information & Publication in Agriculture (DIPA)

IX. AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

66. Strengthening of Agricultural Education

- Strengthening of Agricultural Education
- AICRP on Home Science
- Dev. & Strengthening of State Agricultural Universities
- Dev. Strengthening of PG Edn. in Deemed Universities
- Dev. Strengthening of Agri. Edn. in Central Universities
- Rural Awareness Work Experience (RAWE)
- Best Teacher Award
- Accreditation Board
- Preparation of University Level Text Book
- Emeritus Science Scheme
- Centres of Advance Studies
- Establishment of Jammu University
- Centre of Excellence

67. National Academy of Agricultural Research & Management (NAARM), Hyderabad

68. Central Agricultural University, Imphal

X. ICAR HEADQUARTERS

69. Strengthening and Modernization of ICAR Headquarters

- Strengthening and Modernization of ICAR Headquarters
- Modernization of Office Space & Facilities
- ICAR Library
- Publicity & Public Relations
- Intellectual Property Right (IPR)
- Support of Prof. Soc. including NAAS
- Agriculture Scientist Recruitment Board
- ICAR HQ Including facilities at NASC

XI. EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECTS

70. National Agricultural Technology Project (World Bank)

71. Indo-French proposal Seabass Breeding & Culture, Chennai

National Board for Strategic Research (yet to be implemented)

List of State Agricultural Universities

1.	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Anand Agricultural University, Anand	Gujarat
3.	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	Assam
4.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Mohanpur, Nadia	West Bengal
5.	Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi	Jharkhand
6.	Central Agricultural University, Imphal	Manipur
7.	Ch. Sarwan Kumar Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur	Himachal Pradesh
8.	Chandra Shekar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
9.	Ch. Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar	Haryana
10.	Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Ratnagiri	Maharashtra
11.	Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Krishinagar	Maharashtra
12.	Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan, Nauni	Himachal Pradesh
13.	Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar	Uttaranchal
14.	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur	Chhattisgarh
15.	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
16.	Junagarh Agricultural University, Junagarh	Gujarat
17.	Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikara, Trichur	Kerala
18.	Maharana Pratap Univ. of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur	Rajasthan
19.	Maharashtra Animal Science & Fishery University	Nagpur
20.	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri	Maharashtra
21.	Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani	Maharashtra
22.	Narendra Dev University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh
23.	Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari	

24.	Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneshwar	Orissa
25.	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	Punjab
26.	Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner	Rajasthan
27.	Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur	Bihar
28.	Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, Modipuram	Meerut
29.	Sardar Krushinagar-Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardar Krushinagar, Banaskantha	Gujarat
30.	Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences & Technology, Jammu	J & K
31.	Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences & Technology, Srinagar	J & K
32.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
33.	Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
34.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad	Karnataka
35.	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	Karnataka
36.	UP Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwa Vidyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura	Uttar Pradesh
37.	Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Distt. Coach Bihar	West Bengal
38.	West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences, Kolkata	West Bengal

Status of Unemployment

4528. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new study has been conducted by any agency of the Government to collect the present status of unemployment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the growth of unemployment in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Detailed estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 1999-2000. Next survey is being conducted during 2004-05.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Labour & Employment undertakes the monitoring of the employment & unemployment situation through the network of employment exchanges located in various parts of the country. Planning Commission undertakes this exercise as part of the preparation of various Five Year Plans.

Selling Price of Urea

4529. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current selling price of urea and fertilizers are less than the cost of production;

(b) if so, whether the said fertilizers can be imported at a price less than the energy inputs in fertilizer plants; and

(c) if so, the proposals being considered by the Government to reduce the cost of production of these fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The cost of production of

fertilizers is higher in comparison to the prices at which the urea and decontrolled phosphatic and potassium fertilizers are sold.

(b) and (c) Urea is the only fertilizer, import of which is canalized and made through the State Trading Enterprises. All other fertilizers are free for import. Import of fertilizers is made at the prevailing international prices.

[Translation]

Farmers Partnership in Sugarcane Industry

4530. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include the farmers as partners in sugarcane based industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government recognizes that the farmers, the Sugar Industry and the Civil Society are all partners in the sugarcane based industry in the country for their common benefit.

[English]

Meeting on Inter-Linking of Rivers

4531. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers of States to evolve consensus on inter-linking of rivers;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to hold bilateral discussions with States concerned to understand and address their apprehensions on the issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No date has been fixed for holding the meeting with Chief Ministers of States to evolve consensus on inter-linking of rivers.

(b) and (c) Secretary (WR) held a meeting with the Chief Secretaries of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on 11.01.2005 for two top priority links viz. Ken-Betwa & Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal. After the meeting, Government of Uttar Pradesh has conveyed their conditional consent for signing of MOU for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of Ken-Betwa link in March, 2005. Government of Madhya Pradesh has already conveyed their consent for preparation of DPR of the link. Regarding Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link while Government of Madhya Pradesh has already conveyed their consent for preparation of DPR of this link, Government of Rajasthan has not conveyed their decision.

Sale of Products by Steel Authority of India Limited

4532. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the number of scrap and prime products sold by each subsidiary company of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): The details of prime and scrap products sold by subsidiary companies of SAIL *i.e.* Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO), Bumpur and Maharashtra Elektrosmelt Limited (MEL), during the last three years are given below:

A. Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO):

(Qty: In thousand tonnes)

Products	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Prime Products			
Saleable Steel*	260.73	229.41	270.50
Pig Iron	228.81	185.66	115.50
Scrap**	0.90	0.54	0.48

*Range of Steel Structurals and Special Sections.

**Broken Ingot Mould Bottom Plates, Melting Scrap, CI Skull etc.

B. Maharashtra Elektrosmelt Limited (MEL):

(Qty: In thousand tonnes)

Products	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Prime Products			
High Carbon Ferro Manganese	58.26	23.29	62.12
Silico Manganese	35.47	34.72	25.66
Medium Carbon Ferro Manganese	1.88	1.45	1.83
Scrap	0.01	0.31	0.27

Current year *i.e.* 2005-06 has just started.

Export of Agro Food Products

4533. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified agro-food industries as one of the key area for technological upgradation, skill enhancement and employment generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also assessed the rising demand of agro-based industries in the export market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to draw up a road map for export of agro-based products in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For promotion of food processing industries, Government has implemented the scheme for technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of food processing industries. Assistance is also provided for establishment of Food Processing & Training Centres, and for conducting Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDP) for skill enhancement in food processing. The other major scheme of food parks provides for assistance up to Rs. 4.00 crore, for specified common facilities at the rate of 25% and 33.33% of project cost in the general and difficult areas respectively. So far, financial assistance has been sanctioned for establishment of 49 food parks in different parts of the country.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Commerce and Industry has approved 60 Agri Export Zones in the Country with a view to strengthen infrastructure facilities, produce identification, market development of products for export of Agri and Processed Products. Agricultural & Processed Food products Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry assists in organizing buyers/sellers meet, assistance provided for participation in important trade fairs, development of necessary infrastructure for quality testing, pesticide residue, research and development, transport assistance etc., for agri and processed food exports.

Bonded Labourers

4534. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the supply of labour exceeds demand by a huge margin resulting highly exploitative forms of work; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of the existing regulations relating to prohibition of bonded labour and child labour and monitoring the condition of migrant workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) As per the employment and unemployment survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation during 1999-2000, out of a total labour force of 406 million on usual status basis, around 9 million are openly unemployed.

(b) The Government has taken a number of steps by enacting different labour laws like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979; the Building & Other Construction Workers Act, 1996; the Contact Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970; etc. to prevent exploitation of workers. The Government has also introduced the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill in the Parliament with the object to generate at least 100 days of employment in a year, to at least one person in every rural household on asset creating public works programmes.

[Translation]

Average Annual Increase of Four Per cent in Agriculture Sector

4535. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the review commission has set a target of an average annual increase of 4 per cent in the agriculture sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the average annual increase is likely to be 1 to 1.5 per cent against the target of 4 per cent during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target cent-per-cent?

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 growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Agriculture Sector, including the allied sectors, was set at 4 per cent during the Tenth Five Year Plan by the Planning Commission.

(b) The State-wise details of growth targets set for the Tenth Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) According to the data released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the growth rate in agriculture, including allied sectors of forestry & logging, and fishing, was negative (-7%) in 2002-03 while it was 9.6% in 2003-04. According to the advance estimates released by the CSO, growth rate in agriculture including allied sectors, in 2004-05 was 1.1%. The average annual growth rate for the first three years of the Tenth Plan works out to 1.2%.

(d) With a view to increasing agricultural production, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include agricultural credit, irrigation, horticulture, crop diversification and marketing reforms. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission with focus on backward and forward linkages, and development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

Statement

State-wise Growth Target for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07)

(Annual average in %)

State/Union Territories	Agriculture
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.00
Andhra Pradesh	3.05
Arunachal Pradesh	4.00
Assam	3.82
Bihar	3.75
Chandigarh	-2.00
Chhattisgarh	3.00
Delhi	-12.21
Goa	-0.90
Gujarat	4.03

1	2
Haryana	4.07
Himachal Pradesh	4.55
Jammu & Kashmir	4.20
Jharkhand	3.00
Karnataka	4.99
Kerala	3.05
Madhya Pradesh	4.00
Maharashtra	3.56
Manipur	3.59
Meghalaya	4.00
Mizoram	2.00
Nagaland	4.00
Orissa	4.07
Pondicherry	1.10
Punjab	4.07
Rajasthan	4.50
Sikkim	5.00
Tamil Nadu	3.54
Tripura	3.90
Uttaranchal	3.50
Uttar Pradesh	4.67
West Bengal	5.09
All India	4.00

Assistance for Edible Oil Industry

4536. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the vegetable oil industry is going through a period of crisis;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any memorandum from Central Organisation for Oil Industry and Trade (COIT) in this regard;

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

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute any Committee to resolve the problems of vegetable oil sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be constituted; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There is no such situation like crisis for the vegetable oil industry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise.

[English]

Study on Damage to Water Catchment Areas

4537. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to look into the extent, causes and effects of damages, degradation and erosion of water catchment forests in National Parks particularly of Ramganga and Kosi Rivers in Jim Corbett National Park in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of water catchment forests?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ministry of Environment & Forests provides financial assistance to the States for various activities

including habitat manipulation and better preservation of bio-tope including plantation of trees and fodder species, fire protection, prevention of erosion and denudation, soil moisture conservation, removal of unwanted species of flora and fauna, flood protection as and when sought by the State Government under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries".

Collision on Goa Sea Coast

4538. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that due to collision of a barge with a ship off the Goa Coast, a major environment threat has occurred as reported in the *Pioneer* dated March 24, 2005;

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

(c) whether heavy oil spillage has caused major environmental threat;

(d) if so, whether Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has taken any steps in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) As per the information furnished by the Goa Pollution Control Board, a barge, M/V Prapti had collided with a foreign vessel, M/V Maritime Wisdom, resulting in a hole in the fuel tank of the vessel and spilling 87.4 metric tonnes of oil. To mitigate the oil spill and avert a major environmental threat immediate action was taken by the State Government with the assistance of the Coast Guard which have facilities to combat such incidences.

Rain Water Harvesting Council

4539. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formed any Rain Water Harvesting Council; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith salient features of the Council?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Payment of Insurance Amount to Victims of Accidents

4540. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any centrally sponsored scheme to provide compensation or insurance amount to the victims of accidents in agriculture sector in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of victims provided compensation during the last three 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) Ministry of Agriculture do not have any centrally sponsored scheme at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Grain Policy

4541. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has constituted any committee to formulate a long term grain policy for the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee has since submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

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 (e) A High Level Committee (HLC) was constituted on 16.11.2000 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, for formulating a long term grain policy for the country. The HLC submitted its report on 22nd July, 2002. The main recommendation made by the Committee as well as the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Main recommendations and the action taken by the Government is as under. Against 13 main recommendations, 10 have been accepted and 3 have not been accepted by the Government of India.

Sl.No.	Main Recommendations of High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy	Status of Action Taken	Action Taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Minimum Support Price (MSPs) should be fixed on the basis of C2 cost of production (*i.e.* all costs including imputed costs of family labour, owned capital and rental on land) in more efficient regions	Not accepted	The Government has decided that the present MSP regime should continue.
2.	The Central Government should pay a maximum of 4% of taxes and levies on the MSP for MSP purchases.	Accepted in principle	This would require consultation with State Governments where taxes and levies are more than 4% on Minimum Support price.
3.	FCI should withdraw from procurement in States like Punjab and Haryana and redeploy its manpower in East in Central India.	Accepted	It is proposed that FCI would reduce its manpower and infrastructure progressively for Punjab and Haryana and redeploy the same in Eastern and Central India.
4.	The scheme of decentralized procurement must be improved and made more attractive to the State Governments.	Accepted	The Department has already taken action to make decentralized procurement attractive. The system of decentralized procurement of foodgrains is under implementation in 10 States/ UTs.

1	2	3	4
5.	FAQ norms should be adhered to strictly in all purchases of grains by the FCI.	Accepted	Procuring Agencies have been directed to only purchase FAQ foodgrians.
6.	All levy orders on rice millers should be removed.	Not accepted	The Department is of the view that the dual system of procurement of paddy as well as delivery of levy rice should continue.
7.	Along with MSP correction to the C2 level, the State Government should be given a compensation package, which it could use for, inter alia, crop diversification.	Accepted in principle	As recommended by the HLC, it is proposed that a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on crop diversification may be formulated and implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation with special focus on Punjab and Haryana.
8.	There should be an immediate shift to unified PDS with Central Issue Prices being fixed on the basis of acquisition cost.	Not accepted	It is felt by the Government that the Targetted PDS was introduced in June, 1997 with a view to target the unprivileged sections of society, as the earlier Universal PDS did not adequately focus on the hungry and had urban bias. The introduction of universal PDS may result in the PDS losing its focus on meeting the needs of the poor.
9.	There is need for the FCI to change the way in which it conducts its business to enable faster commercially oriented decision making.	Accepted	FCI has been suitably advised.
10.	The Government should introduce a major food based employment programme.	Accepted	The allocation of foodgrains has been increased for the Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) and Food for Work Programme run by Ministry of Rural Development.

1	2	3	4
11.	There should be a stable and predictable policy regarding open market sales.	Accepted	The Open Market Sale Scheme is already under implementation.
12.	Exports of foodgrains should be entirely on private account. All subsidies should be at the point of export rather than at the point of sale from the public stocks.	Accepted in principle	The Commerce Ministry is presently finalising a suitable scheme.
13.	All stocks of 3 years old grain bought under relaxed specifications should be sold immediately on commercial terms.	Accepted	Following the measures taken for disposal of such stocks, over 95% at the current stocks are now less than two years old.

Cultivable Land

4542. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large portions of cultivable land in several parts of the country have not been cultivated during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to cultivate on such lands and waste lands in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The 'net sown area', 'current fallows' and 'fallow lands other than current follows' are some of the main categories of land counted towards cultivable area. The 'net sown area' represents the total area sown with crops and orchards and the area sown more than once in the same year is counted only once. The 'current fallows' represents area which is kept fallow during the current year. The 'fallow lands other than current fallows' includes all land which was taken up for cultivation but is temporarily out of cultivation for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years. The average annual figures for the last ten years upto 2001-02 of 'net sown area', 'current fallows' and 'fallow lands other than current fallows' are 142.10 million hectare, 14.16 million hectare and 9.95 million hectare respectively.

Cropped area is kept fallow for various agro-climatic and socio-economic reasons.

(c) to (e) Government of India is implementing various programmes namely (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing 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 Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme (IWDP) etc. to bring these lands to better agricultural uses.

Agro Climatic Zones

4543. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed any new technology for the agricultural and allied activities for different agro-climatic zones in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken for the application of such technology?

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. Location specific technology generation and its periodic upgradation in light of changing scenario is a continuous process in the ICAR system.

(b) The ICAR has divided the country into 20 agro-climatic zones and 60 sub zones for agricultural research and planning. For each zone profitable, sustainable and eco-friendly crops, cropping, systems, fruits varieties, animal breeds, farm implements and cultural practices have been developed. The zone-wise details of new technologies and practices are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The location specific technologies developed are disseminated through the All India Coordinated Research Projects in different zones through on-farm participatory research, frontline demonstrations, Institute Village Link Progrmmes and Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Some of the technologies are also being commercialized in collaboration with industries.

Statement

Zone-wise/State-wise Technologies Developed

Sl.No.	Name of the Technology	States/districts/agro-climatic zones where it is applicable
1	2	3
	Rainfed Rice Based Production System	
1.	Sequence cropping of vegetables, pulses and oilseeds in rice fallows	Chhattisgarh, M.P. and Orissa
2.	Inter cropping of upland rice+pigeonpea (5:2)	Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa
3.	Pigeonpea+groundnut inter cropping system (2:6)	Jharkhand and Orissa
4.	Rainwater harvesting and recycling through dabris	Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand
5.	Utilisation of excess rainwater in medium and low lands for second crop and fish culture	Dhenkanel and Mayurbhunj districts of Orissa
6.	Mango+upland rice agri horticultural system	Koraput and Jagdalpur districts and also Ranchi and Palmau districts of Jharkhand
7.	Mango+ginger/turmeric agri horticultural system	Koraput and Phulbani district of Orissa
8.	Rice-fish-duck/pig farming system	Ranchi district of Jharkhand and Midnapore district of West Bengal
9.	Improved upland rice varieties for aberrant weather	Varieties like Vanadana with greater adaptability to uplands provides stability of yield during drought in Orissa

1	2	3
10.	Integrated nutrient management with incorporation of legume intercrop in rainfed rice	Orissa and Jharkhand
11.	Management of parasitic diseases (nematodes and trematodes) in buffaloes	Orissa and Chhattisgarh
12.	Use of bullock drawn puddler 99 for improved yield of rainfed rice in low lands	Orissa and Chhattisgarh
13.	Integrated weed management in upland rice	Jharkhand and U.P.
14.	Integrated pest management in rainfed rice	Assam, Manipur, Orissa and West Bengal
15.	Improved biasi method of cultivation	Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand
16.	Storage of paddy in RCC ring bin	Assam, Manipur and Orissa
17.	Inter row crop seeder for rice and green manure crop	Orissa and Assam
18.	Sprouted rice seeder	Orissa and Chhattisgarh
	Oilseeds Based Production System	
19.	Cultivation of non spiny varieties of safflower	Maharashtra and Karnataka
20.	Use of safflower (multicrop) harvester	Karnataka and Maharashtra
21.	Improved technology for storing soybean seeds to increase viability	M.P.
22.	Improved technology for production of eri silkworm	Assam and Manipur
23.	Feeding of livestock with sunflower head based complete feed	All sunflower growing states
24.	IPM modules for sunflower, safflower, mustard and groundnut	Sunflower, safflower, mustard and groundnut growing states
25.	INM in oilseed based cropping systems	All oilseed growing areas
26.	In situ moisture conservation technology in castor and groundnut	Drought prone districts of India
27.	Production technology for castor, groundnut, safflower and linseed for saline and sodic soils	A.P., Maharashtra, Gujarat and U.P.
28.	Integrated management of groundnut stem necrosis	A.P.
	Pulses Based Production System	
29.	Liquid Rhizobium inoculate for pulses	Pulse growing states of India

1	2	3
30.	Non pesticidal control of soil nematodes	U.P.
31.	Management of MYMV in mung bean and urd bean	Orissa, A.P. and Tamilnadu
32.	Use of improved mini dal mill	Pigeon pea growing states
33.	Pitfall trap for monitoring and control of pulse beetle	Pulse growing states
34.	Integrated crop management technology for pigeonpea based intercropping systems	Pigeonpea growing states
35.	Bio intensive IPM modules for pigeonpea and chickpea	Pigeonpea and chickpea growing states
	Cotton Based Production System	
36.	Rainwater management in cotton on toposequences in a watershed	Maharashtra, Karnataka and A.P.
37.	Improved arboretum varieties of cotton	A.P., Karnataka and Maharaahtra
	Nutritious Cereals Based Production System	
38.	Establishment and management of live fences around the crop fields	Can be adopted in all states
39.	Integrated management of blast disease in fingermillet	Karnataka
40.	Fingermillet based intercropping systems with legumes for improved returns	A.P., Karnataka and Tamilnadu
41.	Cultivation of dual purpose sorghum variety CSV-15	Applicable in all Sorghum growing states
42.	Improved production technology for *rabi* sorghum	Maharashtra and Karnataka
43.	Rain water management technology in maize based cropping system	H.P., Rajasthan and Gujarat
44.	Establishment of improved silvi pasture systems for small ruminants	Arid areas
45.	Moisture conservation and nutrient management technology for pearlmillet	Semi arid and arid pearlmillet growing districts
46.	Feeding of poultry with substitute rations to reduce the cost of production	Applicable in all states
47.	Technology of physiological harvesting and grain drying in *kharif* sorghum	Maharashtra and A.P.
48.	Cultivation of high yielding sweet sorghum genotypes	A.P., Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu
49.	Preparation of value added products like syrup, jaggery and cake from sweet sorghum	All relevant states

Surplus Stock of Foodgrains

4544. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of surplus stocks of foodgrains in the country as on date, grain-wise;

(b) whether the Indian Science Congress held in 2001 has made recommendations regarding better utilization of surplus stocks of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has considered these recommendations;

(e) if so, the details of recommendations that have been implemented so far; and

(f) by when the remaining recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The stock of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool against the prescribed buffer stocking norms as on 1.1.2005 is indicated below:-

(In lakh tonnes)

Foodgrains		Buffer Norms	
Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
127.63	89.31	84.00	84.00

(b) and (c) The Indian Science Congress recommended in 2001 that the food surpluses can be harnessed effectively for (i) distribution to people below poverty line, (ii) building required rural infrastructure, and (iii) the generation of employment for the rural poor.

(d) to (f) In order to liquidate excess stocks, the Government increased the allocation for Below Poverty Line (BPL) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families from 25 Kgs per family per months to 35 Kgs per family per month with effect from 01.04.2002. Two major schemes involving allocation of foodgrains aimed at building rural infrastructure and generation of employment for the rural poor, viz. Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) are under implementation.

Programme for Optimum use of Land

4545. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any time bound programme for optimum use of land to support the burgeoning population growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total land in the country which is subject to soil erosion and land degradation;

(d) whether the Government has made any assessment about the loss of land during the next fifteen years as a result thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for the Tenth Five Year Plan, constituted by the Planning Commission, has formulated a perspective plan for treatment/reclamation of an area of 88.5 million ha. in 20 years through Watershed Development Programmes.

(c) to (e) It is estimated that about 173.6 million ha., out of total reported area of about 306 million ha., is subjected to various kinds of land degradation and about 5334 million tonnes of top soil is being lost every year through water erosion.

(f) The Government of India is implementing the following watershed development programme for development and management of degraded/rainfed land in the country:

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands

in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA).

An area of about 27.5 million ha. has been treated under these programmes by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Persons Engaged in Various Service Sectors

4546. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any survey to find out the percentage of persons engaged in Agricultural, Industrial and service sectors in the country;

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

(c) the average annual income earning of each of above sector in various States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the income particularly in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) State-wise and sector-wise percentage of employed persons on usual status basis during 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Industry-wise average wage/salary earnings per day received by regular wage/salaried employees of age 15-59 years during 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Government is implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes in the rural areas of the country. These include Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampooran Gramin Rozgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana etc. Besides these, a National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill has already been tabled in Parliament, which provides for 100 days of employment for every poor family in rural areas. A food for work programme has already been launched in selected backward districts of the country.

Statement I

Industry-wise distribution of Employed persons in Usual status basis during 1999-2000

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Rural (%)			Urban (%)		
		Agriculture	Industry	Services	Agriculture	Industry	Services
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	78.8	8.7	12.5	9.5	32.2	58.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	83.4	7.5	9.0	8.7	13.4	77.9
3.	Assam	67.7	6.2	26.2	6.0	13.5	80.5
4.	Bihar	80.6	8.9	10.5	10.9	28.4	60.8
5.	Delhi	7.5	36.4	56.0	1.7	30.1	68.3
6.	Goa	28.7	30.0	41.3	1.8	37.1	61.2
7.	Gujarat	79.8	10.2	10.0	9.4	33.6	56.9
8.	Haryana	68.5	15.1	16.3	9.1	29.0	61.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	73.6	14.3	12.1	11.0	21.5	67.5
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	76.3	11.2	12.4	13.2	22.4	64.5
11.	Karnataka	82.1	7.7	10.2	10.8	34.5	54.6
12.	Kerala	48.3	23.9	28.0	9.5	31.7	58.8
13.	Madhya Pradesh	87.1	6.3	6.6	15.4	28.3	56.3
14.	Maharashtra	82.6	7.5	9.8	5.7	32.3	62.1
15.	Manipur	75.3	8.9	15.8	28.3	15.6	55.9
16.	Meghalaya	86.5	3.0	10.5	1.3	14.6	84.1
17.	Mizoram	85.5	2.4	12.2	30.3	14.7	55.0
18.	Nagaland	79.7	2.2	18.1	8.4	12.1	79.5
19.	Orissa	78.2	11.9	9.9	13.0	32.0	55.0
20.	Punjab	72.6	12.0	15.4	8.7	30.1	61.3
21.	Rajasthan	77.7	13.8	8.5	12.9	34.7	52.4
22.	Sikkim	60.8	9.9	29.3	2.1	16.1	81.8
23.	Tamil Nadu	67.9	18.6	13.5	8.9	36.6	54.5
24.	Tripura	45.7	12.0	42.3	2.7	8.0	89.3
25.	Uttar Pradesh	76.2	11.3	12.4	9.0	32.1	59.0
26.	West Bengal	63.6	19.2	17.2	3.0	34.1	62.8
	B. Union Territories						
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	65.0	15.7	19.4	15.3	22.0	62.6
28.	Chandigarh	66.1	18.2	15.8	1.6	25.5	72.8
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	55.2	26.0	18.8	8.1	59.0	32.9
30.	Daman and Diu	34.2	43.1	22.7	11.9	18.7	69.4
31.	Lakshadweep	53.6	12.5	33.9	24.5	15.3	60.1
32.	Pondicherry	59.9	20.7	19.5	5.4	47.3	47.3
	Total	76.3	11.4	12.4	8.8	32.2	59.2

Statement II

Average wage/salary earnings (Rs. 0.00) per day received by regular wage/salaried employees of age 15-59 years

Sl.No.	Industry division/group	Rural (Rs.)	Urban (Rs.)
1.	Agriculture	65.88	137.90
2.	Mining & Quarrying	140.16	257.16
3.	Manufacturing[1]	77.66	96.58
4.	Manufacturing[2]	96.41	165.40
5.	Electricity, gas and water supply	197.54	246.86
6.	Construction	104.66	133.59
7.	Trade	64.90	100.27
8.	Transport & Storage etc.	112.29	162.04
9.	Services[3]	155.69	263.87
10.	Services[4]	177.18	206.43
11.	All	125.31	165.05

[1]Industry Groups (15-27)
[2]Industry Groups (23-37)
[3]Industry Groups (65-74)
[4]Industry Groups (75-93)

Ecologically Fragile Areas

4547. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that many ecologically fragile areas in the country are either under illegal possession or under private ownership;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Union Government proposes to take for their protection;

(c) whether the Union Government has given its consent to the Kerala Forest (Vesting and Management of Ecologically Fragile Lands) Bill, 2002;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There are ecologically fragile areas in many states under private ownership. However, legal framework is in place for regulating development of ecologically fragile areas. Central Government is empowered to declare various areas ecologically fragile/ eco-sensitive under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Kerala Forest (Vesting and Management of Ecologically Fragile Lands) Bill, 2002 provides for the vesting in the Government of ecologically fragile lands in the State of Kerala and for the management of such lands with a view to maintaining ecological balance and conserving the biodiversity.

(e) Does not arise.

Netravati Water Project of Karnataka

4548. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey for Netravati Water Project in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the project is likely to be completed alongwith assistance proposed to be provided to the State Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared pre-feasibility report in respect of Netravati-Hamavati inter-basin water transfer link under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component of National Perspective Plan. The NWDA has completed water balance studies of the river basin. The Government of Karnataka has been requested to conduct further study for preparation of Feasibility Report of this link proposal or accord their approval so that the Feasibility Report of this link proposal can be undertaken by the NWDA. The approval of the Karnataka Government has not been received so far by the NWDA. The Netravati-Hemavati Link proposal can be taken up only after the preparation of Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report after obtaining the consensus of the basin States.

[Translation]

Prices of Drugs

4549. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug manufacturing companies have not cut down the prices of drugs despite the issuance of notification regarding reduction of excise duty on drugs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any strict action against the erring drug manufacturing companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the first Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. The formula for calculation of retail price of formulations under para 7 of DPCO, 1995 takes into account Excise duty element also.

Prices of non-scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

[English]

Japanese Assistance for Cleaning of Ganga

4550. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
MOHD. MUKEEM:
SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *Alias* SADHU YADAV:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether Japan has offered its assistance to India for cleaning of river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms and conditions laid down in this regard;

(c) the amount involved in the said project; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan has provided technical assistance for a Development Study relating to "Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga river" with focus on four towns in the Ganga basin namely, Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad and Varanasi. Under the Study, it is envisaged to formulate the Master Plans and Feasibility Studies for sewerage and non-sewerage components in the four towns. The Master Plans and Feasibility Studies for the towns of Kanpur, Allahabad and Lucknow are yet to be finalized by the JICA Study Team. The Feasibility Study for Varanasi after finalization was posed to Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for funding, on the basis of which the Government of India has recently signed a Loan Agreement with JBIC amounting to Japanese Yen 11,184 million for the project of pollution abatement of river Ganga at Varanasi. The funding to be received from JBIC for the project is a soft loan with 0.75% interest re-payable in 30 years after the grace period of 10 years. The work on the project is scheduled to start in the current financial year is expected to be completed by March, 2012.

[Translation]

Dam on Kikavi River in Maharashtra

4551. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for the construction of a dam on Kikavi river in Nasik district in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance has been sought from World Bank by the Government for the construction of dam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Water Resources.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Pharma Company

4552. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set up a Joint-Sector pharma company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Eco-Tourism

4553. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified cities for promoting Eco-tourism;

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

(c) whether the Government has invited any suggestions from State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details alongwith action taken thereon; and

(e) the amount allocated for each city for promoting Eco-tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism extends Central financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for the development of tourism including Eco-Tourism, on the basis of the proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

(d) and (e) The details of the financial assistance extended to the State Governments/Union Territories during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05 (up to 31.12.2004)		
		No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Project Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	507.50	195.00	6	946.50	896.44	11	2750.81	2191.92
2.	Assam	9	768.13	618.85	3	313.46	313.06	6	955.88	742.10
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	41.30	32.50	6	1044.60	700.00	6	1285.70	905.52
4.	Bihar	8	505.00	505.00	6	1019.42	913.89	7	1901.23	1527.55
5.	Chhattisgarh	9	308.00	98.50	6	1005.00	364.00	4	1086.26	869.01
6.	Goa	1	0.50	0.50	2	36.76	34.76	2	10.00	8.00
7.	Gujarat	2	197.12	59.13	8	920.51	815.82	2	138.93	111.14
8.	Haryana	8	332.25	311.00	16	1215.38	879.23	5	678.55	501.64

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30	779.32	760.38	4	182.32	85.00	5	2620.00	1736.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	94.38	89.47	5	895.00	895.00	2	805.00	644.00
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	2	1109.00	774.60	1	474.97	3[illegible].97
12.	Karnataka	6	902.49	625.49	14	932.66	792.51	8	2432.76	1914.37
13.	Kerala	11	861.36	829.86	6	608.50	564.15	5	2148.63	1718.88
14.	Madhya Pradesh	18	711.18	574.79	10	621.90	394.51	8	1285.46	783.03
15.	Maharashtra	8	623.46	546.25	10	931.83	914.58	6	1576.38	1260.10
16.	Manipur	2	5.24	2.62	1	82.44	24.73	0	0.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	3	70.35	21.20	2	40.22	24.92	2	963.30	807.91
18.	Mizoram	6	141.16	48.46	5	567.70	186.75	3	1081.28	927.09
19.	Nagaland	5	360.50	323.43	4	711.00	220.80	5	2165.69	1731.40
20.	Orissa	2	47.50	15.75	5	419.55	138.50	5	1316.48	999.69
21.	Punjab	3	23.00	14.60	2	96.00	12.30	4	846.41	561.26
22.	Rajasthan	13	1098.70	1096.20	14	1644.81	1414.25	2	39.31	31.45
23.	Sikkim	13	346.24	269.76	8	1151.09	681.49	6	1005.81	805.13
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	559.00	316.10	14	1339.82	850.53	6	876.92	702.72
25.	Tripura	5	216.13	67.78	6	450.17	135.16	0	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttaranchal	3	548.00	418.00	4	230.44	203.94	3	1412.93	1125.56
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3	295.00	295.00	7	1115.80	916.26	7	1037.43	825.19
28.	West Bengal	5	201.10	60.00	10	717.44	384.34	5	480.04	384.03
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	3	7.75	6.63	2	10.00	8.00	1	457.00	365.60
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	8.07	6.46	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	14	504.00	449.02	17	3316.28	3222.13	1	500.00	400.00
33.	Daman and Diu	3	49.50	16.90	1	265.07	238.56	0	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	2	7.87	6.30	1	245.17	73.55	2	451.00	360.00
	Total	212	11121.10	8680.93	207	24185.84	18073.76	130	32784.16	25320.26

Expansion and Modernisation of Seed Production Facilities

4554. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken some concrete steps for the expansion and modernisation of seed production facilities in the public sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers are not getting good quality seeds resulting poor agricultural growth etc. in the country; and

(d) if so, how the expansion and modernization of seed production facilities are going to benefit farmers in a big way?

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 strengthen seed production facilities, a Central Sector Scheme on Development and Strengthening of infrastructure facilities for production and distribution of quality seeds has been launched this year for Xth Plan period with an outlay of Rs. 159 crores. One of the components under this very scheme is assistance for creation of seed processing infrastructure and storage facilities in the public sector and the provision for the remaining years of the Xth Plan is Rs. 12.70 crores.

(c) and (d) Farmers are generally getting good quality seeds and the scheme will enhance the availability and distribution of quality seeds in the country.

Production of Milk

4555. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to determine the total production of milk in the country, in the public and private sectors during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total daily requirement of milk, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Export of dairy products has increased during 2004-2005;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to check the supply of adulterated milk?

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 milk is estimated annually on the basis of a countrywide sample survey covering the households. There is no separate accounting for public and private sector milk production in the survey.

(b) The State-wise details of production of milk during last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

As per "Dietary Guidelines for Indians", issued by the National Institute of Nutrition (Indian Council of Medical Research), Hyderabad, all adults (both men and women) should take 300 ml of milk per day while children and adolescents should take 500 ml of milk per day.

(c) and (d) As per the latest data available, the export of dairy products has decreased from Rs. 127.22 crores in 2002-03 to Rs. 93.4 crores in 2003-04.

(e) The milk samples are checked under the Prevention of Food & Adulteration Act.

Statement

Table: Estimates of Milk Production—2001-02 to 2003-04—State-wise

(000 tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5814	6584	6959
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	42	46	46
3.	Assam	682	705	727
4.	Bihar	2664	2869	3180

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Goa	45	46	48
6.	Gujarat	5862	6089	6421
7.	Haryana	4978	5124	5221
8.	Himachal Pradesh	756	773	786
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1360	1389	1414
10.	Karnataka	4797	4539	3857
11.	Kerala	2718	2419	2111
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5283	5343	5388
13.	Maharashtra	6094	6238	6379
14.	Manipur	68	69	71
15.	Meghalaya	66	68	69
16.	Mizoram	14	15	15
17.	Nagaland	57	58	63
18.	Orissa	929	941	997
19.	Punjab	7932	8173	8391
20.	Rajasthan	7758	7789	8054
21.	Sikkim	37	45	48
22.	Tamil Nadu	4988	4622	4752
23.	Tripura	90	79	84
24.	Uttar Pradesh	14648	15288	15943
25.	West Bengal	3515	3600	3686
26.	A&N Islands	23	26	25
27.	Chandigarh	43	43	44
28.	D. & N. Haveli	8	8	8
29.	Daman & Diu	1	1	1
30.	Delhi	294	296	299
31.	Lakshadweep	2	2	1
32.	Pondicherry	37	37	40
33.	Chhattisgarh	795	804	812
34.	Uttaranchal	1066	1079	1188
35.	Jharkhand	940	952	954
	All India	84406	86159	88082

Source: State/UT Animal Husbandry Departments

Expansion of Training Programme for Labourers

4556. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the important determinants of labour productivity is the working skills of the workers;

(b) if so, whether the percentage of vocationally trained persons at the age group of 20-40 are very less as compared to the other developing countries;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the projections of increase in labour force are required to train 8-10 million labourers every year;

(e) if so, whether the present infrastructure available for vocational/technical/professional training programmes has a capacity of 2-2.3 million labourers; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to generate resources to expand the capacity of training programmes so that a large number of new entrants can be absorbed?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information available, around 5% of the workers in the age group of 20-24 receive skill training through formal training institutions in India. This is low as compared to many developing countries. However, majority of the workers in the country acquire skills through informal means after joining a particular job.

(d) Labour force is projected to grow 6 to 8 million per annum.

(e) Various institutions in public and private sectors are engaged in imparting skill training to the new entrants to the labour force and retraining to the workers already engaged in work. Their exact number is not maintained. However, the annual training capacity through the major training providers in government is around 30 lakh.

(f) Following steps have been taken to expand the skill building capacity in the country:

(i) Private sector is encouraged to set up training institutes.

(ii) Second and third shift are being introduced in existing vocational training institutes to utilize the infrastructural facilities optimally.

(iii) Training facilities in North Eastern States including Sikkim and also in J&K are being expanded.

(iv) 100 ITI's are being upgraded as Centre of Excellence with domestic funding.

[Translation]

Shifting of Industries

4557. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 831 on December 06, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be collected and laid on the table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) With reference to assurance given for Unstarred Question No. 831 replied on 6th December, 2004, regarding shifting of industries in Delhi, communications have been sent to Commissioner of Industries, Government of Delhi, Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Information on this matter is still awaited and as soon as it is received at will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Nutritional Security

4558. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to bring a paradigm shift from household food security to nutrition security;

(b) whether the existing production level of cereals, pulses and seasonal vegetables is adequate to meet the norms of nutritional security;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure nutritional security;

(d) whether the Government proposes to undertaken Educational and Research efforts to disseminate knowledge about nutritional security; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Water Harvesting Scheme

4559. SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme of water harvesting for the drought-prone areas;

(b) if so, whether scheme includes the revival and restoration of old ponds of Gram-Panchayats for irrigation and water harvesting and to check the receding water table in the drought hit rural areas;

(c) if so, whether any steps has been taken by the Government to recharge ground water level by harvesting rain water in these ponds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has proposed a scheme for "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting" for implementation in the country including drought-prone areas during the remaining two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores. There is no proposal in the Ministry of Water Resources to formulate any other special scheme of water harvesting for drought-prone areas.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. However, a pilot scheme "National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" has been approved by the Union Government in January, 2005 with a total outlay of Rs. 300 crores for the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan. The aims and objectives of the project are to restore and augment the storage capacity of water bodies and to recover and extend their lost irrigation potential.

[English]

Agreement between FCI and NCDEX

4560. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India (FCI) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) and National Collateral Management Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the terms and conditions of MoU; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the farmers as a result of this agreement?

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) In terms of the MoU the FCI and NCDEX/ NCMSL shall have collaboration in the areas of procurement, futures trading of foodgrains and related areas on mutually agreed terms. This will provide a platform for on-line screen based trade in futures and price discovery for farmers in respect of several agricultural and other commodities.

[Translation]

Procurement Under PDS

4561. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

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

(a) the quantum of foodgrains procured by the Government under the Public Distribution System during the year 2003-04 and till date;

(b) whether the total gross procurement under the PDS has been low as compared to the previous year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The quantity of foodgrains procured by the FCI and State Agencies since 2003-04 for Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes is as follows:

(in lakh tonnes)

	Rice
KMS 2003-04	228.28
KMS 2004-05	206.17 (as on 20.04.05)
	Wheat
RMS 2003-04	158.01
RMS 2004-05	167.96
RMS 2005-06	91.06 (as on 20.04.05)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Harassment of Employers of Factory by Inspectors

4562. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether any policy exists to eliminate the uncontrolled visit of inspectors to small scale and medium factories establishments without written complaints from aggrieved workers/trade unions;

(b) if so, whether any exception has been made to labour Ministry, EPF/ESI inspectors to visit such factories at their own without sufficient recorded complaints;

(c) if so, whether any representations, alleging harassment to employers have been received from various industry associations/chambers of Industry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure avoidance of harassment to employers in the hands of EPF/ESI inspectors in the name of inspection?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) According to inspection policy in vogue in the Employees State Insurance Corporation, the inspections are conducted in the cases of defaulting employers, in complaint cases and in the cases of major employers employing 250 employees and more. Inspections in these cases are conducted with the approval of the Regional Heads. The policy is in operation w.e.f. 01.04.2001. Prior intimations to the employers are given excepting where there are serious complaints warranting surprise visits. Similarly in case of EPFO no routine inspections are conducted by the Enforcement Officers of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in respect of establishments fully complying with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. However, the Enforcement Officers are deputed to non-complying establishments or establishments against which specific complaints are received, on authorization by the Assessing Officers.

(c) to (e) The ESI and EPF inspections conducted are only need based, depending on the level of compliance by the establishments. Such inspections for securing compliance should not be considered as harassment to employers.

[Translation]

Use of Organic Manure

4563. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of organic manure has proved more beneficial than the use of chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the assistance being provided by the Government to the farmers to encourage the use of organic manure; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production capacity of organic manure 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) Use of organic manure in conjunction with chemical fertilizers (Integrated Nutrient Management) has proved to be more beneficial than the use of chemical fertilizers alone.

(b) The Government is providing assistance under the "National Project on Organic Farming" for training of farmers on organic farms, organization of field demonstrations on organic inputs and farmer's fair and field demonstrations on utilization of enriched bio-gas slurry. Apart from this, the Council of Agricultural Research is also imparting regular training to farmers on Integrated Nutrient Management and demonstrating its usefulness on farmers fields.

(c) To increase the production capacity of organic manure in the country, assistance is being provided under the Scheme "National Project on Organic farming" for setting up fruit/vegetable wastes compost units and Vermiculture Hatcheries. Under the Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture, assistance is also being given for setting up of compost plants for producing organic manure from city wastes.

[English]

New Pricing Scheme for Urea Producing Units

4564. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea producing units;

(b) whether the Government had conducted any performance appraisal of the NPS;

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

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the number in which NPS is likely to be different from the earlier Retention Price-cum-Subsidy (RPS) scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) The New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units has come into existence w.e.f. 1.4.2003 replacing the erstwhile Retention Price Scheme (RPS) and is being implemented in stages. Stage-I was of one year duration, from 1.4.2003 to 31.3.2004. Stage-II has commenced from 1.4.2004 and would be of two years duration from, 1.4.2004 to 31.3.2006. Under NPS, existing urea units have been divided into six groups based on vintage and feedstock viz., pre-1992 gas based units, post-1992 gas based units, pre-1992 naphtha based units, post-1992 naphtha based units, fuel oil/low sulphur heavy stock (FO/LSHS) based units and mixed energy based units. Effective from Stage-II commencing from 1.4.2004, pre-set energy norms for urea units and reduction in rates of concession on account of reduction of capital related charges have been notified and made effective.

The modalities of Stage-III would be decided by the Department of Fertilizers after review of the implementation of Stage-I and Stage-II. A Working Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh to review the effectiveness of Stage-I & II of NPS for urea units and to formulate a policy for urea units for Stage-III commencing from 1.4.2006.

The NPS, which is a group based scheme, as compared to unit specific RPS, aims at greater transparency, uniformity and efficiency in subsidy disbursements to urea units and at inducing the urea manufacturing units to take cost reduction measures and be competitive.

Conference for Food Parks

4565. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of State Ministers of Food Processing was held in November, 2004;

(b) if so, whether it was suggested that a food park should be set up in each Parliamentary Constituency;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken any step in implementing the recommendation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes, provides financial assistance for overall development of the Food Processing Industry including for setting up of Food Parks. The Ministry does not set up Food Parks on its own. The Ministry is encouraging setting up of at least one modern Food Processing Unit or a Food Park in every parliamentary constituency, based on the felt need of the area. Project proposals have been invited for availing financial assistance under the Ministry's plan schemes. So far, the Ministry has approved 49 Food Parks in various parts of the country for assistance.

Assistance to Karnataka Jersey Bull Calves

4566. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance for Jersey Bull Calves; 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) and (b) Proposal received from Karnataka Milk Federation in original has been forwarded to the State for inclusion in the micro plan for obtaining assistance under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

Cultivation of Seedless Fruits

4567. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to consider to cultivate seedless fruits as promoted by certain Multi National Companies (MNCs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome its impact on other crops as it was felt in BT Cotton?

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 is providing assistance for the cultivation of fruits which includes seedless fruits like grapes under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro-Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/ Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plan.

(c) No adverse impact has been reported on the cultivation of seedless fruits like grapes as it does not involve any transgencies.

[Translation]

Lack of Godowns in Rural Areas

4568. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct godowns in the rural areas under the central scheme;

(b) if so, whether some States have been left out from the said scheme;

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

(d) the criteria followed in determining the number of rural godowns to be constructed in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has sanctioned for construction of 127 lakh tonne storage capacity in rural areas upto December, 2004, out of envisaged capacity of 140 lakh tonnes during 10th plan period, under the Central Sector scheme of construction/renovation of rural godowns.

(b) and (c) The scheme is applicable in all states throughout the country.

(d) Under the scheme of Construction/renovation of Rural Godowns, projects can be taken up by individuals, corporations or other permitted agencies in a state on the basis of economic feasibility and demand and supply, mechanism. However, to ensure adequate opportunity for all the states the sanction of projects in a state is restricted to a maximum of 28 lakh tones capacity (20% of the total capacity of 140 lakh tones envisaged during 10th plan).

[English]

Implementation of Mission Mode Project

4569. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat had submitted a proposal to the Union Government for Implementation of Mission Mode Project (Agrinet) identified under Agriculture Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government of Gujarat had submitted a proposal for Central assistance for developing farmers' data bank to facilitate e-extension. This proposal had been submitted prior to the formal approval of Mission Mode Project (AGRISNET by the competent authority of the Government of India.

(b) The proposal of the Government of Gujarat has sought assistance of Rs. 502.75 lakh for Hardware, Software, Data entry, Training and Connectivity.

(c) No amount has been sanctioned. AGRISNET Project has been approved (in March 2005) for implementation under the concerned Central Sector Scheme and States will have to submit proposal for assistance as per the AGRISNET guidelines.

Use of Fertilizers

4570. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evolved any system/ mechanism to educate the farmers so that they can reduce the use of fertilizers;

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

(c) the average fertilizer consumption in the country during each of the last three years in various States particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for balanced use of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government is promoting "Integrated Nutrient Management" (INM) which includes soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic fertilizers, like farm yard manures, green manure, phospho compost, vermicompost, bio-fertilizers, etc. to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also advocating greater use of eco-friendly organic fertilizer to reduce the use of inorganic chemical fertilizers.

(c) The average fertilizer consumption in the country during last three years, *i.e.* during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are 92.83, 86.06 and 89.82 Kg/ha receptively and that of Maharashtra are 75.6, 75.3 and 65.7 Kg/ha respectively of the same period.

(d) In order to promote balanced use of fertilizers in the country, the Government is promoting Balanced & Integrated Use of Fertilizers. In addition, ICAR is also undertaking the following activities:

- Developed ready reckoners for soil test based fertilizer recommendations to achieve the desired yield target.
- Prepared soil fertility maps at national (Secondary and Micro nutrient) and state (Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium) levels.
- Developed INM packages for different crops under various agro-ecological regions of the country.
- Generated information for correcting micro and secondary nutrient related problems in soil plant system under All India Coordinated Projects and Micro and Secondary nutrients.
- Organized training programmes and Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) to promote Integrated Plant Nutrient Supply in deficient areas.

Improvement in Agriculture Sector

4571. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the agricultural sector during 2005-06;

(b) whether launching of horticulture mission and a new weather insurance scheme will be more beneficial for this sector; 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 Annual Plan for the year 2005-06 contains several major new initiatives as also the ongoing schemes to increase agricultural production and productivity. These inter-alia include: (i) National Horticulture Mission including Technology Mission on Horticulture in North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttaranchal; (ii) Micro irrigation; (iii) National Mission on Bamboo; (iv) Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland/ Rainfed farming Systems; (v) Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme; (vi) National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and (vii) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. National Horticulture Mission envisages to double the horticulture production to 300 million tonnes by 2011-12 through appropriate interventions from the stages of research to production, post harvest management and marketing.

Weather insurance scheme ensures timely payment to farmers. It is also easy to implement and less prone to misuse.

Growth in Agriculture Sector

4572. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Government is taking for higher growth rate in Agriculture sector;

(b) the quantum of investments required to achieve the desired growth rate;

(c) the details of special schemes launched for growth of agriculture in the country particularly in North Bengal; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve the target and increase employment in the sector particularly in North Bengal?

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) With a view to increasing agricultural production, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include agricultural credit, irrigation, horticulture, crop diversification and marketing reforms. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscroed the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission with focus on backward and forward linkages, and development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

(b) The growth rate of Gross Domestic Product in Agriculture Sector, including allied sectors, was set at 4% during the Tenth Five Year Plan and an investment requirement of Rs. 219.6 thousand crore (at 2001-02 prices) was projected to achieve this growth target.

(c) and (d) The special new Schemes launched for boosting growth of agriculture sector include—(i) Development of Market Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization (ii) Gramin Bhandaran Yojana (iii) Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (Iv) National Horticulture Mission, (vi) Micro Irrigation including drip and sprinkler irrigation technology, National Fund for Strategic Agricultural Research for reviving and encouraging crop diversification, etc.

In regard to North Bengal, a special programme has been undertaken with the financial assistance of Netherlands Govt. in Tarai region comprising the districts of Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar and Siliguri sub-divisions of Darjeeling. Besides, there is a body known as Uttarbanga Unnayana Parishad constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of West Bengal to formulate and implement schemes for comprehensive development of North Bengal Districts.

Production of Pulses

4573. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of best efforts for increasing the production of pulses in the country it has been possible to obtain only 1.2 crore tonnes yield from 2.2 crore hectares land during the last fifteen years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for increasing the production of pulses and the average productivity rate in regard 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. While the total production of pulses varied from 1.11 crore tonnes to 1.49 crore tonnes, the area under pulses cultivation varied from 2.04 crore hectares to 2.47 crore hectares during the period 1989-90 to 2003-04.

(b) The major reasons for low production and productivity in respect of pules lie in inadequate irrigation as pulses are mainly grown in rainfed areas and non-availability of high yielding seeds due to the fact that no break through in pulses production technology could be made so far.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for Production of breeder seed, Production of Foundation seed, Production of certified seed, Crash Programme for quality seed production, Distribution of Certified seed, Distribution of Minikit, Infrastructure Development, Block Demonstrations, Integrated Pest Management etc. Apart from this, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is making efforts to develop improved varieties of pulses with high yield potential and resistance to important diseases, such as, wilt in chickpea and pigeon pea, and Yellow Mosaic Virus in mungbean. Integrated pest management technology has been developed for control of pests in chickpea and pigeon pea.

Losses to FCI

4574. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) suffered financial losses due to the negligence in the storage of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was conducted to fix the responsibilities;

(c) if so, the number of cases investigated during the last three years alongwith the number of officers and employees against whom action was taken; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The storage and transit losses in foodgrains incurred by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the period 2000-01 to 2002-03 are as under:—

(Qty. in Lakh MTs)
(Value in Rs. crore)

Year	Storage Loss		Transit Loss	
	Qty. of loss	Value	Qty. of loss	Value
2000-2001	1.56	145.31	1.55	134.76
2001-2002	1.44	143.02	1.42	123.12
2002-2003	3.17	309.39	1.70	148.52

(b) and (c) The number of cases pertaining to negligence in the storage of foodgrains (storage and transit) investigated during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 are as under:—

Year	Number of cases investigated
2002	858
2003	866
2004	583

(d) The details of the action taken officers and employees of the FCI found responsible for negligence in storage of foodgrains (storage and transit), including other irregularities, during year 2002, 2003 and 2004 are given in the statement enclosed.

To reduce losses, surprise and regular checks are conducted on high loss reporting depots, apart from effecting recoveries and taking disciplinary action the delinquent officials.

Statement

The details of the action taken against officers and employees found responsible for negligence in storage of foodgrains (storage and transit), including other during year 2002, 2003 and 2004

Nature of penalty imposed	2002	2003	2004
Dismissal/removal/compulsorily retired	55	56	37
Reduction in rank	87	66	39
Reduction in time scale of pay	435	420	361
With-holding of increments	262	146	168
Recovery from pay of the loss caused to FCI	1149	964	1346
With-holding of promotion	12	12	6
Censure	425	427	489
Total	2425	2091	2446

[Translation]

World Bank Funded Projects

4575. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of World Bank funded projects running in various States alongwith the number of pending projects at present;

(b) the reasons for delay in completion of projects;

(c) whether the Government had held any discussions with the World Bank to start these projects; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) At present, five projects are under execution with the World Bank assistance in various states. Three projects have been recommended to the World Bank for funding which are at different stages of appraisal by the Bank.

(b) to (d) Out of the above five projects, only one project namely 'Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation Component)' which was scheduled for completion by 31.03.2004, has been delayed due to non-completion of planned works as per schedule owing to erratic monsoon and recurrence of natural calamities which retarded the progress of the project. The time for completion of the project has since been extended upto 30.09.2005

[English]

Allocation of Sugar

4576. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any requests from various State Governments to increase the allocation of sugar to the States;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the quantum of sugar demanded by these States, State-wise; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has received requests for increase in the allocation of levy sugar from the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(b) Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for enhancement of existing per capita per month entitlement from 500 gms to 1 Kg. per month, thereby enhancing monthly quota of Andhra Pradesh State from 9690.0 M.Ts per month to 19380.0 M.Ts per month. Government of Maharashtra have requested to include

APL families also for distribution of levy sugar under PDS. They have requested that in addition to 13945.9 M.Ts meant for BPL families, additional 37000 M.Ts of levy sugar may be released every month for 1.48 crores of APL families in the State of Maharashtra.

(c) In order to ensure better targeting levy sugar supplied under the Public Distribution System (PDS) has been restricted to BPL families in all the States/UTs except the North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories with effect from 1.2.2001. The minimum per head per month quantum of levy sugar allotted under the PDS was increased from 425 gms to 500 gms with effect from 1.2.2001. There is no proposal to change this arrangement.

Super Speciality Hospitals

4577. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to set up four Super Speciality Hospitals in four major cities under ESIC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal for setting up Beedi Hospitals at Jhalda, Purulia for Beedi Workers; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The ESI Corporation in its meeting held on 1.2.2005 has approved the appointment of a Consultant to conduct a detailed feasibility study for setting up super speciality hospitals in different parts of the Country.

(c) and (d) The Government of West Bengal have conveyed their recommendations towards construction of a hospital at Jhalda (Purulia) for Beedi Workers. However, the Government of West Bengal have not submitted the details of the project as yet.

[Translation]

Secondary Freight Rate for Fertilizers

4578. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to fix secondary freight rate for fertilizers;

(b) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the existing secondary freight rate of urea;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to bring the urea under the category of decontrolled fertilizers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Secondary freight is already paid on urea as part of the equated freight. In case of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, secondary freight is in-built in the rates of concession payable on these fertilizers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Currently, urea is under partial distribution control.

Increasing use of Pesticides

4579. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the alternative measures taken by the Government to protect and food cycle from increasing use of pesticides?

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): Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM), encompassing cultural, mechanical and biological methods and need based use of chemical pesticides, as the cardinal principle of plant protection. The use of eco-friendly bio control agents and bio pesticides has been emphasized in the IPM approach. The IPM approach is propagated through Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) by imparting training to farmers through Farmers' Field Schools. Government also provides grants-in-aid for the establishment of Biocontrol Laboratories in

order to produce agents to encourage their use in pest control, as alternatives to chemical pesticides.

[English]

Production of Coconut

4580. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total coconut production in the country for the last three years;

(b) whether the coconut production has gone down during the last two yeas and current year;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any effective measures to support the coconut growers of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to eliminate the disease of coconut plants?

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 total coconut production in the country for the last three years is as given below:

Year	Production (Million Nuts)
2000-01	12678.4
2001-02	12963.2
2002-03	12141.2

During 2000-01 and 2001-02 coconut production has increased by 4.53 per cent and 2.25 per cent respectively over the previous years. During 2002-03 the production has decreased by 6.34 per cent.

(c) and (d) Various development programmes are being implemented through the Coconut Development Board under the Scheme for 'Integrated Development of Coconut Industry' and 'Technology Mission on Coconut', for the benefit of farmers. The major components of the scheme. Integrated farming in coconut holding for productivity improvement, production and distribution of quality planting material, market Intelligence and Market promotion. The total outlay for X Plan is Rs. 150 crore and for current year is Rs. 20 crore.

Every year the Government of India declares minimum support price for milling copra and edible copra to ensure minimum support price to the farmer. The support price declared for the year 2005 season for milling copra is Rs. 3570 per quintal and that for edible copra is Rs. 3820 per quintal.

(e) For the management of disease, the following programmes are under implementation during 2004-05.

I. Integrated Farming in Coconut Holding for Productivity Improvement

The objective of the programme is to improve production and productivity of the coconut holdings through an integrated approach and thereby increasing the net income from unit holdings with the following components.

(a) Management of disease affected palms

To check the spread of the root wilt disease in Kerala, Tanjore wilt in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh by cutting and removal of disease affected palms and subsequent management of disease affected holdings. Management of holdings is treated under separate programme for productivity improvement. An amount of Rs. 250/- per palm is provided as an incentive for removal of disease advanced palms. Up to 2003-04, 25.93 lakhs root (wilt) disease advanced palms were removed in Kerala by extending financial assistance of Rs. 47.24 crores under various programme of the Board. During the tenth plan period it is proposed to cut and remove 7.159 lakh disease advanced palms with a financial out lay of Rs. 1788.40 lakhs.

(b) Laying out of Demonstration Plots

Financial assistance of Rs. 35,000/- per ha in two annual installments is provided for adoption of integrated management practices for increasing the productivity of disease affected gardens. The total financial outlay earmarked for the X plan period is Rs. 1448.690 lakhs covering an area of 4330 ha.

(c) Assistance for organic manure units

Recycling of organic waste through composting is one of the management disease management. In order

to promote the use or organic manures like vermi compost, choir pitch compost, in the coconut holdings financial assistance of Rs. 20,000/- per unit is provided. During X plan, it is proposed to establish 1500 units with a financial assistance of Rs. 298.80 lakhs.

II. Technology Mission on Coconut

The objective of the programme is to improve the productivity through an integrated management of pest and diseases of coconut gardens. Under the mission financial assistance is provided for development of technologies @ 100% of the project cost upto a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs for Government institutions and 50% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 25.00 lakhs for NGOs and other private organizations. Similarly for Technology Demonstrations through Government institutions, assistance is extended @ 100% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 25.00 lakhs and 50% of the cost not exceeding Rs. 10.00 lakhs in the case of adoption of Technology, 25% of the project cost is provided as assistance. So far an assistance of Rs. 16.98 crores has been provides for 24 projects.

Decline in Employment Opportunities

4581. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the growth in economy there has been a decline in the employment opportunities in the country; and

(b) if so, which sectors of economy are worst hit?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per the employment and unemployment survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation during 1999-2000, employment on usual status basis has gone up from 374 million in 1993-94 to 397 million in 1999-2000. However, sector-wise performance varies. Employment has gone up in Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Storage & Communication and Financial Services Sectors while there was a decline in Agriculture, Mining & Quarrying, Electricity, gas & water supply, Community Social & Pers. Services sectors.

Mite Affected Coconut Trees

4582. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:
DR. P.P. KOYA:
SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has succeeded in controlling the Mandi virus disease (coconut mite) which affected large number of coconut trees in Lakshadweep, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken to eradicate the disease;

(d) whether the Union Government has received any request from the said State Governments for financial assistance to destroy the mite infected coconut trees;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) 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) to (c) Yes, Sir. The adoption of Integrated Pest Management, Integrated Nutrition Management and Integrated Water Management packages, as recommended by the National Steering Committee (NSC) on Mite constituted by the Government of India, has helped farmers in managing coconut mite to a great extent. Awareness programmes on these packages are being conducted for sensitizing the farmers and disseminating recommended strategies for controlling mite infestation. The survey conducted by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargod, Kerala in 2004 reveals that the percentage of infested nuts suffering from high intensify of damage fell to below 10% from the level of 29-33% recorded during the early period of incidence.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 5413.82 lakhs has been released, as per the details given below, to the State Governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka for extending financial assistance for adopting control measures to check the mite problem:

(Rs. in lakh)

State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Total
Kerala	96.00	488.00	2424.00	—	3009.00
Tamil Nadu	25.00	79.42	950.00	—	1054.42
Karnataka	50.40	100.00	740.00	460.00	1350.40
Total	171.40	667.42	4115.00	460.00	5413.82

[Translation]

Profit earned by National Mineral Development Corporation

4583. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mineral-wise and project-wise details of profit earned by National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to shift the headquarter of this corporation of Chhattisgarh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) As per enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Statement

The Minerals-wise, State-wise and Project-wise details of profit earned by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) are given below. The Project-wise net profit is arrived after apportioning the income tax to projects in the ratio of profit before tax.

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Iron Ore				Diamond	Others	Total
	Chhattisgarh		Karnataka		Madhya Pradesh		
	Bailadila Deposit No. 14	Bailadila Deposit No. 15	Donimalai	Total	Panna		
2001-02	105.43	131.89	15.28	252.60	4.71	-0.78	256.54
2002-03	132.07	162.43	14.77	309.27	4.84	-1.90	312.21
2003-04	151.99	210.13	72.99	435.12	2.21	-4.70	432.63

[English]

International Consulting Firm to Advice P.F. Reform

4584. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government realises that in an economic environment where interest rates are falling and the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) cannot depend upon guaranteed Government securities to produce the required yield there is no scope for adequate returns;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to appoint an international consulting firms to advice on provident fund reforms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund had invited open bids through advertisements in the leading news papers, for one time study on various aspects relating to investment management of EPFO funds. Final decision was taken by CBT, EPF after conducting objective comparative analysis of various contenders, to engage M/s Mercer Human Resources Consulting for the job.

Consumer Awareness Programme in Rural Areas

4585. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start a consumer awareness programme in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Through the multi media awareness campaign launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs, an effort has been made to educate the consumers living in urban as well as rural areas. There have been audio and video programmes broadcasted/telecast through All India Radio, Doordarshan, Kissan Channel etc. to disseminate consumer related information to the people living in remote and far-flung areas. The advertisements are being released in leading dailies in Hindi, English and regional languages for wider coverage. In addition, the audio/video programmes, printed literature, posters/banners on consumer related issues etc. have been made available by the Department to the State Governments to get these distributed at the panchayat level for disseminating information to the rural areas.

[Translation]

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme

4586. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is being implemented since kharif season of 1999 for widening the risk coverage to farmers and their crops; and

(b) if so, the details of the States where the unit area insurance scheme has percolated down to Panchayat level as was required under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is in implementation since Rabi 1999-2000 so as to enlarge the coverage of farmers, crops and risk commitment.

NAIS is an area based scheme. The implementing States/UTs can notify any unit area viz. block, tehsil, mandal, gram panchayat etc. keeping in view the capacity of the State to undertake requisite number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs).

The States which have notified Gram Panchayat as unit area of insurance are-Andaman & Nicobar Islands, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Pondicherry notifies Commune Panchayat as unit of insurance.

[English]

New Techniques in Development and Expansion of Dairy

4587. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made to develop new techniques in respect of development and expansion of animal husbandry and dairy industry;

(b) the steps taken to provide information about these techniques to the concerned persons and institutions and to encourage them to apply the same; and

(c) the efforts being made to prevent the constant decline in the number of various animals relating to dairy industry?

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 thrust of the Government policy in the animal husbandry & dairy sector is on improving the productivity

of animals through scientific management and upgradation of genetic resources of livestock, controlling of animal diseases, increasing availability of nutritious feed & fodder and establishment of dairy processing and marketing infrastructure for livestock products. The Government has been implementing various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes for developing and extending new techniques for the development of animal husbandry and dairy sectors.

(c) A number of schemes viz. 'Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases', 'Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme', and 'Directorate of Animal Health' are being implemented to provide diagnostic and other health care facilities to milch animals against number of diseases. Besides, another Centrally Sponsored scheme viz. National Project on Cattle & Buffalo Breeding is being implemented with main focus on conservation of well-adopted indigenous breeds and for establishing national milch herd.

Pending Amount on Account of ESIC Facilities

4588. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge amount pending on various States on account of facilities provided under ESIC facilities;

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

(c) the details of funds recovered by the Union Government during the last three years, till date, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken for early settlement of pending dues against various States?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The medical facilities to ESI beneficiaries are provided by the respective State Governments and ESI Corporation pays the State Governments according to an agreed formula. However, in Delhi the medical facilities are being provided by the ESI Corporation directly at the request of Government of Delhi. As on 31.03.2004 an amount of Rs. 295.82 crores is due from Delhi Government on account of medical facilities provided by the ESI Corporation in Delhi.

(c) Delhi Government has not paid any amount during the last three years.

(d) The matter has been taken-up with the Government of NCT of Delhi.

External Audit to Check Corruption in Employees Provident Fund

4589. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce external audit to check corruption in the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of incidents of irregularities reported during each of the last three years and action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chartered Accountants firms are being appointed to conduct audit of some of the selected offices. Office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India furnished a list of empanelled Chartered Accountants firms, which are being considered for appointment to audit five offices located in Delhi initially.

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

(d) The total number of frauds/financial irregularities noticed in each of last 3 years is as under:—

Year	No. of cases
2002-03	03
2003-04	07
2004-05	07

So far, 33 officials have been placed under suspension. Major penalty proceedings were initiated against 22 officials and minor penalty proceedings against 16 officials. The matter has also been entrusted to the

CBI/State Police Authorities/Vigilance Bureau for further investigation in 13 cases.

[Translation]

Shortage of Skilled Labour

4590. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether there is any shortage of skilled labourers in various sectors like commercial pilots, trained manpower to operate new state of art equipment and people skilled in private banking;

(b) if so, the details of sectors in which these labourers are in shortage thereof;

(c) the number of persons being trained every year through various schemes being run by the Government to create skilled labourers in the country and the extent to which this number is short than the skilled labourers actually required; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide employment to the unemployed youth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) M/o Labour & Employment is not aware of any shortage of skilled persons. However, in the context of globalisation and economic liberalisation skill level of the workers require upgradation.

(c) Various institutions in public and private sectors are engaged in imparting skill training to the new entrants to the labour force and retraining to the workers already engaged in work. Their exact number is not maintained. However, the annual training capacity through the major training providers in government is around 30 lakh.

(d) Government is attempting through 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007) creation of 5 crore additional job opportunities, one crore in each year of the 10th plan period. This will help unemployed youth in getting employment.

[English]

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

4591. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) the total number of persons benefited under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains lifted under said scheme during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the subsidized foodgrains being distributed under the said scheme fail to reach the targeted people;

(d) if so, whether any study has been conducted/ proposed to be conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

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

(g) the steps being taken to make this scheme successful?

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) Allocation of foodgrains under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) are made to the State Governments/UTs as per the number of AAY families identified and Ration Cards issued. The total number of AAY families identified and issued Ration Cards and the offtake of foodgrains by the State Government under AAY during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and AAY is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central Government and the State Government wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement of foodgrains, storage and their transportation upto the Principal Distribution Centres of FCI and the State Governments are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue them Ration Cards and distribute foodgrains through a vast network of 4.77 lakh Fair Price

Shops scattered all over the country. The offtake of foodgrains under the scheme by the States/UTs has been very encouraging. The offtake was 85.62%, 85.73% and 91% during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. It is around 87% during 2004-05 (upto Feb., 2005).

(d) to (f) An evaluation study on TPDS and AAY has been conducted through ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi. The final Report of the study has been received by the Government on 22.03.2005 is under examination.

(g) The reform of the TPDS to improve its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness is an ongoing process. Besides, notification of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, involvement of the Panchyati Raj institutions in the identification of beneficiaries and functioning of FPSs, model citizens charter and deputation of task force teams to check irregularities and to inspect and monitor the TPDS and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Conferences of State Food Secretaries, State Food Ministers and a meeting with all the Members of Parliament was organized recently to discuss issues relating to strengthening of TPDS.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UT	AAY families identified and Ration Cards issued by the State Governments as on (in lakhs)			Offtake of foodgrains under AAY during (in 000 tonnes)		
		1.4.2003	1.4.2004	1.4.2005	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (upto Feb. 2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.23	6.23	12.34	234.646	330.659	417.895
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.15	0.15	0.30	5.708	6.231	7.521
3.	Assam	2.81	2.81	4.12	104.931	112.266	124.178
4.	Bihar	10.00	10.00	10.00	333.909	380.872	343.519
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.86	4.31	5.69	4.654	147.141	126.689
6.	Delhi	0.31	0.32	0.56	11.594	12.989	12.034
7.	Goa	0.06	0.07	0.11	2.254	2.408	5.040
8.	Gujarat	3.04	11.36	5.15	115.539	55.286	98.541
9.	Haryana	1.13	1.18	1.82	42.899	45.804	58.957
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.79	0.81	1.18	32.633	33.099	37.625
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.13	1.13	1.69	32.232	47.368	39.548
12.	Jharkhand	3.86	3.66	7.27	109.701	139.541	143.766
13.	Karnataka	4.80	7.20	9.50	179.943	196.471	269.402
14.	Kerala	2.74	3.06	4.72	99.528	117.405	141.484
15.	Madhya Pradesh	6.31	6.31	11.71	251.621	318.297	348.399
16.	Maharashtra	10.02	10.02	19.84	363.687	391.325	535.430

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Manipur	0.25	0.25	0.26	10.963	11.094	6.731
18.	Meghalaya	0.28	0.28	0.42	10.876	12.567	14.699
19.	Mizoram	0.10	0.10	0.21	4.416	4.953	6.378
20.	Nagaland	0.19	0.19	0.38	7.953	9.304	10.532
21.	Orissa	5.05	5.05	9.97	181.697	209.274	190.555
22.	Punjab	0.72	0.72	0.72	15.211	16.824	21.006
23.	Rajasthan	3.73	4.15	7.17	149.144	170.297	207.891
24.	Sikkim	0.07	0.10	0.10	2.878	3.490	3.828
25.	Tamil Nadu	7.16	7.16	14.52	287.553	311.361	408.211
26.	Tripura	0.45	0.45	0.68	18.845	18.922	18.996
27.	Uttaranchal	0.76	0.76	0.76	19.244	27.175	34.440
28.	Uttar Pradesh	16.37	16.37	32.42	695.807	806.835	836.981
29.	West Bengal	5.88	5.84	12.39	203.575	218.558	230.993
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.04	0.04	0.04	NA	2.306	NA
31.	Chandigarh	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.888	0.733	0.191
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.860	0.830	NA
33.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.01	0.006	0.181	0.149	NA
34.	Lakshadweep	0.004	0.004	0.004	NA	NA	NA
35.	Pondicherry	0.09	0.10	0.22	3.143	3.413	1.235
	Total	97.25	110.23	176.31	3538.713	4165.247	4702.695

Scheme to Recharge Ground Water

4592. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Study to Recharge Ground Water" is being continued during the Tenth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of projects approved under the said scheme in Eastern Coast of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. However, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has proposed a scheme for "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting" for implementation during the remaining two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores.

(b) No projects have been approved so far under the above said scheme.

Covered Bird Parks

4593. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are "Covered Bird Parks" in many countries such as Malaysia;

(b) if so, whether any study has ever been conducted for usefulness of such parks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to start such "Covered Bird Parks" at National level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is a 'Covered Bird Park' named Jurong Bird Park in Singapore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Garlic and Onions

4594. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in the country witnessing bumper crops of garlic and onions;

(b) whether the Government is aware about the incidents of burning of garlic crops by the farmers in Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, whether efforts have been made by the Government for providing remunerative price to farmers for their crops; 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) States namely Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh has shown substantial increase in production of garlic and onion over the last year.

(b) Yes, Sir. The State Government is aware about the incidence of burning of Garlic Crops by the farmers in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) Government of India is implementing a scheme on 'Market Intervention' to protect farmers through procurement of crops. Government of Rajasthan has made efforts for procurement of garlic through this Central Sector Scheme on "Market Intervention".

Lift Irrigation Centres

4595. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of lift irrigation centres in working condition in the country particularly in tribal areas as on date, location-wise;

(b) whether more than fifty percent of lift irrigation centres are not working properly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to supply water to irrigated areas and tackle the drought situation in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Total number of lift irrigation schemes (surface lift in minor irrigation) in working condition is compiled under Minor Irrigation Census. As per 2nd Minor Irrigation Census there were 3.7 lakh lift irrigation schemes in the country in 1993-94 (excluding Gujarat and Maharashtra where census could not be completed by the states). Information on number of schemes in tribal areas is not collected under the Census.

(b) 1.6 lakh schemes out of the 3.7 lakh schemes (44%) were in under-utilized conditions.

(c) The reasons for under-utilization of schemes are less water availability/discharge, inadequate power supply, mechanical breakdown and various other reasons.

(d) Taking up steps to tackle drought situation is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Central Government supplements these efforts through financial and operational support. For handling drought a mechanism is in place in Ministry of Agriculture to keep continuous surveillance on development of early warning symptom and to sound alerts wherever necessary. In order to tide over the water scarcity in Gujarat State, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been handing over the successful exploratory

wells constructed by them to the State Government. Government of India is also promoting the rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water for which technical assistance is provided by CGWB. Ministry of water Resources has been advising the States to make judicious use of water available in their reservoirs.

[English]

Diversion and Distribution of Forest Land

4596. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests have been received by the Union Government from certain States regarding release of forest land for the development of certain pilgrim centres as well its distribution among tribals who are living in the forest areas; and

(b) if so, the details of such requests received during the last three years and current year alongwith the action taken on each such request, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information on the proposals received by the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last three years and the current year for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for development of pilgrim centres and distribution of forest land among tribals is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(A) Status of Forestry Clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of the proposals received during the last three years and current year regarding development of pilgrim centres

Sl.No.	Name of the proposal	Area (ha.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
	1. Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Diversion of forest land for laying link road from Kona (Ramalingeshwaraswamy temple) in Ananthapur district of Guttappalli in Kurnool district.	1.92	Approved on 14.06.2004
2.	Diversion of forest land for construction of passenger ropeway from Tirupathi to Tirumala hills (Lord Venkateshwara temple).	1.44	Approved on 18.10.2004
3.	Diversion of forest land for construction of approach bridge from Nandyal-Giddalur road to Sarva Narasimha Swamy Temple.	0.05	Approved on 14.12.2004
4.	Diversion of forest land for construction of road and erection of 11 KV transmission line from Kapileswaram to Sangameswaran temple.	3.30	The proposal has been closed on 30.12.2004 for want of details.
	2. Himachal Pradesh		
1.	Diversion of forest land in favour of Radha Swami Satsang Beas Dera Jaimal Singh Society in Una district.	0.2959	Approved on 02.12.2003
2.	Diversion of forest land for construction of Vaishno Mata Mandir Committee in Kullu district	0.452	Wanting details sought on 17.06.2004 from the State Government
3.	Diversion of forest land for construction of Shri Krishna Mandir Chairtable Trust in Solan district	0.12	Approved on 27.07.2004

1	2	3	4
	3. Karnataka		
1.	Diversion of forest land for renewal of lease for construction of Idgah for use of Muslim Resident Madina Jamya Masjid	0.6	Wanting details sought on 02.04.2004 from the State Government
2.	Diversion of forest land for construction of intake well, jack-well, intermediate pumping station & laying of pipeline for providing drinking water supply from Cauvery river to Sri Malai Mahadeshwara temple.	0.65	Rejected on 15.07.2004
3.	Diversion of forest land for construction of Smaraka Mantapa in memory of Saint Sri Vadiraja Swamji at Sode Thapovan in Uttar Kannada district in favour of Viswathma Theertha Swamiji of Sode Vadiraj Math.	0.02	The proposal has been closed on 08.07.2004 for want to details.
	4. Kerala		
1.	Diversion of forest land for irrigation components in Pampa and Kakki rivers.	1.4425	Approval granted on 27.12.2004.
2.	Diversion of forest land at Nilackal for developing a Base Camp/Satellite township in favour of Travancore Devaswom Board.	20.00	Approval granted on 07.01.2005.
3.	Diversion of forest land for development of Nilackal Base Camp for Sabarimala pilgrims in favour of Travancore Devaswom Board in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala.	90.524	The proposal has been discussed on 28.03.2005 in the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
4.	Diversion of forest land to Travancore Devaswom Board for providing facilities to Sabarimala pilgrims.	12.675	Since the area falls in the Periyar Tiger Reserve, prior permission of National Board of Wildlife and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is required before consideration under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal has been discussed in the meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board of Wild Life (NBWL) on 6th April 2005.
	5. Punjab		
1.	Diversion of forest land for Radha Swami Satsang (Beas) in Ropar district	1.092	Wanting details sought on 31.01.2005 from the State Government.
	6. Sikkim		
1.	Diversion of forest land to Tendong Hill Pilgrimage Centre Development Committee.	0.4213	Since no clearing or breaking up of forest land and no permanent construction was involved, the proposal

1	2	3	4
			was returned to the State Government to regulate the same as per normal procedure under the State Forest Act.
		7. Tamil Nadu	
1.	Diversion of forest land for electrification to the Palamalai Swamy temple.	0.1392	Approved on 30.10.2002
		8. Maharashtra	
1.	Diversion of forest land for Dharamshal Prasadalaya Toilet Block for devotees in Nasik district.	1.2	Returned to the State Government on 28.07.2003 due to incomplete information/procedure.
2.	Diversion of forest land for construction of Shri Balyogi Sadhanad Ashram in Thane district.	0.69	Returned to the State Government on 26.04.2004 due to incomplete information/procedure.
3.	Diversion of forest land for development of Manudevi Temple Trust In Jalgaon district.	0.24	Approved on 02.11.2004.
		9. Gujarat	
1.	Diversion of forest land for construction of Visama on Shetrunjay Hill in Bhavnagar district.	0.0042	Approved on 22.01.2003.
2.	Diversion of forest land for construction of Visama on Shetrunjay Hill in Bhavnagar district.	0.96	Approved on 08.07.2004
		10. Madhya Pradesh	
1.	Diversion of forest land for construction of Paramhamsa Ashram in Satna district.	3.609	Approved on 07.03.2003
		11. Rajasthan	
1.	Diversion of forest land for installation of a passenger ropeway at Shri Shavitri Mata Mandir.	0.874	Approved.
2.	Diversion of forest land for installation of a ropeway to Sugadnhmata Temple.	0.7652	Approved.
		12. Uttaranchal	
1.	Diversion of forest land for Satimatha Mandir and Ashram construction.	0.1	Approved.
2.	Diversion of forest land for Baba Kali Kamli Wala.	0.392	Approved.

1	2	3	4
3.	Diversion of forest land for Hanuman Mandir and Ashram.	0.56	Approved.
4.	Diversion of forest land for Tosri Baba Hadakhan Mandir Trust, Chiliyanaula Charitable Research Hospital.	0.2	Approved.
5.	Diversion of forest land for Shri Shri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sanskrit College and Hospital Trust.	0.10	Rejected on merit.
6.	Diversion of forest land for Neem Karoli Baba under Rishikesh Range.	0.4	Approved.

(B) Status of Forestry Clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of the proposals received during the last three years and current year regarding distribution of forest land among tribals

Sl.No.	Name of the proposal	Area (ha.)	Remarks
	1. Kerala		
1.	Diversion of forest land for landless tribals.	7693.2257	Approval granted on 06.02.2004.

[Translation]

Supply of Water to Sonia Vihar Plant

4597. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Delhi has approached the Union Government to solve the dispute that has arisen due to non-supply of untreated water by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to Sonia Vihar water treatment plant; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) In March, 2005, Government of Delhi has requested Union Government to intervene and ensure the release of 200 cusecs of raw water by Uttar Pradesh for Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant in Delhi.

(b) To facilitate the resolution of the issue, the Union Government has been holding a series of meetings at various levels from time to time with the representatives of the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Uttar Pradesh had earlier released 80 cusecs of raw water for Sonia Vihar Plant for a period of two and half months with effect from 29.12.2004. In a meeting convened on the basis of the fresh request of Delhi Government in March 2005, the need for water to run the Plant and the difficulty being faced by the Uttar Pradesh Government to make releases was established. Delhi Government desired that UP should continue the release of a minimum of 80 cusecs of water for the Plant. It was also noted that a minimal sacrifice by Uttar Pradesh would be required to meet the water requirement projected by the Delhi Government.

[English]

Consumer Protection Act, 1986

4598. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Consumers Protection Act, 1986 to make it more stringent

in order to ensure implementation of the decisions made under the said Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing better infrastructure to the consumer courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) A Working Group has been constituted in the Ministry to suggest amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make it more effective and purposeful.

(c) It is the responsibility of the State Governments to establish consumer forums at the State and district level and to provide all the required infrastructure for their effective functioning. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Govt. has provided financial assistance of Rs. 10.20 crores during the year 2004-2005 covering certain States for the present for strengthening the infrastructure of consumer forums. Earlier, Rs. 61.80 crores were given to all the States/ UTs during the period 1995-99 for the same purpose. The Ministry has also launched a scheme of "Computerisation and Computer Networking of Consumer Forums in the Country" through National Informatics Centre (NIC) in turn key basis to improve their efficiency and functioning.

Performance of Agriculture Sector

4599. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the agriculture sector during the Ninth Plan was much below the targeted growth;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the situation during the Tenth Five Year Plan keeping in view the performance of Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(e) whether there are reports of hunger and malnutrition because of deceleration growth and stagnation in productivity and low purchasing capacity of sizeable portion of household;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) According to the data released by the Central Statistical Organization, the average annual growth rate in agriculture, including allied sectors, in the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) was 2.1% as against the targeted growth rate of 3.9%.

(b) Since about 60 per cent of the net sown area is rain-fed, agricultural production is heavily influenced by rainfall. During the Ninth Plan period (1997-2002), the growth rate in agriculture sector was negative in two years namely, 1997-98 (-2.4%) and 2000-01 (-0.1%). The main reason for negative growth in 1997-98 was the sharp decline in rabi production of foodgrains and oilseeds. In 2000-01 also the shortfall in rabi production of foodgrains and oilseeds was quite sharp. Major reasons identified for the declaration in growth were low levels of public investment, poor infrastructure, imbalances in use of fertilizers, inadequate credit flow and poor marketing facilities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In the Tenth Five Year Plan, the focus has been laid on raising the productivity of land and water resources on a sustainable basis. Towards attaining this objective, emphasis has been laid on increased cropping intensity in agriculture. Thrust areas which have been identified for focused and priority attention include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, agriculture credit, horticulture with focus on backward and forward linkages, development/strengthening of agriculture marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization and agricultural research.

(e) to (g) Though there has been deceleration in growth, the stock of rice & wheat in the Central Pool has been well above the buffer norms. As regards low purchasing capacity of households, the Government has been distributing foodgrains through schemes like the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and welfare schemes aimed at employment creation and poverty alleviation. During the year 2003-04, the off-take of foodgrains (rice & wheat) from the Central Pool under the TPDS was 24.19 million tonnes compared with 20.13 million tonnes and 13.84 million tonnes in 2002-03 and 2001-02 respectively. The off take of foodgrains (rice and

wheat) under Welfare schemes was 13.5 million tonnes in 2003-04 compared with 11.38 million tonnes and 7.18 million tonnes in 2002-03 and 2001-02 respectively. These schemes are supplemented by the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), which provides additional wage employment as well as food security in rural areas. The foodgrains under the scheme are provided free of cost to the States. The problem of malnutrition among children is being tackled through the operation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme by the Department of Women and Child Development.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Procurement

4600. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to approve relevant expenditure of procurement price under concerned relevant expenditure for wheat procured during the Rabi season in 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The economic cost of procurement is being fixed provisionally based on the minimum support price of foodgrains and other incidental expenses projected by the States and the principles enunciated by the Government. The final rates are fixed based on the audited statement of accounts submitted by the State Governments.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Allocation to States under AIBP

4601. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of budgetary allocation made to States under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any allocation made under the programme during 2005-06; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There is no budgetary allocation made to the States under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). However, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under AIBP is provided to the States on the basis of yearly ceiling fixed for the State as a whole by the Planning Commission during Annual Plan discussion of the States. A Statement showing state-wise ceiling of CLA under AIBP for the last three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) There is a budget allocation of Rs. 4800 crore for AIBP for the year 2005-06. As the Annual Plan discussions of the States are not concluded, the Planning Commission has not finalized the State-wise ceiling for CLA.

Statement

State-wise ceiling of CLA under AIBP for the last three years

(Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	State	Ceiling for CLA		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	275.000	275.000	275.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.000	20.000	20.000

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	35.000	35.000	35.000
4.	Bihar	150.000	100.000	75.000
5.	Chhattisgarh	104.000	100.000	75.000
6.	Goa	40.000	8.000	5.000
7.	Gujarat	600.000	850.000	1000.000
8.	Haryana	18.000	25.000	25.000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18.000	15.000	15.000
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	35.000	60.000	40.000
11.	Jharkhand	35.000	31.000	31.000
12.	Karnataka	737.000	450.000	567.000
13.	Kerala	17.000	31.000	50.000
14.	Madhya Pradesh	220.000	740.000	850.000
15.	Maharashtra	175.000	414.000	707.000
16.	Manipur	28.000	22.000	18.000
17.	Meghalaya	4.000	4.000	4.000
18.	Mizoram	1.500	9.500	10.000
19.	Nagaland	5.000	8.000	8.000
20.	Orissa	250.000	250.000	280.000
21.	Punjab	150.000	100.000	100.000
22.	Rajasthan	200.000	560.000	400.000
23.	Sikkim	1.500	1.500	1.500
24.	Tamil Nadu	4.000	20.000	5.000
25.	Tripura	28.000	22.000	20.000
26.	Uttar Pradesh	365.000	306.000	400.000
27.	Uttaranchal	35.000	35.000	30.500
28.	West Bengal	45.000	40.000	40.000
	Total	3585.000	4532.000	5087.000

[Translation]

Caterpillars Destroyed Soyabean Crop in M.P.

4602. DR. ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Caterpillars have destroyed the soyabean crop in Madhya Pradesh and now they are attacking human beings;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to save the crops from the menace of Caterpillars in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to initiate action against the persons selling fake insecticides and to provide compensation to the farmers whose crops have been destroyed?

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 Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that during Kharif 2004, soyabean crop in an estimated area of 9,81,167 hectares was affected by caterpillars out of which the crop in 1,37,228 hectares was damaged by more than 50%. No reports of human beings being attacked by caterpillars were received.

(b) The State Government was advised to adopt recommended IPM package of practices to save the crops from the menace of caterpillars and unutilise funds allocated under the Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Macro Management Scheme for controlling this pest.

(c) Farmers whose crops were affected by infestation by caterpillars can avail of compensation under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. The State Government was advised to initiate action as per the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 against the persons involved in manufacturing/selling fake pesticides.

[English]

Entry of Private farm Produce Markets

4603. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evolved a plan for facilitating the entry of private farm produce markets to link the farmer directly to the consumer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Setting up of Agricultural Markets is a State Subject. Under the existing law dealing with agricultural markets (APMC Act), the State Government alone is empowered to initiate the process of setting up of markets for agricultural commodities in notified areas. The processing industry cannot buy directly from the farmers. The farmer is restricted from entering into direct contract with any manufacturer as the produce is required to be canalized through regulated markets. These restrictions are acting as disincentive to farmers, trade and industries. The State Governments have, therefore, been advised to bring reforms in the APMC Act to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets. Development of alternative competitive markets in private and cooperative sectors would provide freedom to farmers to sell their produce in the markets providing better prices/services.

(c) A modal APMC Act has been circulated by this Ministry to all the States, to guide them in bringing changes in their respective APMC Act for the removal of all restrictions on direct marketing by the farmers. A reform linked Central Sector Scheme for Development/ Strengthening of Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization has been approved to assist the development of agricultural marketing infrastructure in the States/UTs that amend the APMC Act on the lines suggested in the model law.

Assistance to Flood Affected States

4604. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds alloted for agriculture during the last three years especially for flood affected areas/States in the country; and

(b) the number of beneficiaries who have been rehabilitated under the said scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for matters relating to management of all natural calamities (other than drought), including floods and necessary information is being collected from that Ministry.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 450(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 2004 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1928/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Steel Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1929/05]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Rasayani, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Rasayani, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon and reason of delay.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1930/05]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1931/05]

(4) A copy of the Notification No. GS.R. 477(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005 containing Order indicating the supplies of urea to be made by domestic manufacturers of urea to States and Union Territories during Kharif, 2005 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1932/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1933/05]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1934/05]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1935/05]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Four statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1936/05]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Marine Fishing Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. 103/2004/F.No.5-1(276)/2002-Dev. the Andaman and Nicobar Gazett dated 1st June, 2004 issued under section 24 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Marine Fishing Regulation, 2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1937/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.

(2) Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1938/05]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith the Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2003-2004.

(4) Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1939/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(1) G.S.R. 803(E)/Ess.Com/Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2004 containing order notifying the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane for 2004-2005 sugar season.

(2) The Sugar (Price Determination for 2004-2005 Production) Order, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 17(E)/Ess.Com./Sugar in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2005.

(3) G.S.R. 92 (E)/Ess.Com/Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2005 containing Order notifying the Statutory Minimum Price of Sugarcane for 2004-2005 sugar season.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1940/05]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY 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 rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Hire-Purchase (Repeal) Bill, 2005 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th April, 2005."

Sir, I lay on the Table of the Hire-Purchase (Repeal) Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 20th April, 2005.

12.02$^{1}/_{4}$ hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Sixth Report

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs—Banking Division)—Public Sector Banks—Non Performing Assets.

12.02$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Second Report

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants 2005-2006 of the Ministry of Defence.

12.02$^{3}/_{4}$ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

Fifth and Sixth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, I beg to present a copy each the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour:—

(1) Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment;

(2) Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Textiles.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 12

Md. Salim — Not present

Shri Shripad Yesso Naik — Not present

This is unfortunate.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

One Hundred Thirty Ninth to One Hundred Forty Sixth Reports

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests:—

(1) 139th report on Action Taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the recommendations contained in the 131st report of the Committee on the Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(2) 140th report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) pertaining to the Department of Science and Technology;

(3) 141st report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) pertaining to the Department of Biotechnology;

(4) 142nd report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) pertaining to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research;

(5) 143rd report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) pertaining to the Department of Ocean Development;

(6) 144th report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) pertaining to the Department of Space;

(7) 145th report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy; and

(8) 146th report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) pertaining to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

12.03½ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Eleventh Report

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I beg to present the Eleventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a meeting of the Federation of All India Petroleum was held in Agra district of Uttar Pradesh. Recently you must have noticed that Petrol Pumps all over India remained closed on 18-19 April 2005. Petrol Pumps owner and operators have been demanding that their commission has not been increased since 2001 while, the rates of petroleum products have been increasing. Through you I demand the Petroleum Minister that this matter should be considered seriously and the Commission for Petrol Pump owners and operators be increased so that black marketing, hoarding and under measurement is curbed. I demand that the Government should take it seriously and increase the commission for Petrol Pump owners and operators.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, I will call Shri Sushil Kumar Modi. Next name is Shri Modi.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, I have already informed Shri Sushil Kumar Modi. I am sure that Shri Modi has been informed that he will be called.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Modi. Why this impatience? It is not even a second.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Railway Minister has been charged with serious allegations of corruption regarding which charge-sheet is to be filed today in a court in Ranchi. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav is the main accused in this fodder scam of Rs. 37 crores. A charge-sheet will be filed against him at 9 A.M. today. In such a situation we demand that Lalu Prasad ji may immediately be dismissed from the post of Ministry of Railways. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, I will hear you. I will give opportunity to Shri Athawale. He has given a notice.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Sir, our fact finding committee which included Members of Rajya Sabha also had visited Sabarmati after the incident. At the place of incident we found that Shri Lalu Prasad was not at all assaulted in any way. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Modi's statement will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: These are all wrong statements and people themselves have created a drama. Laluji's Supporters themselves have created this drama by breaking glasses of the car to defame Narendra Modi's Government of Gujarat. It is conspiracy to tarnish the image of the Gujarat Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Modi, you have made your statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute, Prof. Malhotra. I appeal to you. I have allowed your hon. Member to say. I have called him. I have kept my word. Now, allow them to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale has given a notice. Prof. Malhotra, as your hon. Member has given a notice, Shri Athawale has also given a notice.

[Translation]

You please sit down. I have called Shri Athawale.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked him to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the assault that has been made at Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale has given a notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate. It is extremely unfortunate.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, you give your statement in writing and it should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)* a plot was hatched to kill Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav, the Minister of Railways when he visited the train accident site that took place between Godhra and Vadodara. The reason behind this is that Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav is a secular leader and he. ...*(Interruptions)* strongly opposed massacre in Gujarat. The Conspirators planned to assasinate the Minister of Railways during his visit to the train accident site in Gujarat so that the blame of murder may not come on their head. The people do it in a planned way. ...*(Interruptions)* When the Minister of Railways visited Vadodara hospital some people were standing on the next building of that hospital and they

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

had already planned to kill Lalu Prasad Ji by causing a big stone to fall on him and set a fire the hospital after shutting its doors. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Gujarat Police role was not at all encourasing in this entire episode. ...*(Interruptions)*

Therefore, it is alleged that a plot was hatched to attack and kill the Minister of Railways and action should be taken in this regard. It is a very serious incident, therefore, I demand that the Union Government should dismiss the Government of Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the hon. Members. What are you doing? What is happening? Is this the way to run the House? Prof. Malhotra, I have given an opportunity to your hon. Member and now you are not allowing others to speak. Is this how you want Parliament to function? I am very sorry that you have not kept your words.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I had given you people on opportunity to speak and you spoke, then why you are interrupting the proceedings of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As you know, I will not adjourn this House. You go on shouting as long as you can. I will not adjourn this House. I allowed you and made them listen to you. When they speak, you do not listen to them. This cannot go on. This double standard cannot go on. You go on shouting as long as you can. I will not adjourn the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Take your seats please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can only say, it is a shameful behaviour from you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Athawale, even then you are disturbing. It is very unfortunate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to achieve? Please tell me, what do you want to achieve by this?

[Translation]

It will not benefit anybody. Therefore, take your seat please.

[English]

What do you want to achieve by this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: See your face in the mirror.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am telling you, take your seat please.

[English]

Shri Ramdas Athawale will speak on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Any hon. Member coming to the Well will face the consequence today.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving notice. Anyone coming to the Well will face the consequence.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have said this for all.

[English]

It applies to all.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet for a second. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Demands for Grants of a very important Ministry are being discussed, and you are not allowing the House to run.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The budgetary grants of the Ministry of Agriculture are being discussed. Would you not participate there? What are you doing here? It is a shameful behaviour. Shouting here is a shameful behaviour. I am sorry to say this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Take your seat please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a shameful behaviour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Goyal, one day, you will be in trouble. I will hold you right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to know what you will do on the streets. Your behaviour on the streets would have been, I think, much better than what is happening here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I won't allow this. You go on shouting. Let me see how long you can carry on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now you are getting exhausted. All of you will get exhausted and I know that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well! I will see how the hon. leaders respond in the meeting. I am prepared to sit with them.

The House stands adjourned till 1245 hours.

12.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

12.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty-seven minutes Past Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 12—Md. Salim.

12.48 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Seventh Report

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2004-2005) on Demands for Grants 2005-2006 of the Ministry of Urban Development.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the fact that Bishnoi caste has been included in the list of Other Backward Classes in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh but the Union Government have not included the Bishnoi Caste in the list of Other Backward Classes till now. I through you, would like to urge upon the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment for inclusion of Bishnoi Caste in the list of Other Backward Classes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan. You may give it in writing.

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): The peasants who produced chillies are now facing a crisis. In Tamil Nadu, about 1,75,000 peasants are cultivating chillies in 27 districts. Especially in Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin districts, chillies are cultivated in 50,000 acres of land and about one lakh families are depending on chilly cultivation. This month is the harvesting month for chillies. Generally, in this month, the price of chillies would be about Rs. 20 per kg. But in this year, there was a crisis and the price of chillies has fallen. So far, the Central Government did not announce supporting price for it. Neither the National Cooperative Marketing Federation nor did any other organisation take any steps to purchase the chillies produced by the peasants.

The production cost of chillies would be Rs. 10,000 per acre. At this juncture, the peasants are the worst affected, due to the fall in the price of chillies. Now, the price of chillies has come down to Rs. 2 per kg. Hence, the Central Government should come forward to protect the peasants who cultivated chillies in Tamil Nadu and take necessary steps to purchase the chillies giving a support price and to provide assistance to the peasants who are affected completely due to rain and other natural calamities from the National Disaster Fund. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): How, can I speak when there is so much noise in the House? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got something in writing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may give it in writing.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, this is regarding the reported decision of the Government of India to resume military assistance to Nepal. After the dismissal of the Government and banning all political activities, this reported decision is a serious matter. Military assistance is no solution to the Maoist insurgency. It is a political process and it has to be dealt with by the Government elected by the people. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha.— Not present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not come to the Well of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, girl trafficking in India has been growing menacingly, especially in Bengal, Bihar and Assam. In most of the cases it has been found that the girls from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable sections have been fallen prey to the illicit trade being perpetrated by unscrupulous elements. It has also been found that in a stage-managed marriage, the pimps and middlemen masquerading as bridegrooms are tracking away those destitute girls. Even their parents, due to their penury and poverty, are forced to concede to the marriage. Those destitute girls are lodged in various prostitutes' dens in India. Therefore, may I urge upon the Government to formulate a law so that in all police stations, especially in far-flung areas, prior permission for all marriages is made mandatory? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Since there is no other matter to be raised as a Special Mention, the House stands adjourned to meet at 2 P.M.

12.52 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at one minute past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 14.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know something. On that day *i.e.* on 21st, you were in the chair. On that day, I had sought information from the Government regarding the deadly attack on the Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Lalu ji. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I would like to have information from the Government. What objection do the Hon'ble Members have? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will make a statement at 4.00 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had sought information from the Government on that day and the Government had assured to make a statement in the House after collecting the information. *...(Interruptions)* I would like to know when a reply from the Government is likely to be available about that deadly attack on him? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Yadav, please listen to me.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Lalu ji should resign. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Modi, nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go to your seats now.

...(Interruptions)

14.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 14—Matters Under Rule 377.

Shri Sachin Pilot — Not present.

Shri Furkan Ansari — Not present.

(i) Need to give the due share of electricity produced by Bhakhra-Beas Management Board to Himachal Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Sir, I, through you, would like to bring it to the notice of the Union

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Pratibha Singh]

Government and the Minister of Power that several projects were initiated on the land of Himachal Pradesh with the funds provided by it for smooth and uninterrupted power supply to Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi, wherein power is being generated from the water of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi are on the path of all-round development whereas the people of Himachal Pradesh lost their houses due to inundation following land, housing and employment projects and they are still leading a life of the displaced. Therefore, I demand that 7.19 per cent from the hydel projects under Bhakhra-Beas Management Board and 25 percent free additional power be given to Himachal Pradesh with retrospective effect as per the recommendations of the State Reconstruction commission which included many areas of Punjab in H.P.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the House agrees then, the rest of the matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

(ii) Need to take steps for de-mining of areas along the border in Jammu & Kashmir with a view to protect the lives of the local people

*SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Sir, during War in the year 1999, the villagers of area along the border were shifted to the camps. After war, Army has done mining at several places. Now, those villagers have started returning to their village and Government is taking steps for their rehabilitation and they are being provided assistance for tracterisation of their barren agricultural land so as to enable them to earn bread and butter for their families. However, as a result of those mines, they apprehend explosions in the mines because at several places mines still exit and can explode during tracterisation and sowing of agricultural field. Though they are being helped by the Government to settle peacefully in their villages, they are not in a position to earn livelihood for their family unless de-mining of these areas is done.

I urge upon the Government to see that work pertaining de-mining of these mines may be taken up urgently.

(iii) Need for setting up of a Central School in Bulsar Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

*SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL (Bulsar): Sir, My Parliamentary constituency Bulsar is a tribal dominated area. The tribal students of this area remain deprived of higher education due to lack of central university there or they go to other parts of the country for this purpose. The tribal population of this area is poor. They cannot afford to send their wards to outside their state for having higher education. Consequently, the talent of these students is not properly in the present era of competition.

Sir, the country is progressing very fast, at present. In this pace of development, we have to go forward along with the tribal population of the backward areas of the society. If we leave the tribal society behind in this era of development they would once again be deprived of coming in the main stream of the country.

Sir, I, through you, would like to request that a central university should be set up in the Bulsar tribal area of Gujarat at the earliest.

(iv) Need to construct a dam on 'Nar-Par' rivers with a view to solve irrigation and drinking water problems in Malegaon Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

*SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 'Nar-Par' rivers in my Malegaon Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra. But these rivers have low river basin due to which the water of these rivers is neither utilized for irrigation nor for drinking purposes and it goes directly into the Sea unused. If the government construct a dam on these rivers and the water of the dam is taken to the fields above the valley by installing pumps, the problem of irrigation in Nashik, Dhule and Ahmednagar districts, the problem of drinking water of the citizens can be solved.

Hence, I through you, would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Water Resources to take necessary action to solve the problem of irrigation and drinking water in my Parliamentary Constituency by constructing a dam on the 'Nar-War' rivers there and supplying the water of the fields above the valley though pumps.

(v) Need to introduce express train between Ahmedabad and Agra via Ajmer-Bandikui

*PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the work of gauge consersion of railway line between Bandikui of Rajasthan to Agra fort have been completed now after a gap of several years. Railway lines between Agra fort and Bandikui-Bharatpur-Jaipur-Ajmer-Ahmedabad

*Treated as laid on the table.

*Treated as laid on the table.

have been completed. A local train, which was very popular and useful for public, used to sum on metre gauge line of Ahmedabad-Ajmer-Jaipur-Bandikui-Agra fort before the conversion of this line into broad gauge. It was the only train to connecting historical and religious places like Ajmer, Jaipur to Agra, Mathura etc. This train was discontinued after introduction of conversion works due to which a line distance had to be covered to visit Agra from Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Abu Road, Ajmer, Jaipur etc. Consequently the people had to face lot of inconveniences. Thousands of people were waiting for the completion of this gauge conversion and thus start of Agra fort train.

Despite the completion of conversion works no announcement has been made to run Ahmedabad-Ajmer-Jaipur-Agra fort train in the budget of the current year a train is proposed to be introduced between Jaipur to Agra fort only.

I would like to request the Government of India that a Express train may be run urgently from Ahmedabad to Agra fort via Marwad, Ajmer, Jaipur, Bhartpur, Bandikui on broad gauge line keeping with a view to promote tourism and pilgrimage, to strengthen trade and social relations and availability of thousands of passengers.

(vi) Need to release required funds in the current Budget for completion of Sadulpur-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana Railway Section in Rajasthan

*SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the gauge conversion of the meter gauge line Rewari-Bekaner, Sadulpur-Hisar, Ratangarh-Degana of Western Railway into broad gauge is a long pending demands. Approval has also been accorded for gauge conversion Rewari-Sadulpur and Sadulpur-Hisar railway lines but a nominal budgetary provision has been made for this purpose during the last three years. Bikaner is a very important city from the view point of business and defence. Therefore my humble submission to the honourable Minister of Railways is that approval may be accorded for remaining part of Sadulpur-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana line while making full budgetary allocation part of railway line during this financial year that has already received approval.

(vii) Need to include 'Bishnoi' caste of Rajsthan in the list of 'Other Backward Classes'

*SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Commission on Other Backward Classes of Rajsthan has included 'Bishnoi' caste in 'Other Backward Classes' but National Commission on Backward Classes has not included 'Beshnoi' Caste in Other Backward Classes. Sir, 'Bishnoi' Caste has originated from Jats. Jat Caste has been included in Other Backward Class then 'Bishnoi' caste should automatically qualify to be included in 'Other Backward Classes'. Sir, the people belonging to be Bishnoi caste are feeling deprived due to their non-miclusous in 'Other Backward Classes' but as yet.

Therefore, through you I am requesting the Central Government to include the Bishnoi Caste in 'Other Backward Classes'.

(viii) Need to ban production and sale of Gutkha in the country

*SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, several states have imposed a ban on the sale of Gutkha keeping in view the rising trend of Gutkha consumption among the youth of their states particularly among the students that has been adversely affecting their health besides the increase in the incidents of the fatal diseases like mouth cancer.

Today, over half of the population is affected by the consumption of cheap Gutkha. For this sake, I strongly demand the Government of India that a nation-wide ban be imposed on the harmful Gutkhas which is damaging the health and lives of lakhs of youth and with a complete ban on the production of Gutkha. Stringent action may be taken against its producers and sellers.

(ix) Need to set up a Media Commission with a view to safeguard the interest of employees of electronic and print media

[English]

*SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Sir, the electronic and print media have taken big strides in the country over the past decade and more. But the working and service conditions of media persons have deteriorated in both the print and electronic media. The freedom of the Press is now threatened more by employers and the managers than by the political establishment and muscle power. The large-scale resort to the contract system by both newspapers and news channels seriously threatens job security of media persons. In the case of newspapers, this has made a mockery of the working journalists (conditions of Service) Act and reduced Wage Board

*Treated as laid on the Table.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri Swadesh Chakraborty]

awards. Almost all the newspapers with some exceptions are violating the Act with impunity. This has reference to the arbitrary sack of 326 permanent employees by the Hindustan Times Management. The story of the electronic media is no different.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to appreciate the gravity and urgency of the matter and set up a fully empowered Media Commission to go through the entire gamut of the information and recommend effective action to strengthen the institutional framework.

(x) Need to expedite completion of Lahchura Dam Project in Mahoba district, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

*SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, major parts of my parliamentary constituency is unirrigated. The people of the constituency have been all along drawing the attention of the Uttar Pradesh Government by staging dharanas and demonstrations. The poor farmers have been tried to commit suicide as they do not receive water for irrigation.

The Central Water Commission, New Delhi has already given its technical sanction to the reformulated Lahchura Dam Project. Sanction has also been received from the Expenditure Finance Committee and reference from the Governmental level, from the Uttar Pradesh State Government to the Planning Commission, New Delhi has to be made for proposed investment clearance for permission to start work during the financial year 2004-2005. For funding, the project has been referred under R.I.D.F. to the Central Water Commission, Government of India, New Delhi. The matter of forest land has already been referred to the Government.

Therefore, it is my request to the Union Government that urgent steps be taken to get the Lahchura Dam Project, District-Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh completed without fail during the financial year 2005-2006 so as to ensure that adequate water is made available for irrigation to the respected farmers of my parliamentary constituency.

(xi) Need to expedite setting up of a F.M. Radio Station in Banka Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

*SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV (Banka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, One year back, F.M. Radio station had been inaugurated in my Banka parliamentary constituency, but so far neither any land has been made available for this station nor any construction work has got underway. Banka is a very backward area and the people have no means of entertainment. If some land is acquired for the early setting up of this F.M. Station, the poor and the farmer could get a means of entertainment.

Through this House, it is my request to the Union Government that the F.M. ratio station sanctioned for Banka may be set up and commissioned at the earliest.

(xii) Need to set up a Central School in Parbhani Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

*SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my parliamentary constituency, Parbhani there is not even a single Kendriya Vidyalaya due to which the benefit of development work being done by the Union Government in the field of education is not reaching my constituency. There is no Kendriya Vidyalaya here, while several employees of the railways and the Central Government are employed here who are facing difficulty in providing education to their children as they are transferred to the other states on a routine basis. The upgrade the level of education and to provide education to the children of the Central Government employees, it is urgently required to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Parbhani.

Through the House, I request the Government that a Kendriya Vidyalaya may be got urgently set up in my constituency.

(xiii) Need to establish a Tsunami Early Warning System in Orissa

*SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, the horrific destruction of a disaster like Tsunami has been experienced in parts of our country that struck on 26th December, 2004. Orissa is a cyclone-prone State, which has been severally affected by Super Cyclone during October, 1999. It also frequently suffers from high flood, cyclone and wind-destructions. Orissa has a long coastline of 480 kilometers. A recent study conducted by the Ministry of Home Affairs and UNDP has identified certain high risk multi-hazard zones and 39 quake-prone cities, which includes Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Further, the eminent scientists of CIS have also forecast Tsunami danger in future, particularly to Orissa and Mumbai.

It is learnt that Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India is in the process of establishing

*Treated as laid on the Table.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

Tsunami Early Warning System in the country. The system would be able to provide information beforehand as to the speed of Tsunami, when the coast and the regions that would be harmed. It is pertinent to mention that a Missile Test Range (MTR) has been established by Ministry of Defence, Government of India a Chandipur in the district of Balasore in Orissa. The site is most appropriate considering suitability from disaster point of view. The Government of India may consider establishing a Tsunami Early Warning System in Orissa preferably at Chandipur on any other appropriate place of Orissa.

I, therefore, requested the Union Government to consider the proposal of Government of Orissa for establishing a National Institute of Advance Material and its application at Bhubaneswar and a Tsunami Early Warning System, preferably at Chandipur or any other appropriate place in Orissa.

(xiv) Need to consider 'One time settlement Scheme' to recover chronic N.P.A.'s of the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank

*SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (Kolhapur): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the House that currently cooperatives in the State of Maharashtra are facing rough weather. Mostly the cooperatives are not in position to repay the loans availed from cooperative banks. Consequently the loans have become overdue. Earlier the rate of interest were also high. As the cooperative societies could not repay the loans, the rate of interest remained as these were thereby the burden of interest went on increasing whereas the principal amount remained unpaid.

In cooperative sector, mountings of overdues in most of the banks have crippled the structure badly in recent years. Overdues are rising continuously crossing the containable limits. This has caused innumerable financial problems besides limiting the capacity of the banks to lend and operate as viable units.

With a view to recover chronic NPA's the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank has chalked out one time settlement scheme which is on the guidelines of the OTS Scheme prepared by the RBI and circulated to all nationalised banks during January, 2003.

I am of the firm view that in case this type of scheme is approved and implemented it will go a long way to strengthen the banks in cooperative sector thereby assuring a large flow of funds to the farmers for adopting modern technology and improved farm practices for augmenting production and productivity.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

(xv) Need to set up new telephone exchanges in Saran and Siwan districts of Bihar

[Translation]

*SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Saran and Siwan are technically backward districts in Bihar. The people of these districts are waiting for telephone connections despite depositing security fee due to absence of cable and exchange capacity. The people in the areas, where telephone connections have not been provided, have been raising a demand before the Government for setting up a new Exchange for years together and security has already been deposited by them. Keeping in view the demand and large number of subscribers, new telephone exchanges be set up at Sitabdiara under Rivilganj block in Saran district, Konbhagwanpur and Satjoda under Panapur block, Jamanpura Bazar under Ekma block, Sonouli under Mashrak block, Burjudva Jalalpur or Rajanpura under Duronda block in Siwan district, Pinarthu Bazar under Maharajganj block, Dumra Bazar under Lakri Navigunj, Madhar under Bhagwanpur Haat block, in Manopali Mor under Baniapur block, and at Chanchoura Bazar on the border of Siwan and Saran district. The setting up of their telephone exchanges in these area will certainly do away with the difficulties being faced by the people. All above locations fulfil conditions required for opening new exchanges.

Through you, I urge upon the Government to open telephone exchange at all the above places.

(xvi) Need to set up a Central Monitoring Agency for 'National Food for Work Programme' in the country

[English]

*DR. K. DHANARAJU (Tindivanam): Sir, The National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) is a first step towards the long term commitment to an employment guarantee programme. It was launched in the month of November 2004, open to all rural poor in 150 identified Most Backward districts of the country.

Rupees 2020 crores and 20 lakh tonnes of food grains have been allocated for the financial year 2004-05 and Rs. 5400 crores for the year 2005-06. In view of the huge allocation of fund it is of great public importance to closely monitor this 100% Centrally sponsored scheme.

My constituency district Villupuram is one among the four districts identified in Tamil Nadu implementing this

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Dr. K. Dhanaraju]

NFFWP programme. It is observed that this programme is being implemented in a hurry with our adhering to the norms of operationalisation, thereby defeating the purpose of generating supplementary wage employment with food security. Particularly, in Villupuram district the works are carried out by employing oral contractual labours.

Sir, I urge upon the Central Government machinery especially the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to appoint immediately agencies for 100% verification of the workers and test check of the quality of work as per the rules.

Though lunched in November, 2004, this programme has been just started actually in the month of February 2005 after the receipt of initial allocation. Therefore, the condition to show the performance of 60% expenditure to qualify for first installation in the year 2005-2006 be relaxed for want of required minimum 100 days work.

(xvii) Need to take welfare measures for the benefit of labourers working in firework factories in Sivakasi Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu through Central Labour Welfare Organisation

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi): Sir, through the Labour Welfare Organisation of Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, Limestone workers, Beedi and Film Industry workers are getting subsidies for house loan, school expenditure of their children and medical expenses. The industries are paying cess to the Government. In my Sivakasi Constituency, there are more than 2 lakhs working in around 500 fireworks factories and 3000 match factories. I kindly request you to extend the same facilities to the above-mentioned workers through Central Labour Welfare Organisaiton. The cess can be collected from these factories also to provide such facilities to these workers.

(xviii) Need for proper upkeep and maintenance of roads linking National Highway-119 and National Highway-74 in Bijnore district, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

*SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, funds to the tune of crores of Rupees are spent every year by the Government on Rashtriya Rajmarg Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana and Gramin Vikas Sadak Yojana but the condition of main roads coming under Bijnor district in Uttar Pradesh connecting it to the other States continues to remain unchanged after 57 years of freedom. No repair and restoration work has been undertaken so far on the roads which had been constructed 10 years ago. Such roads, which are in a dilapidated condition and due to which incidents involving vehicular accidents and damages take place, include mainly Kiratpur-Nagina road which connects National Highway-119 and National Highway-74, Bijnor-Kotwali road, Nagina-Raipur road connecting Uttaranchal border, Kot Kadar Tadamaidas-Kotdwar and Nagina-Badhapur Kotdwar road etc. The Nagina-Nahtor and Nagina Harevali-Afjalgarh road connecting these roads to the N.H.-74 should be expeditiously widened and repaired under Pradhan Mandtri Gramin Sadak Yojana and CRF.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

14.09 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET-2005-06 —DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Ministry of Agriculture—*Contd.*

[English]

DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anil Basu—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Sir, it is often stated that ours is a predominantly agricultural country and 70% of our population depends for livelihood on agriculture. But I have to say regretfully that agriculture is consistently being neglected in our country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at present we have the Government of the United Progressive Alliance in our country. A commitment was made in their Common Minimum Programme that top priority would be accorded to agriculture but despite this desired level of allocations have not been made for agriculture in this year's Budget. Definitely I can say that there can be no other sector except agriculture which has the potential to solve the problem of unemployment. In this way, the work of agricultural protection and promotion is not being carried out in our country with the vigour with which it should have been.

Sir, it has been stated in the report of the International Labour Organisation that majority of people in India are dependent on agriculture but it is not being provided facilities which it should have been. Consequently, people are migrating to the urban areas from villages. The villages are utterly devastated and are becoming desolate. The cost of production is constantly rising. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices of their crops. It is most tragic that after so many years of independence we are still dependent on rain for irrigation.

Sir, through you, I would like to point out that though there are challenges before the Indian agriculture yet it does not mean that we do not have resources. We have 35 Agricultural Universities in our country besides the Indian Council for Agricultural Research which has its technical research wings. Immense success can be achieved in this sector if we develop new varieties of agricultural seeds and crops and make them accessible to the common man. It is a matter of concern that all the research work being carried out in the name of agriculture is confined only to laboratories. Nothing good to the farmers can be done unless the benefits of those research work do not reach to them.

Sir, I through you, would also like to submit that only 50 crore rupees have been earmarked for research in the present budget which is almost negligible in comparison with the budgets of other countries. We intend to develop agriculture and want to provide latest information and new techniques to them for growing crops; but the farmers are not getting any benefit of the research being conducted in the field of agriculture. I am sorry to say that the contribution of agriculture in gross domestic product, which was 58 per cent in 1950-51, has now declined to 20.5 per cent.

We need to increase the yield rate of agriculture, if we want to develop it. Our country has that capacity, but we are not making its proper use due to mismanagement and maladministration. According to the findings of a research conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the basins of the Ganges and the Yamuna rivers have the yielding capacity of 5.7 to 6.6 ton per hectare for wheat and 8.3 to 10.4 ton per hectare of rice. This production will be 100 to 300 per cent more than the present production. We are not paying any attention to that aspect. Our average agricultural output has increased at the rate of 1.5 ton per year but the population of our country has increased at the rate of 1.8 per cent per annum during the past years.

The per capita availability of coarse grains has decreased by 20 per cent as a result thereof during the last decade. The per capita availability of pulses which was 36 grams, is now 28 grams. More than one lakh labourers can be employed to convert 19 billion hectare barren land in the country into cultivable one. But there is no mention about in the present budget presented in the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to tell the Government that the basic infrastructure formulated by us for the development of India comprises cement, roads, electricity and petroleum products. But, there is no mention of agriculture in it. All the irrigation projects launched since the introduction of First Five Year Plan till the Tenth Five Year Plan, which include the projects started during the regime of late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, have not been completed till date. In the 10th Five Year Plan period, the number of pending large and medium irrigation projects is 400 with the estimated cost of 720 billion rupees. The cost has increased five to 20 times, due to delay in the implementation of these projects.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the irrigation projects which could have been beneficial for the farmers, could not be completed. We keep on making announcements for new projects without completing the old ones. I can any with conviction that we cannot do good to the agriculture sector without making proper arrangement for irrigation in the country. I want to make an allegation against the Government that they are continuously neglecting the irrigation sector. We talk about agriculture and making our land fertile but our country cannot progress unless we give priority to irrigation.

Our production rate is not increasing. It has remained static during the last five years. The production of wheat was 2.78 ton per hectare in the year 1999-2000 and 2.71 ton per hectare in the year 2003-2004. This data makes it clear that there was no increase in per hectare production of wheat during the last five years. The production of pulses was 0.74 ton per hectare in the year 1999-2000 and 0.62 ton per hectare in the year 2003-2004. In the same way, production rate of grains was 1.70 tone per hectare in the year 1999-2000 and 1.71 ton per hectare in the year 2003-2004. It is clear from the above data that we were not able to make agriculture remunerative at any cost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I, through you would like to tell the Government that today the condition of our farmers

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

is pitiable. We are competing in the international market but we are not getting facilities. We have opened our market for other countries but the protection and subsidy being given by all the countries of the world to their farmers is not being given by us tour farmers. Because of this, the Finance Minister has announced in the House that the Government would provide loan to the farmers. Yesterday or day before yesterday, it was published in the newspapers that the interest on their loans would be reduced. I would like to repeat my earlier view point that money, interest, subsidy on loan provided by the Government was not a vital issue. It appears in newspapers that farmers commit suicide in various States. Its reason is that agriculture has become unremunerative. The farmers are not in a capacity to repay their loan.

We are discussing a very serious issue and I would like to point out with utmost humility that there is no other option except giving protection to agriculture, if this country has to make progress, if it is to be secured against unemployment and strengthened economically. The live stock is the other main source of income with the farmer after agriculture. There can be no greater misfortune of the country that milk is being sold @ of Rs. 7 per litre and water at Rs. 12 per litre. What would be the gross injustice to the farmer than this?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am aware of the time constraint and I would like to say only one thing. Hon'ble Sharad Pawar ji has immense experience. He is the Minister of Agriculture. He has a long and close association with farmers. I would submit with all humility to Sharad Pawarji that no power of the world can improve the lot of this country unless the Government thinks in the positive direction, the budget of India is based on agriculture and labour intensive industries are set up in the country. Sir, through you, I would request the Government to save the agriculture and the farmers. The cost of production is going up. Farmers are not getting remunerative prices of their produce. The farmers are being impoverished. The occupation of agriculture has now become unremunerative and through you it is my humble request to this Government that I am not aware of what is written in their election manifesto and in their Common Minimum Programme but that should be reflected from the performance of the Government. Only it will determine the orientation of the Government and from it alone the people will make their assessments about the performance of the Government. I think, the serious matter which we are discussing will definitely have its meaning if this Government takes some initiative in this regard.

*SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH (Gwalior): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my heartiest gratitude for the Hon'ble Speaker and this august House for giving me an opportunity to speak on the discussion regarding Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture (2005-2006) and present my views with a heavy heart keeping in view the sad plight of the neglected farmers. Sir, all are aware of pitiable condition of the farmers in our pre-dominantly agricultural country. The incidents of committing suicides by the farmers over the years are glaring examples of this. Sir, it has become very difficult for the farmer to eke out his living who produces foodgrains for the country by exposing himself to risks day in and day out. The farmer families are getting crushed under the debt-burden as a result of increasing costs of agricultural inputs and quality seeds. Pervasive price rise and natural calamities are also one of the main reasons.

Sir, I urge upon our Government and this August House to chalk out such a concrete action plan whereby compensation for natural calamity, damages caused by drought and thrasher accident may be made without any delay and Natural Calamity Relief Fund with substantial Corpus may be set up in the Ministry of Agriculture and the plan should be directly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture under the policy of 'Union Government at the door step of farmers' so that suffering families may consider the Government as their sympathizer.

Sir, just recently the Rabi crop in a large area was completely damaged due to hailstorm in Madhya Pradesh particularly in my Parliamentary Constituency of Gwalior. Even seeds were not left for the next sowing. Some immediate relief was provided by the State Government which was not adequate. Sir, due to this kind of calamities social activities also come to halt. The marriage of a daughter of a family fixed on the hope of this crop gets broken. With this one incident the family of a farmer is thrust ten years behind the path of development.

Sir, 'National Agricultural Insurance Scheme' is a major initiative of our Government in the direction of agricultural development. This scheme should be further simplified to the maximum level and crops be insured at the cheapest possible premium so that every small and marginal farmer may avail the benefit of the scheme. Village Panchayats should also be involved in the implementation of this scheme so as to make the position of compensation transparent and fair.

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*Laid on the Table.

Sir, the ground water level has fallen too much due to the increasing exploitation of ground-water for irrigation and drinking purposes. Sufficient irrigation is not being done by the tube-wells installed previously. Chances of the agricultural land turning barren are ever increasing due to which the farmers are facing great difficulty. Sir, the Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Rural Development should formulate a special action plan to revive the dried up ponds in the village Panchayats so as to recharge the falling ground-water level and to prevent the agricultural land from turning barren by utilising the rain-water. Sir, the Government should get big dams constructed on the rivers for proper utilisation of all the rain-water which could be utilised for irrigation and drinking purposes.

Sir, agricultural universities and agro research centres should be set up in the big cities of all the States wherefrom agricultural education could be rendered to the youths and the farmers could get high-yielding seeds. With the cooperation of the agricultural scientists the fertility of land could be enhanced and the production could also be increased at a lower cost. Sir, it is my opinion that both of these factors would contribute in the development of agriculture.

Sir, the action plan for agricultural diversification would benefit the farmers. If the Government provides loan to the farmers at a concessional rate for the setting up of small industries, this would open up new sources of their income and make them prosperous. Sir, if the farmers become prosperous, the country will automatically become prosperous.

Sir, I put forth some of my proposals. I hope that this August House and the Government would consider thereupon and would take concrete steps in the interest of the farmers.

Sir, lastly, I heartily thank you and this August House.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very important Demand on Agriculture.

Sir, I would like to bring out a few observations on the Demands for the Ministry of Agriculture. The majority of the people are living in rural India. They are linked to agriculture and its allied sector.

Sir, basically, within the agriculture sector, we could just divide them into horticulture, dairy, fishery and poultry. The Indian agriculture constitutes about 25 per cent of our GDP. The workforce working within the agriculture sector is about 60 per cent. So, we are heavily dependent on the agriculture sector. At this stage, I must also put that in the UPA Government's Common Minimum Programme, they have mentioned that they will give full emphasis to the agriculture sector. Our hon. Minister for Agriculture being a farmer and from the grass root, he himself knows the feeling of the people. We are happy to have a Minister like him. I must say that there has been a great food production for the year 2004-05. It has been a surplus production.

But, at this stage, I must say that in Rajasthan there are no MSPs for agricultural produce like *guar, moth, dhania* and *isabgol*. You need to provide that for the farmers so that they can get equal weightage for their produce. At this stage, we need to link marketing and the marketing boards so that there is a link from the marketing boards to FCI and the produce of the farmers get to the *mandis* on time. Once they get on time the produce is of high quality and high standard. Our farmers work hard; they toil and they work through different conditions, specially when there is different climatic conditions.

In Rajasthan, we just have had a hail, and due to this, there has been crop destruction. As regards crop destruction, under the National Agricultural Insurance, we consider tehsil as a whole. We should consider the village as a whole so that we can give the farmers equal weightage for the produce.

For the irrigated portion of the land, you give Rs. 2,500 per hectare. For the un-irrigated land, you give Rs. 1,500 per hectare. Your have to consider this aspect. You have to look at this issue precisely. You have to look at the issue of farmers as such.

I must say that the NDA Government had provided the Kisan Credit Card to the farmers. Now, you are in the Treasury Benches. The Kisan Credit Card needs to be further looked into in order to improve it further so that there is no middleman. The financial institutions should make sure that the money goes direct to the kisans so that they benefit in turn.

At this stage, Rajasthan depends primarily on rain for producing agricultural crops. In Rajasthan, we produce especially *Bajra*. At this stage, for producing *Barja,* the

[Shri Dushyant Singh]

MSP is Rs. 515 per quintal. The Government should raise it because the production cost increases for every produce. For example, we do not have as much electricity as is needed. So, the farmers are bound to use diesel. As diesel is used, the cost of production goes up. So, we have to make sure that the price is raised for producing such items.

Dhaniya and *Isabgol* have medicinal values. We also produce a lot of other medicinal plants. For *sarson* and oil seeds, the subsidy has been reduced from 50 per cent to 25 per cent. I would urge upon the Government to make it 50 per cent. Similarly, for cotton also, the subsidy has been reduced from 50 per cent to 25 per cent. Especially in our State of Rajasthan, we have a lot of mills in Bhilwara. They help the industrialists and the farmers. So, we have to help this sector further in order to have good entrepreneurs within our State.

I thank the Government for helping the people of Rajasthan during the period of drought. At the same time, I would like to say that the hon. Finance Minister has mentioned in his Budget Speech that a Horticulture Mission will be set up. I would urge him to assist us in this regard. India is the second largest producing nation in terms of fruits and vegetables. There is a great market in Europe. At the same time, the trade barriers are going to be very tough in the future. The important point is that the European Union could be a good market for selling our produce.

Apart from agriculture, we also have sheep rearing, goat rearing and we produce a good quantity of milk. Rajasthan is having milk chilling plants. It is close to Delhi. There is a perfect combination. So, I would urge upon the hon. Minister that he should help us in this regard. He is a man who has made the cooperative set up viable in Maharashtra. I would urge upon him to help us, to give us guidance and tell us the methods to improve the milk cooperatives in our State. We have to help the common man, the person who areas sheep and cattle.

I will just summarise my speech by saying that the Government of Rajasthan has put forward a few demands. We need to have a residual testing laboratory in Jaipur in particular or in the State of Rajasthan as such so that our products improve further in terms of quality. If it is done, we can supply these items to the European Union. We need sophisticated equipment. It costs about Rs. 3 crore. So, this Government should help us.

Next, the subsidy for PVC and cement pipes are not there in the Budget. We need your assistance to help the farmers. So, you have to give subsidy in this regard. Right now, you are giving subsidy only on the 75 mm DI pipes of HTPE. Hence, I would urge upon the Government to look at the issue of providing full subsidy to the PVC pipes and cement pipes so that the farmers can connect their land. Micro irrigation is also necessary for our region. We need to look at drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation which could increase production to an optimum extent.

At this stage, we need to have a linkage between the Centre and the States. Adequate provision should be made in this regard. The Centre and the States should work together to have good output in terms of agriculture. To enhance dry-land farming, you have given a sum of Rs. 130 crore.

There is a need to increase that because that caters only to 32 blocks. We have 237 blocks on dry land farming. We need to increase that so that the allocation goes up further. The farmer depends primarily on the fertilisers to increase production. There is a need to look at other methods just like organic farming by bio-fertilisers. You have created four regional centres in Hisar, Jabalpur, Bangalore and Nagpur. There is a need of one centre in Rajasthan too. The prices of steel for the machinery have gone up. You have to increase the production. We need subsidies for the farmers in the entire country so that farmers can get proper products and can use them as a tool for agriculture production. In the end, seed is a most important component to produce any good. National Seed Research Centre has been set up in Varanasi. I am very glad about that. We need one centre in every State. You have to assist us. With the new Horticulture Mission you can give us the opportunity of having one in our State and other States also.

You have helped the *kisans* by giving them *kisan* channels but we need to aid them through Call Centre which you have given them. We need proper training for local areas and we need Call Centres in each State. At this stage, I would also put it to you that we had a surplus production. You had created a new niche '*Videsh Krishi Upaj Yojana*' to export the produce. I am glad about that. We must produce for export markets. We can sell our produce abroad better than that of our market. We have a great produce within the country of pulses, dairy products and vegetables and cane. Food processing can be linked to agriculture sector to make a new niche and add value to the product and create new awareness. In my constituency, let us assume, we produce oranges second to Nagpur. We can have an orange processing plant within the State of Rajasthan or State of Jhalawar.

In the end, I would like to say that you have been abroad. You have met a lot of foreign dignitaries during your last one year in office. There are a lot of projects in the pipeline such as watershed management programmes, salt conservation programmes which are there for the people of our nation. You have to guide us. I hope you will be able to guide us and help our State of Rajasthan to create an economy for the farmers, for the local people, for the *aam aadmi* and stick to the National Common Minimum Programme which will help the people. This will create a new nation called *Bharat Nirman* which our hon. Prime Minister mentioned about. To link our system of work employment guarantee with agriculture, you can link employment guarantee too not only to 150 districts, but also to the entire country and add value to the product.

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views regarding the Demands for Grants on Agriculture presented before the House. The 70 per cent population of India earn their livelihood through agriculture. This is the biggest industry. Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru while inaugurating the Bhakhra Dam had contended that these dams are the modern temples of India and these mega irrigation projects of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan would bring green revolution of India. These projects of India have actually brought green revolution today. Alongwith it, white revolution was also brought about in India. Today, agriculture is drawing the major attention of the United Progressive Alliance.

The old saying have always maintained that agriculture is the noblest of professions. It has been stated in that saying that "Uttam Kheti Madhyam Vyapar, Neech Chaakri Kare Gawar". Toady, our youths prefer to get even petty employment instead of adopting agriculture as a profession. I remember that time when Shri Prakash Singh Kairon was the Chief Minister of Punjab. At that time many Agricultural Universities were set up. Many students belonging to the farmers families got themselves admitted in those agriculture universities.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: A question was raised before Shri Kairon as to how could he provide employment to those youth who would pass out from the agriculture universities set up by him. Relying in very brief, Shri Kairon stated that he was not setting up agricultural university for providing employment. If the educated rural youth could change the pattern of agriculture through cultivation, the whole agricultural pattern of India would be changed. Today, we feel happy that the Agricultural University, Ludhiana of those days set records which the other reputed big universities of the world could not match. At that time, agriculture witnessed a major revolution.

Today, 21 per cent share of he total GDP accrued from the agricultural sector. The priority of our Government should be agriculture. Today, many departments under the sectoral planning are working in an individual manner. Apart from being a good parliamentarian the hon. Minister of Agriculture is a good farmer as well. In context of the funds provided to the States for sectoral planning such as agriculture, horticulture, irrigation, soil conservation, it is essential that the various sectors should work in unison.

I have seen that there is no co-ordination among various departments and while the Department of Agriculture is doing something and the Department of Irrigation is doing something else. Similarly the Department of Soil Conservation is doing something else. Therefore, now the Government of India is working out a agriculture diversification road map and diversification is taking place. However it would have been better of the diversification had taken place in context of Indian green land. It is an irony that there is no land use planning throughout the country. Still no land use planning been implemented in all parts of the country. No soil fertility and Soil Capability man has been made. Farmers do not report scientific approach and instead do farming using age old obsolete equipments their traditional way of cultivation and use of fertilizers has not been modified on modern scientific lines. My submission to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is that we have many universities for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. No pedological survey has been conducted in India as yet. Scalsky was a Russian pedologist.

[English]

She was the first pedologist in world.

[Prof. Chander Kumar]

[Translation]

She made Soil map of the whole world and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has also made large soil map. He did not make map on micro and mini macro level. So agriculture can not be diversified unless proper land use planning, proper land fertility survey and land capability survey are conducted. So I request that our Indian Council of Agriculture Research and University should conduct land use survey on block level. The model based on land use survey conducted on block level may be replicated in various places to ascertain as to which land would be suitable in context of agriculture. It is very necessary for this propose. At the same time the UPA Government have fixed a target that one crore hectare of land will be brought under irrigation by the year of 2009. The medium and large scale scheme will have to be worked out for this purpose also. I have been that a member of hydel projects are upcoming in different areas. But there is only one motto and that is hydel power generation. Multi purpose, projects like Bhakhra Nangal Project and Damodar Valley Project should have been constructed. But it has not been done on micro and mini micro basis. There should be multi purpose projects so that irrigational facilities, hydel generation and other work could be accomplished.

It was Shrimati Indira Gandhi who had first of all started land reformers in India. Land reforms have started in several states and in a number of states it has not been started as yet. Unless land reform takes place, we cannot talk about agrarian reforms. We can not proceed towards agrarian reforms unless we promote agriculture by giving land to the poorest of the poor. Today it is a matter of great irony and I would like to state that I got an opportunity to work in committee on Estimates and I went to Andhra Pradesh.

[English]

42 per cent of the people of that state are still bonded labour. 50 per cent of the total population of that area is having less than two hectares of land.

[Translation]

We can not bring about agriculture reforms unless land reforms stare in all states. Therefore if we want diversification, then land reforms is essential for that purpose. If we want to more towards Agriculture, Poultry farming and Dairy farming then we should ensure that at least 10-15 kanals of land may be provided to poor persons living in a village. My state is Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

Dr. Y.S. Parmar was the first Chief Minister of the State

[Translation]

who introduced comprehensive land reforms and provided land to everybody. It is simple to say that I belong to a small state. With reference to the diversification of agriculture, florientist and agriculturist, I would like to state that the whole route of agriculture has changed with the introduction of agricultural reforms. Therefore, through you I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that agriculture reforms may be started on a comprehensive level in a time broud manner in those states where agriculture reforms have not been started as yet. Thereafter agrarian reforms may be started. Similarly there are so many such areas where goods are provided under market intervention scheme. So, an era of today success has ushered in and there are so many areas where these things should be rectified and if anybody wants diversification and if anybody produces cereal crops and if agro climate is suitable for any horticulture then we should prefer horticulture to cereal on large scale comprehensive level.

Many small countries like Denmark have gained prominence in adopting dairy farming and it cannot be possible for us to gain eminence by cultivating cereals or vegetables alone. For all the States of India it is important to identify proper agro climate for various kinds of horticultural activities. So that all the States may not imitate each other in cultivating cereals and some states are unable to get the proper benefit of horticulture. So, I want to say that all the states should be provided agricultural base by setting up an occupational structure through proper land use planning so that people can progress.

In the same way I would like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture about the sufferings of poor farmers who get loans. The rate of interest for agricultural loans is so high that most of the co-operative banks and land mortgage banks provide loans to the farmers with the interest rate ranging from 12 to 15 per cent and when the farmer is unable to repay that loan due to any calamity or drought he is compelled to mortgage his land

at higher rates of interest. So, it is necessary that the process if providing loans should be simplified and its rate of interest should be lowered. Further, market of the specific purpose for which loan is granted top peasants, should be ensured. I conclude my speech with these words and am thankful to the Chair for providing me time to express my views.

[English]

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): Thank you Sir, for giving me the time to speak.

In India, there are two 'Indias'. One is 'virtual India' and the other is 'real India'. 'Virtual India' works smart, enjoys and controls economy, education, communication, services, etc., whereas 'real India' depends on 'virtual India' for all its requirements. However, we have seen how the 'real India' had changed Governments. More than 70 per cent population of our country lives in 'real India'.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, 75% people of this country live in villages. And these people are dependent on agriculture. It is unfortunate that the poorest of the poor in this country are peasants and farmers. Sir, the people of Punjab constitute only $1^1/_2$ to 2% of the population of India. After independence, people of India faced hunger and starvation. But the farmers of Punjab rose to the occasion. And by the dint of their hard labour they produced food grains in plenty. Although our population is only 2% of the total population of India, and area-wise, we constitute only $1^1/_2$ of the total area of India, but more than 50% food grain is being contributed into the Central food grain pool by the farmers of Punjab. But injustice is being meted out to the people of Punjab. There has been only a meagre Rs. 10/- increase in the MSP of wheat. In the case of paddy also, there has been an increase of only Rs. 10/- in MSP. But in the case of cotton, no increase in MSP has been made. The hon. Agriculture Minister is here. Last year we had made a request to him. The people of Punjab wanted Bt. Cotton. And he acceded to our request. But Bt. Cotton is being sold in black market in Punjab. We provide seeds to the farmers. Unless the seeds are vailable at economical price in the market, how will the farmers develop? Irrigation water is needed for farming. But injustice has been done to the people of Punjab as far as irrigation water is concerned. After the country's independence, all river water accords were against the interests of Punjabis. Step-motherly treatment has been meted out to the people of Punjab by successive Governments. Deputy Speaker Sir, the water table is receding. Farmers are facing a lot of problems. Crop diversification is the need of the hour. This is the fourth year of Congress rule in Punjab but the Government has not been able to show any concrete results and crop diversification in Punjab has remained a pipe dream. Unless the Centre does something in this matter, nothing will be achieved. Sir, the rate of interest for agriculture loans is 14% to 16%. But the rate of interest for home loans or car loans is only 7% to 8%. Recovery of loans is ruthlessly done. The defaulters in agriculture loans are 16% to 17% whereas defaulters in loans of other categories are 20%. Crores of rupees are embezzled whereas farmers have to grease the palm of bank officials to get agricultural loans. Farmers face acute problems while taking loans and their problems are further aggravated during the time of returning of loans. The rate of interest is sky high and it is very difficult to return the loans. Sir, when the farmers take their production to the markets the middlemen siphon off the gains. These middlemen also give loans at sky high interest rates of 25% to 30%. There is no control on these middlemen and no way of saving the poor farmers from their clutches. No proper weighing facility for foodgrains is there in the markets. In several markets, vegetables are purchased by these middlemen not in kgs or quintals but in heaps. But when the same vegetables are sold at small shops after a few hours they are sold at the high rate of kgs. So, the profit does not got to the poor farmers. So I appeal to the Agriculture Minister to ensure the interest of farmers by ensuring that the farmers too get a share of this profit. Between sale and purchase, some percentage of profit must go to the poor farmers. Sir, policies and programmes are made for the farmers. But, these poor farmers do not have TV. They do not read newspapers. So efforts should be made to enlighten and inform these poor farmers regarding these programmes. In every village, there should be some source whereby these poor farmers can come to know about programmes, policies, new techniques of farming etc. So, the Government must redouble its efforts to bail out the poor farmers. Deputy Speaker Sir, education of the children of these poor farmers is of utmost importance. Educational facilities have to be provided in villages so that the coming generation of the poor farmer can be educated. Only educated farmers will come to know about the programmes and policies that will benefit them. How to seek loan? From where to get loan? Only educated farmers will know about all this. The MSP should be linked with price index. Prices of all commodities are going up. But, the MSP for foodgrains is not increased

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala]

in accordance with the price index. So, it is the need of the hour that MSP in inalienable linked to price index. Only then, the poor farmer will get his due.

*SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have given me the opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants for Agriculture and I am thankful to you. It will not be an exaggeration to say that the cultural history of India is based on the edifice of Agriculture. Indian civilization, tradition and cultural moorings are agriculture based. Agriucltural is the main source of livelihood for millions of Indians. Without agriculture, India can never be a progressive nation. In India the agricultural production is solely dependent upon the monsoon. The time has come to emphasise more on irrigation facilities. It is good news that hon. Minister for Science & Technology has informed us that we will have a normal monsoon this year. Even then we should not undervalue the importance of irrigation without which farmers' condition cannot improve.

During his visit to Himachal Pradesh on Dec. 24th 2004 hon. President had spoken of a 2nd Green Revolution in India. In order to turn this dream into reality the Department of Agriculture must adopt a realistic approach, which needs to be analyzed thoroughly. It is a good thing that the UN has celebrated 2004 as the year of international rice. But the millions of farmers in India are still reeling under poverty. The election in Andhra Pradesh in 2004 has clearly proved that applied science in agriculture might impress the people but it should not neglect hapless farmers in villages whose problems were not address to. As a result Mr. Chandra Babu Naidu's Government faced electoral debacle.

In this context, hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to draw your attention to an observation made by Noble Laureate Sir Amartya Sen that unless we address to some fundamental issues we cannot better the lot of agriculture or agriculturists. He says—'India's agriculture needs greater priority as the quality of labour casts a shadow on agro-productivity.' He has spoken about 4 fundamental factors. They are—(1) delivery of the health care system (2) land reforms and its compilations (3) basic education (4) availability of microscopic credit.

So far as land reform is concerned States like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, etc. have taken up some revolutionary steps which has benefited the farming community to some extent. We must congratulate them. But I want to remind you here that Orissa was the 1st State to initiate land reform under the leadership of the then Chief Minister Smt. Nandini Satpathy. She had highlighted the principle that whoever produces the crop the land will belong to him. It was a historic step to better the lot of farmers.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, today I am representing a backward State like Orissa as a member of BJD. Our leader late Shri Biju Patnaik was a symbol of dynamism and pride. He firmly believed that unless the condition of farmers improves India's progress is impossible. In this context Sir, I want to draw your attention to some specific points. The first is that farmers in Orissa do not get agricultural loans. He never gets agricultural implements. He has no access to subsidized fertilizer or seeds. Irrigation facility is not available to him and hence he depends upon the unpredictable monsoon. He falls victim to the furies of nature in form of super cyclones, floods or droughts. Sometimes his paddy fields get destroyed by flood water and his children starve. Hence I want to implore before the hon. Minister for Agriculture if farmers live then only will India live. Farmers must get fertilizer, seeds, agricultural loans implements at an affordable rate. Small farmers who deal with jute and cotton must not be allowed to get exploited. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I will take only 2 minutes. Our Government is not paying attention to crop insurance scheme. In today's India farmers unable to pay back their loans are committing suicide. In my State the properties of farmers get forfeited if they fail to pay back loans. His condition is deplorable and it is very unfortunate. Hon. Minister for Agriculture had gone to my constituency on a visit. My constituency starts from Paradeep and ends at Konark. Konark is a world heritage site and one of the wonders of the modern world. It is located on a sea beach. The adjacent areas get flooded by sea-water which renders them infertile. The farmers of these areas suffer a lot. Neither the State Government nor the Central Government has ever looked into the matter. Sir, there are many districts in my State like Bolangir, Phulbani, Kandhamal etc. which have no irrigation facility. Since agriculture is not providing livelihood, unemployment problem has cropped up. It has also aggravated the menace of naxalism. Hence I want to emphasise that agriculture is the only source of occupation which can solve a lot of problems.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

15.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry please conclude your speech.

[Translation]

Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav has to give a statement at 4 P.M. and before that the discussion on Demands for Grants on Agriculture must be concluded.

[English]

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to conclude with a poem which highlights the problems of farmers:

One, who is a farmer
Has been bestowed with all the sufferings.
He has no food for his belly
He labours hard throughout the year
Wears tattered clothes
His house has no proper roof
He mingles in muddy water
He does not care for the hot sun or cold winter
He grows rice, black grams, green gram, cereals
Fruits, vegetables and flowers
His profession has no extra income
His head reels in worry
As to how will he survive?

Sir, I hope that hon. Agriculture Minister will give special attention to Orissa. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Jai Jagannath.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Demands for Grants on Agriculture is being discussed in the House. By taking part in this discussion I also want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture towards some points and the genuine difficulties of the farmers.

Sir, I rise here to say that at the time of the formation of this government it was said to be extensively discussions to get the portfolio as the Minister of Agriculture had sympathy for the farmers and wanted to do something concrete for the farmers. However, the problem of the farmers can not be solved merely by taking resort to the presentation of the agriculture data.

15.05 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*]

When the House is in session, it expresses its concerns towards the plight of the farmers. It shows sympathy when there is flood or drought and even when the farmers commit suicide. But, we should pay attention towards the genuine problems of the farmers. At present, there are three types of people dependent on agriculture—in the first category, there are those farmers who sell their produce in the market and retain its proceeds, in the second category, there are those farmers whose family depends wholly on his agricultural activities and in the third category, there are those agricultural labourers who can not get their daily bread from their daily wages. The country the House and the Government express their concern to the condition of the farmers, but the problems of the rural farmers are not solved. I do not say that agricultural production was not increased. It has increased but the moot point is the share of contribution of the government and the farmers in it. The farmers have different problems in different sates. Its reason is that the soil and the crops of various states are different. In that situation, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the problems faced by the farmers of Bihar. Bihar is such a state where land is very fertile but the farmers have to face the calamity of flood every year. I admit that it is not so easy to get rid of flood and drought but water logging is the biggest problem in Bihar. If the problem of water logging is sorted out, Bihar will be in a position to provide enough foodgrains which will be adequate for 6 month's requirement of the entire country. But, due to water-logging the farmers are unable to get back even their investment made in farming. It creates a great deal of problem for them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Honourable Minister of Agriculture to the fact through the decision to provide to the peasants at produced items—fertilizers, kerosene oil, diesel, and gas was introduced with a view to provide them relief from these toil and sufferings, it is a well known fact as to how much it is rather taken away by fertilizer of this benefit percolates down to the farmers. Instead of the benefit of subsidy directly reaching to the farmers, most of it is cornered by those producing fertilizers. ...*(Interruptions)* I have just started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I told you so because the time is short.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I had already said that I may be allowed to speak for 10 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other Hon'ble members also have to speak and the time is very short hence I request that.

[English]

You confine to five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I conclude by thanking you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, you speak please.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am the first to speak on behalf of my party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak please.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak. I leave it up to you,

[English]

I am sorry.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I had already said that I would speak for ten minutes only. But you rang the bell prior to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I said so because honourable Minister of agriculture has to speak at 3.30 p.m. and I had a long list. That is why I told you so.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I had to say something very important. Honourable Minister can speak a bit short.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion is being held on such an important topic. Every honourable member whether from the ruling party or from the opposition or from other party, he would like to express his concerns on the matter, so the time for discussion may please be increased and every one should be given a chance to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to tell the Hon'ble Minister that the subsidy on fertilizers does not reach the farmers directly. It goes to the owners of fertilizer producing factories and the quantum of fertilizer produced shown by them on papers, is not made available to farmers. Sometimes when there is scarcity of fertilizers then they mix salt with fertilizers which reduces the fertility of land. We do not know as to whether the present Government has carried out any analysis of profit-loss of the production of chemical fertilizers or not. If the Ministry of Agriculture has conducted any analysis of the benefit of the use of fertilizers as to by what percent the chemical fertilizers has increased the spread of diseases in the country by consuming such food; what the new diseases has broken out due to it, and as to what the outcome of use of chemical fertilizers is. The Hon'ble Minister may please mention it in his replies. If it has not been conducted we request you to conduct such survey and inform the House and the country about it.

In addition to it, we want him to promote the production of bio-fertilizers. Particularly in villages people used to bread cattle and it gave them double benefits. The cattle dung is used as fuel to cook food. If you promote them for cattle breading and give them subsidy, it will also give farmers triple benefits. Firstly dung or manure yields health-friendly crops and thus the percentage of diseases in the country will be reduced. Secondly milk and curd produced from cattle will yield some income to the family of farmer and the prosperity will return to the families of farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government gives subsidy on gas. But how many farmers use gas? Farmers do not use gas. According to my estimate only $4^1/_2$ percent people in the country use gas. This $4^1/_2$ percent gas is used in five star hotels and in houses of elite class and in rural areas it is used by the people who have got means and have jobs or business and those who live in district headquarters and block headquarters. Only these people get the benefit of subsidy. If a farmer has taken gas connection in the village, he uses one or two cylinders in six months and serves his guests and relatives the tea prepared with the help of the gas. In such circumstances even today farmers of villages cook their food on wooden fuel. My submission to the honourable Minister of Agriculture is that even today village farmers use wooden fuel for their cocking. If he has any sympathy for the farmers then he should scrap the subsidy on gas. Simultaneously he should persuade the village farmers

who do plantation-subsidy may be provided to the farmers doing plantation by conducting a survey on block level. This will bring prosperity to the farmer's families. Toady climate is changing in the country. Plantation in the villages will bring greenery therein which in turn will overcome the change in climate and this original climate will sustain in the country. You have provided subsidy on kerosene and poor are marginally benefitted by this subsidy. They do not get the benefit as much as they should have been. The whole quantity of kerosene goes in the black market. It has been the regime of Raghuvansh babu and we live in his regime also. You have also been trying enough. Sometimes Raghuvansh babu himself has been speaking against the Government. But nobody used to listen to him. Black-marketing have been increasing. Today farmers in villages are operating their pump-sets with kerosene due to hike in diesel price which has adversely affected the farmers on two counts. On the one hand the engine of their pump-set is damaged by the use of kerosene, on the other they have to take the engine frequently to the garages for its repairing. They have to suffer one more financial burden. Diesel price has been increasing day-by-day. When honourable Minister of Agriculture attends the Cabinet meeting, he should raise a question on behalf of farmers that the cards may be prepared and issued to the farmers according to their land and subsidy may be provided on the diesel being given to them, efforts should be made to provide diesel at kerosene rate as such action will bring prosperity to the farmers, it is my humble submission to that you please take initiative.

I would like to tell you about farmer's third problem. Whenever the farmers start their farming they have to go frequently to the banks for loan. Now question is as to what arrangement is made to provide them loan? The record is prepared on black level that he is marginal farmer or small farmer. Truly the farmers got tired while going round the block office when the list is prepared, unless he spends something, his name is not included in the list. If his name is included in the list after spending money then he will have to go round the banks again and again for taking loan for their farming. The farmer becomes unable to give adequate time to their farming due to taking round the bank and block office. The banking personnel do not provide loan without taking bribe. You know everything because you are associated with ground reality. Now you please make such arrangements that farmers have not to pay any bribe while taking loan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude please.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am concluding. I understand your problem. I would like to conclude by saying last one thing. The farmers in Bihar take loan on interest. Warrants are issued against them if they are not able to repay the loan on time due to any reason, consequently they are arrested and sent to jail. When a criminal goes to jail, the expenditure on his sleeping, food, sanitation etc. is borne by the Government of Bihar but when a farmer goes to jail due to not paying his debt. The Government of Bihar recovers the amount of expenditure incurred on his sleeping and meal along with the interests from the farmers. Great injustice is being meted out to them. Once, I had raised this issue in this House. Shri P. Chidambaramji is not sitting here now. The honourable Minister of Finance had said at that time that he would try to improve the situation by taking information from the Government of Bihar but no action has been taken in this regard as yet. When an honourable Minister says and assures anything in Lok Sabha then people of the country and the people sitting in the House feel that now action will be taken but despite honourable Minister's assurance, no relief has been given to Bihar farmers and when Bihar farmers go to jil all the expenditure on their sleeping and meal etc. is also recover from them. I would like to submit to the Minister of Agriculture, through you, that he should improve the conditions of farmers of the country by giving them some sort of relief in view of seriousness of the three-four issues raised by me. The farmers of the country have faith on you, they have some expectations that you will do something for them.

With these words, I conclude by expressing my thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

Agriculture is the backbone of our rural livelihood's security system. Two-thirds of our population depend on agriculture. Agriculture contributes 25 per cent of the GDP, 15 per cent of the total exports and provides employment to around 65 per cent of workforce. These are the factual figures.

The hon. Minister of Finance in his Budget speech of 2005-06 has acknowledged the necessity to give priority for agriculture. Two-thirds of population constitutes of farming community.

Now, I will come to the allocations in the Ninth Plan. I am not blaming this Government but successive Governments are talking very much about agriculture but doing very less about it.

For example, Sir, in the Ninth Plan, the outlay proposed for agriculture was Rs. 18,253.81 crore but the allocation was only Rs. 9,323 crore out of which the utilisation was only Rs. 7,673 crore. For the Tenth Plan the proposed outlay is Rs. 25,000 crore but the allocation made available by the Planning Commission is Rs. 13,300 crore.

The Central Plan outlays have been increasing very steeply as it is evident from the figures. In 2002-2003 the Central Plan outlay was Rs. 1,44,037 crore; in 2003-2004 it was Rs. 1,47,000 crore; in 2004-2005 it was Rs. 1,67,000 crore; and in this year's Budget the outlay has been Rs. 2,11,253 crore. But what exactly happened? In the Ministry of Agriculture, the allocation for the Department of Agriculture Research and Education has been coming down from 0.61 per cent in 2004-2005 to 0.54 per cent in the present Budget. Compared to last year, it has been scaled down by 0.5 per cent. Agriculture's contribution to GDP is 22 per cent. But the allocation for the Department of Agriculture Research and Education has been very small-between 0.29 and 0.33 per cent of the total AGDB.

According to the statement of the hon. Minister of Finance and as per the UPA manifesto, the allocations are very meagre. By putting together these allocations, how can we achieve our target of four per cent envisaged for the Tenth Plan? I will come to the GDP growth rate. Last year the growth rate of agriculture and allied sector was only 1.1 per cent and the overall GDP growth are was 6.9 per cent. In the year 2003-2004 due to the favourable rainfall and good climate, a commendable growth rate of 9.6 per cent was achieved by agriculture and that is why we achieved an overall GDP growth rate and that of agriculture. But how can we achieve the four per cent target in the Tenth Plan by allocating money in this way?

The Ministry of Agriculture proposes to the Planning Commission for allocation of money. The Planning Commission is under the control of the Minister of Finance. The Finance Minister has envisaged and acknowledged that agriculture should be given top priority. Then, why is it that the proposals of the Ministry of Agriculture are not accepted by the Planning Commission or the Finance Ministry? This is my question. How can we achieve four per cent growth rate in agriculture?

Sir, I have two-three other issues. One is the minimum support price. This is an alarming issue. There is no ground reality for fixing the minimum support price. Every year we are increasing it at the rate of ten rupees. This is a routine job. The farmers have no faith and belief in the minimum support price being given. This year, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has recommended a minimum support price for 'A' grade variety of paddy at Rs. 680. Last year it was Rs. 590. But, they have increased it to Rs. 600 this year, which is an increase of Rs. 10. This routine is going on for the last five years—increase by Rs. 10 per year etc. Where is the scientific method in this? I am asking this question to the Ministry of Agriculture through you. No farmer expects help from the price fixing mechanism. There is no scientific method to evolve the minimum support price.

Even for cotton, the farmers in Andhra Pradesh are not getting the minimum support price. This year the Government has not increased the minimum support price by even one rupee. Last year the minimum support price for common variety cotton was Rs. 760 and this year also it is Rs. 760. For the premium variety of cotton, the minimum support price last year was Rs. 1,960 and this year it has been increased to Rs. 1,980—an increase of Rs. 20. Even now, in Andhra Pradesh the farmers are not getting the minimum support price for cotton. There

is an alarming situation in Andhra Pradesh. Even for chillies there is no minimum support price.

Last year, the previous Government had intervened and purchased the chilies at the rate of Rs. 2,700 per quintal. This year, they are not getting Minimum Support Price. That is why, this is a mandatory obligation of the Government of India that at any cost, they have to purchase their produce. Otherwise, there is no meaning of MSP. The Agriculture Minister should evolve a comprehensive mechanism and create a separate fund for MSP. If there is no MSP, then the Government of India should intervenue immediately in the markets and purchase their produce at Minimum Support Price.

The farmer wants good seeds. Even we have been trying to amend the present Seeds Act, 1966 for three years. There are so many proposals from the State Governments. Money is not involved. So, political parties are also co-operating for the amendment of this Act. For three years, I have been fighting on the floor of the House. So far the Government is not bringing a legislation to amend the Seeds Act. Now, the traders are supplying spurious seeds, but there is no mechanism to control spurious seeds. We have not imposed any penalty. That is why, farmers are not getting good seeds.

The next issue is of co-operative system. We have to revamp the co-operative system. The Government of India has to intervene. They have given money to the public sector banks, Regional Rural Banks and even UTI for cleansing of their balance-sheets. Why can it not be done in the case of co-operative institutions also? Forty per cent of the farmers are getting loans from the co-operative sector, but the co-operative sector is sick. So many committees were appointed and they have given their reports also. Now, they are consulting with the Chief Ministers. What is the Government telling?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You just mention your points.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: But ultimately, the farmers are not getting support from the co-operative banks. The Government should attend to this issue of co-operative system.

The National Crop Insurance Scheme is there, but in its present form, we are taking into account the larger areas and the farmers are not getting the benefit. That is why, we have to reduce it to panchayat level. That is the most important thinking. Otherwise, there is no meaning of National Crop Insurance Policy. Even in the case of present Crop Insurance Policy, claims are not being settled very speedily and in the meanwhile, the farmers are committing suicides. Even when he is entitled to get money under Crop Insurance Scheme, it is taking six months, one year and even two years to settle claim. If any vehicle is damaged, the Motor Vehicle Inspector will go, the Insurance Officer will go and settle the claim immediately, but if the farmer has lost his crop, it will take six months or one year to settle the claim. In the meanwhile, the farmer will commit suicide. This is an alarming situation. So, the area under Crop Insurance Scheme should be reduced and brought to the level of panchayat and their claims should also be settled immediately.

We are providing crop insurance for small and marginal farmers who are getting loans from nationalised banks, private banks and other institutions. It should be extended to all small and marginal farmers and the premium should be paid by the Government of India and the State Governments on 50:50 basis. Then only the crop insurance will be applicable to all the small and marginal farmers in this country.

In Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are committing suicides. This is an alarming situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already mentioned about it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Our Agriculture Minister is a dynamic Minister. The whole country knows it, everybody knows it. That is why, even in drought-prone areas, the small and marginal farmers will not be able to pay their loans at all. What is the Government doing? They are re-scheduling the loans. Every year, they are not getting the crops. How can they pay their earlier dues? That is why, in the drought-prone areas, for small and marginal farmers, I demand from the UPA Government total waiver of their loans. Then only, the small and marginal farmers will benefit. Then only, the farmers will be happy.

The Indian farmer is providing food for 100 crore people. There is no social status. There is no growth. There is no development. That is the position of the Indian farmer. So, we have to make them nappy. So, as all other sectors are benefiting, the Indian farmer should also get benefit from this UPA Government. The Budget for Agriculture should also be increased like that of Defence National security is of paramount importance and national food security is also equally important. How are

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

we providing budget for Defence of Rs. 80,000 crore? We have to provide budget of Rs. 40,000 for India agricultural sector so as to enable it to compete in the world market. This is my humble request to this Government. The Minister should answer all these points.

*SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I rise to present my views on Budget 2005-2006 of Ministry of Agriculture. First of all, I would like to thank you for giving me opportunity to speak on this important issue.

Agriculture dominated country

Sir, our country is predominantly an agriculture based country and more than 70% of country's population is directly related to agriculture even today. The progress that has been made in last fifty years in agricultural sector of our country can not be called satisfactory. The pace, with which the progress in the means of irrigation, use of new agricultural techniques, use of higher quality seeds should have increased thereby increasing agricultural production, could not be attained.

The plight of Indian Farmers

Sir, the plight of Indian farmers, today is miserable due to any well crafted and concrete agriculture policy and the lack of the Government to create agriculture infrastructure. NDA Government has taken many important steps to change this situation which has brought some positive results. Although it was not possible to completely root-out all the problems that had taken roots due to negligence of 50 years and being treated as non-priority sector by successive congestive governments. This resulted in many problems remaining unsolved.

It is not possible to compete for Indian farmers in this age of globalisation

Sir, numerous new problems have cropped up due to commercialisation, liberalisation, marketisation, universalisation, globalisation because of which it is not possible for them to compete unequal and imbalanced international market economy.

Pathetic economic condition of Indian farmers

Sir, the main reason for pathetic economic condition of Indian farmers is lack of coordination between the dependence of major part of population on agriculture and a steady decline in share of agriculture to G.D.P. India's 69% population is still dependent on agriculture and 70% of farmers live in villages. At the time of independence the share of agriculture in GDP of India was 69% which declined to the level of 24% in 2001. Lack of infrastructural facilities along with long standing problem of unemployment and lack of opportunities to enhance income complete the villagers and those dependent on agriculture to migrate to cities and towns. This situation has resulted in the downfall in the living standard of urban life style consequently the area of slum clusters has increased in each Indian city and town.

Need to strengthen the rural economy of India

Sir, fast all-round development of India and substained environmental social economic development policy can be successful only when agriculture and agro based rural economy is strengthened, the purchasing power of farmers, agricultural workers and other classes of our rural population is increased with the increase in employment. Opportunities and enterpreneurship in rural areas is enhanced alongwith improvement in the living conditions of rural India.

Long term measures are needed to effectively deal with the agricultural crisis

Sir, long term and short terms measures are needed to effectively deal with the crisis of agriculture. In addition to provisions of electricity, road and water the revival of agriculture infrastructure is dependent mainly on five factors (i) subsidised loans (2) appropriate and capable market system (3) science and technological investment (4) Availability of cost effective entrepreneurs in the nearby villages and (5) human resource development.

Steps taken by NDA Government for the welfare of farmers

(1) Inter linking of the rivers of the country—Sir NDA Government decided to undertake an ambitious plan of interlinking the rivers of the country to deal with the recurring problem of floods and draught in many parts of the country and the task force, constituted with this aim, formulated the blue print to start some of the schemes. It is regrettable that UPA Government have scrapped this scheme without taking the masses in to confidence.

*Laid on the Table.

(2) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yozana: Even after the 50 years of the congress rule around one lac 36 thousand villages of the country which comes around of 1/3rd of the total number of villages in the country were deprived of facility of good road. In its new and revolutionary initiative NDA Government introduced Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana with a carpus of Rs. 6000 crore under which public rural road link has to be established by 2007. With in a period of less than three years states were allocated 13000 crores of rupees and 30000 villages were linked under this scheme. But it is a matter of concern that UPA Government under the Congress leadership has more or less, shelved the project.

(3) Crop Insurance Scheme: The N.D.A. Government further widened the ambit of the Crop Insurance Scheme. Besides this the N.D.A. Government had taken one more novel initiative *i.e.* 'Agricultural Income Insurance Scheme' in the latter half of its tenure. The objective of the 'Agriculture Income Insurance Scheme' was to ensure a guarantee of an assured income to the years. The Central Government had decided to contribute 75% of its premium to make it more attractive for the small and marginal farmers. The purchasing power of 70% farmers was bound to increase after the implementation of this novel scheme. The National Executive demands its implementation as soon as possible. At first such areas should be accorded priority in the implementation of the scheme where there are no adequate facilities of irrigation and where farmers are often distressed due to the crisis of famine and drought. But unfortunately the above scheme seems to be breathing its last during the Congress regime.

Suicides by Farmers

Sir, 1860, 419, 467 and 350 cases of suicides by farmers have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra respectively. There can be no greater matter of national shame than the fact that farmer, the provider and the grower of foodgrains is left with no choice except committing suicides as a way of deliverance from his difficulties. I am very pained to see the right of farmers under the Congress Governments at the centre and the states. I demand that a socio-economic relief package containing provisions of employment and education benefits be announced at the earliest for the families of the deceased.

Higher Prices of Agricultural Inputs

Sir, Indian farmers are being directly affected due to continuous increase in prices of diesel, fertilizers, insecticides and all other agricultural inputs. On the other hand, prices of many agricultural produces continue to be static on account of wrong policies of the Government or have come down in real terms due to inflation. For instance the prices of 'Soya' produced in our country have crashed due to reduction in custom duty.

Time of Second Green Revolution

Sir, time has come to usher in Second Green Revolution with a view to fully strengthen Indian agricultural and rural economy. It will go a long way in augmenting the farmers income. It's outreach would be far more extensive then the first Revolution that took place in 1960's decade. It's first objective should be to increase per acre yield of crops which is very low in comparison to a number of other countries. Particularly, it is also important because the size of the land-holding is diminishing in our country and agriculture is becoming unremunerative profession for most of the farmers. Extension of agro services and bridging the gap between the fields and the laboratory with the use of bio-technology should be the main objectives for increasing agricultural productivity. Multi-cropping and diversification from food grains to pulses, oilseeds (due to the shortage of which India had to import edible oil amounting to Rs. 12500 crores from other countries). Horticulture, Floriculture and herbal plantation should be accorded priority.

Need to Promote Public and Private Investment in Agriculture Sector

Sir, it is my suggestion that private sector investment should also be promoted in every sector of agricultural economy along with increasing the public sector investments. A larger objective of the Second Green Revolution should be assured income to every farmer family from sources other than Agriculture which are linked to be local economy. This objective can be achieved through promoting, *inter alia,* industries like animal husbandry, fisheries, poultry and food processing which have traditionally been the integral part of Indian agriculture. It has the potential of creating lakhs of

[Shri Suresh Chandel]

employment opportunities and promoting increase in income opportunities of small farmers.

Necessity to impose ban on cow slaughter

Sir, I demand that a legislation barring cow slaughter be passed without any further delay. The Ministry of Agriculture had drafted a Bill pertaining to ban cow-slaughter at the time of the N.D.A. Government. But that could not be passed on account of opposition from the Indian National Congress, the Communist parties and certain other parties.

W.T.O. and the U.P.A. Government are compromising with the interests of the farmers

Sir, the W.T.O. and the U.P.A. Government are compromising with the interests of the Indian farmers, the international agricultural trade is passing through a period of critical change under the W.T.O. It has opened the doors of challenges and opportunities at the same time. Indian needs to consider its options carefully as it would be extremely difficult to avert the repercussions of agricultural trade liberalisation under the provisions of World Trade Organisation. The major concern for India is national food security and safeguarding the livelihood of twelve and a half crore farmers. The N.D.A. Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in addition to one farmers had also safeguarded the interests of farmers of other developing countries in the W.T.O. Our Government had raised a strong voice against the imbalance in the global trade of agro-products arising out of heavy subsidies proposed by the European union and the U.S.A. India had vociferously opposed the forcible efforts to do away with the liberal and completely justified agricultural subsidy. Quite contrary to the above, the U.P.A. Government chose to give up the opposition and adopted the path of compromise in the negotiations on the agriculture trade liberalisation in the W.T.O. I hold the food security for the poors as an inviolable condition of any international agreement.

Pathetic condition of Agriculture in Himachal Pradesh

Sir, Himachal Pradesh is a hilly backward, bordering and a remote located state. While one part (District Una) of this state faces heat wave and sorching heat in May and June during summer, the other part (District Lahaul-Spiti) remains covered with snow. There is a great difference in the geographical and climate conditions of various parts of this state. The number of industries is negligible here. There is only one rail line constructed during the English regime. The development of rail lines has been negligible since the Industrial and commercial activities are almost negligible in the state. All the consumers goods are brought here from the plains areas.

Sir, Himachal Pradesh is surrounded by Jammu-Kashmir in the North Tibbet in North-East, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in the East and South-East and Punjab in the South. Agricultural land is divided in small holdings and the fields are step-line because most of its area is hilly. Due to lack of proper irrigation facilities, the food grains are supplied from the plain areas. If the proper irrigation arrangements are made and canalization of Swan river is Carried out, Himachal Pradesh can not only be self-sufficient in the production of foodgrains, but can also meet the demand of foodgrains to its neighbouring states.

Cultivation of best qualities of indigenous and foreign flowers, herbal medicine plants and fruits can be done in Himachal Pradesh on large scale due to its relatively colder climate. But, this state has lagged for behind in floriculture, horticulture, agriculture and herbal production due to neglecting and indifferent attitude of Congress Party's Governments both at the Centre and the State.

Sir, I demand that there is an urgent need to introduce by bird seeds and advanced technology in farming sector of Himachal Pradesh. Commercial production of high quality of fishes can be possible, if fishery is promoted in my district, Bilaspur. But, no specific efforts are being made in this direction. There is big scope of animal husbandry in Himachal Pradesh but no progress is visible due to indifferent and neglect attitude of both the Government of India as well as State Government.

Best quality seven banks for artificial should be set up at various places to promote animal husbandry in Himachal Pradesh. A network of veterinary hospitals at Gram Panchayat level and a chain of such hospitals at block level should be set up. A Krishi Vigyan Kendra should be set up in Bilaspur district and the local farmers should be made aware of the research work carried out at the Kendra.

Main Demands:

Sir, due to paucity of time, I don't want to elaborate any more and place before the Union Minister of Agriculture, the following suggestions and demands:

1. The extension services for keeping the farmers informed of the new techniques developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research from time to time should be more made effective, so that the farmers can get its optimum benefits.

2. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) should be fully restructured in such a way that the burden of the Government subsidy is lessoned without compromising with food security.

3. The model Act framed by N.D.A. Government for providing legitimacy to the leasing out of agriculture land should be enforced expeditiously so that the farmers can be protected from being evicted from the ownership of their own land.

4. The run the Government extension services have come to an end in most of the states. Therefore, public sector and private sector companies should be promoted for providing efficient, modern and farmer-friendly services.

5. Bio-farming should be encouraged at a vast level. The facilities for standardization and marketing of Bio-food should be provided at district level.

6. Attention should be given on attracting sector's investment by providing strong support to the National Mission for Development of Bamboo and National Medicinal Plants Board established by NDA Government.

7. National Commission for Fisheries and Aquaculture should be setup to promote marine and inland fisheries in the country.

8. There should be cooperative societies in the country for modernization of boats of fishermen, cold storages and processing units and there should be facility to direct contact with internal as well as external market.

9. A National Fisheries University should be established in the country.

10. A National Animal Husbandry Development Board should be constituted by providing sufficient budgetary support to the State Governments, from the Union Government.

11. Dairying and poultry farming, which are employment provider industries like food processing industry, should also be treated like agriculture in terms of providing loans and other benefits to them.

12. The Government should reduce India's dependence on the import of fossil fuel and crude oil and utilize more and more resources in rural economy so as to enhance the farmers' earnings. With this objective, a comprehensive, concrete and stable national bio-energy policy should be announced.

13. Use of ethanol in petrol should be enhanced to 10 percent from the present 5 percent during the next two-three years since the price of ethanol is equal to the price of imported crude oil. Other plantation crops like Jatrofa, Karanja which produce and bio-diesel should be given large scale publicity with adequate sale arrangements and processing thereof at nearby rural outlets.

14. There has been a steep hike in the prices of seeds during the last few years which is a main reason of making the farmers debtors. For production of seeds to reduce their prices, the Government owned uncultivated land should be considered for its allotment to the farmer, Government institutions and farmer entrepreneurs, and they should be given other incentives to set up seed farms there. The Seeds Act formulated by the N.D.A. Government should be implemented expeditiously. Stringent punitive action should be taken against those selling fake seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

15. Foodgrain banks, godowns, cold storages and fodder banks should be set up in various parts of the country so that the farmers can store their produce in them. They should also be given the facility of taking loans from banks besides allowing them to take advantages of warehouse receipt scheme.

16. The immovable property should not be pawned against providing loans to purchase agriculture implements like tractors etc. The Government should announce some attractive tax relief production of cost effective and high quality agriculture implements.

17. The process of providing loans to farmers by Commercial and Co-operative banks should be

streamlined as has been done by private banks for providing loans for purchasing vehicles and homes.

18. There is an urgent need to pay attention towards the appealing condition of co-operative banks. It is essential to ensure their autonomy while doing so. The decisions like financial assistance of 15 thousand crore, taken by the N.D.A. Government should be implemented at the earliest. Besides, affecting their reinvestment, the rules regarding refinance, responsibilities and capital sufficiency should be made at par with those in commercial banks.

19. The State Governments should not only be pursued to amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing Co-operative Act but they should also be encouraged to put a ban on Mandi Tax within a year so as to promote the emergence of competitive and competent agricultural markets.

20. Work pertaining to the ambitious 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana' should be expedited. There should be neither any delay nor any disparity in allocating the Central funds to the State Governments.

21. The 'Jai Prakash Narain Fund' created by the N.D.A. Government with an amount of Rs. 75 thousand crore for agricultural and rural development should be utilized with immediate effect.

22. Early steps should be taken to expand the irrigated land upto 50 percent in the coming 10 years.

23. The implementation of project on inter linking of rivers should be started with due importance.

24. The irrigation projects lying pending for a long time should be completed in a time band manner.

25. Financial and other incentives should be given to expand speedily the small irrigation schemes, and the low cost micro irrigation system should be given priority.

26. Being guided by the philosophy 'More crop from each crop', it should be made mandatory to form water users' association for the efficient and optimum use of water.

27. The rate of interest on agriculture loan should be 6 percent which is generally equal to the rate of interest on the loans provided by the NABARD to the co-operative banks of the states.

28. The public-private investment in the agriculture sector is 1.3 percent of the GDP at present. It should be doubled in the next five years. To achieve this target, all the restrictions on agriculture, irrigation, agricultural research and development and rural infrastructure development should be removed. The public-private partnership should be encouraged at large.

29. The Government should avoid to have casual approach towards agriculture and they should also constitute a high powered national study group which would thoroughly examine the sad and unfortunate tendency of suicide amongst the farmers. The recommendations to be made by that study group should be implemented in a time-bound manner.

30. Reforms in internal trade, particularly in agricultural commodities, must be speedily implemented. Indian farmers should be free from all types of old and unnecessary controls and restrictions. Besides, all the remaining restrictions on the inter-state import-export of commodities coming in-between agriculture and industry, should be removed. An emergency provision should be incorporated in the Essential Commodities Act under which the State Government with the permission of the Union Government may, for a short period, enforce that Act in order to get rid of the lack of a particular commodity to deal with special circumstances.

Sir, lastly, I oppose the demands for grants as well as budget of the Ministry of Agriculture.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I am told that a decision was taken that the hon. Minister for Agriculture is to reply to this debate at 1530 hours, and it is 1530 hours. So, I would now call the hon. Minister for Agriculture to reply to the debate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, you should also allow us to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to ask some clarifications before the hon. Minister replies to the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Members are willing to lay their speeches, then they can lay their speeches on the Table of the House. I am saying this because a decision was taken that the hon. Minister for Agriculture will reply to the debate at 1530 hours.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I would like to ask a few clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members can lay their speeches on the Table of the House, and it will be treated as part of the proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can give five minutes each to the speaker who are left provided the hon. Minister for Agriculture is willing to accept this suggestion.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) It is fine with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Chandel, have you laid your speech on the Table of the House?

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Yes, Sir. I have just laid it on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, thank you. Shri Bir Singh Mahato.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, ten hon'ble members from each party have spoken. Shri Rajaram Pal's name is also there in the list, therefore, he may also be called on behalf of his party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If his name is there in the list, he would definitely get the time to speak, when his turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please get a copy of the speech of those who want to speak and include the same in the proceedings.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already announced this in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman Sir, the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture is perceived to be rural oriented and farmer friendly. Therefore, I rise to support the Demands for Grants. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways is to make a statement, but he will have to wait till the reply of the hon. Minister for Agriculture is over. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister for Railways can make his statement after the reply of the hon. Minister for Agriculture is over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, then the hon. Railway Minister may make his statement after the reply of the hon. Minister for Agriculture has concluded.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: I am suggesting this because the discussion should not be interrupted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Railway Minister will make his statement on the floor of the House after the reply of the hon. Agriculture is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: It will not take much time. He has to give the reply also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Sir, the Demands for Grants for 2005-2006, which has been proposed, has a hefty hike of Rs. 1,625 crore in the Central Plan outlay for agriculture and its allied activities. The Demands for Grants focuses on increasing the flow of credit, expanding irrigation facilities including macro-irrigation, and diversification in agricultural sector.

[Shri Bir Singh Mahato]

A special financial package for tax rebate has been announced for the rehabilitation of the sugar industry. I would request the hon. Minister that such type of special packages should also be introduced in the jute industry and tea industry.

The announcement regarding the creation of the National Fund for Strategic Agricultural Research, with an initial provision of Rs. 50 crore for encouraging the research work and related activities, is a welcome step. The creation of the National Horticulture Mission, which was announced in the last year's Budget and which has been launched from this year, that is, from April 2005, is also a welcome step in this direction.

The Budget has fixed a target of extending assured irrigation to 10 million hectares under the '*Bharat Nirman*' scheme, and the Budget also talks about covering 3 million hectares under the micro-irrigation system like the drip and sprinkler irrigation, etc. It is also a very useful measure for the farmers.

Hundreds of Krishi Vigyan Kendras across the country are being funded by ICAR and are also supported by the World Bank for the development of agriculture. However, these Krishi Vigyan Kendras should be restructured for taking better care of the needs of the rural poor by installing modern infrastructure and communication technology (ICT) as it would be very helpful to the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon. Chairman, Sir, you have given me the opportunity to take part in the discussions on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2005-2006 and allowed me only two minutes to speak. This much time will be consumed in the address itself so what I would be able to say within this time?

Inviting the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture, I would like to raise some important points that India is an agricultural country and even now 70 percent of its population is dependent on agriculture. Today, all the hon. members present in the House have to think as to how we would improve the condition of the farmers. We are seeing that the problem of unemployment in the country has risen and the whole country and the members from all the parties are talking about it. All the members make statements here and there and express their viewpoint. Today, I would like to say that to my opinion the problem of unemployment will be solved and there would be an increase in employment opportunities also if the farmers are given facilities. We can also boost employment through it. So far as the problem of farmers is concerned, today the farmers sometimes have to grapple with the situation of drought or flood. At times, you might have seen that there is a situation of drought. Today, the ground water level has declined to such an extent that the canals have no water, the water lifting projects are lying totally closed and even the rivers have no water. We will also have to pay special attention to the fact that we should provide at any cost the means of irrigation, where the unavailability of water is comparatively more. At the same time water supply to the farmers should be ensured by harvesting the water at different places.

Secondly, so far as the electricity is concerned, we will have to provide electricity to the farmers by generating it. Today, we have a Government, which thinks about the interest of the farmers. In Uttar Pradesh, the Hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav ji has implemented all schemes involving the farmer's interest. A number of such schemes are lying pending with the Department of Agriculture under your Ministry. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to implement these schemes by giving them priority so that in the farmer dominated regions of Uttar Pradesh, where today the farmer is grappling with the problems and who is not getting the remunerative price of his produce, the economic condition of the farmers can be improved. To my opinion, the whole country will develop in case the development takes place in Uttar Pradesh.

In addition to that, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to the fact that there is still to irrigation facility in Doaba area, situated between the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers under Parliamentary Constituency. May it be drinking water or irrigation we are still deprived of these facilities. I think that if irrigation facility is provided there, it will solve a big problem of the farmers and will also promote employment.

As far as the matter of loans to farmers is concerned, it is a common practice that. ...*(Interruptions)* the 'Sangrah Amin' and Tehsildar do this job and they torture the farmers for non-repayment of loans. The farmers should be provided some concessions like extension of time frame and the facility to repay it in installments so that he can replay the loans easily and also provide for his

family. Because of strict measures applied for repayment, the farmer is compelled to commit suicide. We have to pay serious attention to this problem. Secondly, there is a separate department for land reclamation and land conservation, which has the responsibility to make barren and uneven land fit for cultivation. This department does nothing purposeful while crores of rupees are spent on its upkeeping. We have to pay serious attention towards reclamation of all that barren and uneven land. I would like to suggest that a committee of public representatives should be constituted to identify and reclaim that barren land. To solve the problems of farmers, we can allot that land among the farmers which can be made fit for cultivation. Presently, the area of concern is that the farmers are migrating from villages to towns. Its reason is that he is not getting remunerative prices for his produce. We have to seriously think about checking that migration and to provide them employment in their respective villages. It will make them economically strong. Our farmers and our country can progress only when the budget of the country is farmer-oriented. With these words, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I have not been provided enough time, but it is necessary to pay attention to some basic facts put forward by me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If your speech is ready

[English]

you can lay on the table of the House. It will be treated as recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, it was point-wise. Had it been written in detail, I could have laid it on the table of the House.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to take part in discussion on Demands for Grants pertaining to Agriculture.

Sir, India is predominantly an agriculture country and 80 percent of its population is dependent on agriculture. Presently, farmers in all parts of the country are in distress. The politicians from the ruling as well as from the opposition side speak sympathetically about the poor and the farmers when they tour their respective constituencies during election time. But, they never take any concrete steps for their betterment. It is making their condition from bad to worse. If one makes an analysis of the achievement during the last 57 years, it will be clear that we have become self-sufficient in the area of foodgrains only. Even the credit for that goes not to any government but to the poor farmer, who has toiled hard to produce foodgrains. But, the condition of the farming community is worsening. Today, the farmer is facing starvation. The farmer is facing a lot of problems due to natural calamities like excess rain, no rain, famine, hailstorm or fire.

Sir, Uttar Pradesh is the largest state of the country, but the condition of farmers there is very pathetic. Water is essential for survival of the farmer, but the means of irrigation have dried up completely to Uttar Pradesh. The ground water level is declining rapidly there. Presently, the farmers are unable to pay their electricity bills and it is making their condition from bad to worse. Sir, I want to emphasize that there is not enough provision in the announcements made for the betterment of farmers by hon. Minister of Finance. The farmer is unable to get loan for seeds, fertilizers and agricultural equipment. It becomes a Herculean task for him. The intermediary takes more money from his as facilitation fee than the worth of his credit card. The same story is repeated when subsidy is given to the farmer for buying fertilizers and seeds. The intermediary takes a lions share from that and the farmer is unable to get any advantage. The officers and employees connected with National Literacy Mission and Barren Land improvement scheme grab ninety percent of the amount sanctioned for that scheme. Because of that, those schemes are not actually implemented. Barren Land improvement scheme, which is a good scheme, is a centrally sponsored scheme. At least, the Members of Parliament should be associated with its implementation so that money is not released without their recommendation. Only then the farmers will get benefit under this scheme sponsored by the Central Government.

I would like to bring to your notice one more thing that the road plan formulated to facilitate to and fro movement to mandi for the farmers is in a state of suspension now. Our officers are reverting those funds to other works, rather than using them for constructing roads to mandi. The farmer is not getting even his actual cost of production. Today, the sale price of agricultural product is very less as compared to its production cost the farmer is in great difficulty due to it. He is being compelled to flee from villages. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: It is generally said that no matter how good the constitution of a country is, if the intention of people implementing it is not good, then that

[Shri Rajaram Pal]

constitution will prove to be fruitless. Though the slogan of "Bahujan hitaya bahujan sukhay" has been hurled long back but the true welfare of the maximum people would take place only when 80% people living in villages are prosperous, their faces glow with the joy of prosperity and their unemployment is removed. The country will flourish when the farmer and worker of the village are prosperous.

The indications given regarding decline in the rate of production in Today's Times of India will have serious consequences. Today, the production is declining at a large scale. If the people sitting in the House do not pay attention towards the betterment of the farmers, the farmer would be forced to flee from the village, the agriculture will be ruined and the self-reliance of the whole country will be affected adversely.

A mention was made about establishing Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Sawaidpur of Hardoi district in Uttar Pradesh. But under the State Government's pursuance, proposal for reclamation of waste land was forwarded where no such experiments can be conducted. Sawaidpur is a very fertile area and any type of experiment and research can be conducted there. I demand from the hon. Minister of Agriculture that the Krishi Vigyan Kendra for Hardoi district should be established at Sawaidpur.

I have been elected from Bilhaur Parliamentary Constituency of Kanpur. 33% of the total land area in my constituency falls in the category of waste land and 50% with category of non irrigated. I demand from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that special package should be given for reclamation of waste land in my constituency, Billaur and additional arrangements should be made for the desilting of canals so that the farmers of the village can be prosperous.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Sir, I will just make some precise points due to paucity of time.

As you know, the Indian agriculture is not only just a profession to the vast majority of Indians but it is also a way of life in this country. Agriculture, as you know, employs almost 70 per cent of the country's workforce and produce a quarter of the country's Gross Domestic Produce. Most important factor in agriculture is irrigation. I am sorry to say that successive Governments have been announcing various schemes, but till today, even after 55 years of Independence, around 70 per cent of the cultivated land in this country is going without irrigation facilities. Many irrigation projects and schemes in this country are hanging since decades and not been completed.

I would like to cite one example. In my own State, in my own constituency—the hon. Minister is very well aware of it—the Aung Dam project, which would irrigate vast tracts of land in the un-irrigated area adjacent to the KBK districts, is hanging for the last 40 years. My proposal to the hon. Minister is this. Let the Government come out with a comprehensive and time-bound programme to complete all those incomplete and on-going irrigation projects within a time frame of five years. This is the most important aspect.

Many Members have discussed about the remunerative price and the minimum support price fixed by the Government. I do not know what is the parameter on the basis of which the Government decides about it. Just three or four days back, the Agriculture Prices Commission has declared the price and the Government has approved it. There is an enhancement of only Rs. 10 in so far as paddy is concerned. I think, while deciding about the remunerative price, the Government should take into consideration the labour put not only by the farmer but also by the entire family of the farmer. The Government is not taking this into account while deciding about the remunerative price.

In the Budget, the Finance Minister has proposed a very meagre amount for flood control. As you know, natural calamity is a routine phenomenon in this country. Every year, due to drought or due to floods, vast crop area gets damaged. Only Rs. 180 crore has been provided for flood control. This is a very meagre amount. My proposal is that this amount should be increased and bigger measures should be taken in so far as flood control is concerned.

I am happy and I congratulate this Government regarding announcement of credit loan in the farm sector. So far, we have not reduced the interest rate on the loans to the farmers. When the farmer is not in a position to repay the loan, how can you stop the scale of suicide in this country? Therefore, the Government has to seriously consider reducing the rate of interest on the loan extended to the farmers.

In my speech during the last Budget discussion also, I had mentioned about crop insurance. It is a faulty insurance scheme. If this insurance scheme is not coming

to the rescue of the poor farmer, there is no meaning to go on with this scheme. I appeal to the Government to amend the crop insurance scheme and declare gram panchayat as a unit instead of a *tehsil*. Therefore, whatever the Government is propagating regarding giving much importance and emphasis to agriculture, it is not consistent with what the Government is doing practically in the field. My sincere request to the Government is that it should give more emphasis on agriculture and provide more Budget allocation to it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise up to support the Demand for Grants of the Agriculture department. I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture from the core of my heart that when the budget was presented, he joined the House after increasing the rates of Kharif Crops. It has benefited lakhs of farmers of the country for which he deserves to be congratulated. The hon. Minister is well aware that all the industries. Coal Mines or other mines of Bihar went to Jharkhand when the Bihar was bifurcated and the Bihar was left to survive on agriculture only. More that 80% population of Bihar is dependent on agriculture. I request you that Bihar suffers heavy losses because of floods caused by the rivers originating from Nepal, and the economic structure of Bihar collapses due to it. As all of you know that there is a permanent problem of water logging in 10 thousand hectares of land. Every year many villages are affected from Baksar to Farakka due to soil erosion caused by the water of the river Ganga. There is no such village at the banks of the river Ganga, whose inhabitants do not have to face devastation.

The Minister of Agriculture is a capable and well known Minister of the country. He has sympathy for farmers. I request the Minister of Agriculture that either the Government of India should compensate for the damage caused to crops of the farmers there or have an effective dialogue with Nepal Government for eradicating poverty of the poor and unemployed people of North Bihar, please do something to check the floods. Previously, when this topic was discussed in the House, the NDA Government had promised and said at that time, that they will compensate and provide special package to Bihar for it. But that special package could not be given to Bihar. We keep on enduring losses caused by the rivers flowing from Nepal and where should we go if the Government of our country also does not help us.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been established in Bihar. But not even 50% of the KVK are functional. I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to inaugurate it by visiting in my constituency. A very large part of our region will be benefitted thereby. Sugar industries at our constituency have crashed down.

15.55 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

There are 32 Sugar factories in Bihar but only 7 or 8 functional at present. No new industry has been set up in Bihar after the Independence of the country. There are sugarcane and Jute farmers on Bihar but all the Industries which were based on agriculture have been closed. In such circumstances I demand the concerned Minister that these problems of Bihar may be resolved in view of paying special attention towards Bihar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Kharabela Swain. You are the last speaker in this debate. Please be brief.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I should also be allowed to speak in this debate.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot recognize you sitting there.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Thank you, Sir. The only purpose of my participating in this debate is that as the Group Leader of the Fact Finding Mission to Andhra Pradesh to investigate into the causes of the farmers' suicide, I had gone there and that is why I would make some suggestions to the hon. Agriculture Minister present here.

We met about 25 families members of the farmers who had committed suicide, and nobody told us that because of lack of credit, the farmers had committed suicide. All of them told us that they had dug wells but they failed; and there was a supply of the spurious seeds and pesticides. These were the two reasons because of which the farmers had committed suicide.

There was one Mahyco Company which was having BT cottonseeds. They were providing hybrid cottonseeds to the farmers. The brand name was Bolguard. They cheated the farmers like anything. Therefore, I would appeal to the hon. Agriculture Minister that the said company should be banned and black-listed, and if required, they should be arrested for cheating the farmers.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Another suggestion that I would like to make to the hon. Agriculture Minister is that the compensation should also be provided to the tenant farmers, which is not being provided. If they commit suicide, it should be provided to them also.

Then, as per the promise made by the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh that they would provide electricity free of cost to all the farmers, the free of cost electricity should be provided to them.

Sir, with regard to the cotton farmers, the hon. Minister would be surprised to know that 50 percent of the cotton that is brought to the godowns of the Cotton Corporation of India is arbitrarily rejected. They say that it is not up to the grade. After the farmers wait for three days, they are unable to sell it and it is rejected. When these farmers go back home, the middlemen reach there and persuade them and buy the same cotton at the rate of just Rs. 600 to Rs. 900 per quintal. Then, the same middlemen resell it to the Cotton Corporation of India. Therefore, my appeal to the hon. Agriculture Minister is that it should be ensured that Cotton Corporation of India purchase the cotton only from the farmers, and it would not be purchased from any middlemen. This should be the rule. Every cotton farmer should be provided with a certificate when he starts sowing it. Only those farmers, who show their certificates, should be able and allowed to sell their cotton.

Last but not least, I would like to make an appeal to the hon. Minister even though it is not connected with his Ministry—regarding the plight of the weavers. Those weavers who have committed suicide, should also be provided with compensation. Their traditional designs are being copied by the big industries, who after copying the designs, produce the *sarees* at much cheaper rates, with the result the *sarees* produced by the traditional weavers are not being sold. Therefore, my suggestion is that the State Governments should patent the traditional designs of the weavers so that nobody is able to copy it and produce it at a much cheaper rate.

Lastly, all the agricultural universities now should be involved for disseminating information with regard to diversification of crop stating where and what quantity of the crop should be raised. These universities should intimate all these information to the farmers.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, Several Members of the House participated in the debate held for the Demands for Grants of Agriculture and have tried seriously to put forth the problems of farmers of the country. The honorable Members who have participated in this debate, have also given a lot of good suggestions. They tried to mention here the condition of villages and the plight of seventy per cent people of the country cutting a cross party lines in the House, and I believe that there is need to improve this sector and it is essential to remove some shortcomings which have remained in this duration. Therefore, the debate held in this House will be very helpful for the Ministry of Agriculture.

The farmers of this country have significantly contributed to strengthen the country. It has been said here that today seventy percent people of the country are dependent on agriculture and contribution of agriculture sector in the national GDP is twenty four percent in exports and employment it is thirteen per cent and sixty two crore people *i.e.* fifty per cent of the population are getting employment by this sector. We can not ignore agriculture Ignoring agriculture sector is tantamount to ignoring our people of the country and the whole nation. Therefore, it is necessary to pay more attention on this sector and this issue has been raised by all speakers and I fully agree with them.

The farmers of the country have been successful in bringing about sea change in the condition of the country when we think about the problem of foodgrains and population of the country at the time of independence then we can just estimate as to low situation has changed today. In 1947 when our population was thirty five crore we used to import foodgrains from foreign countries and that situation continued up to around 70's. I remember that it was for the first time that I joined the Government in Maharashtra. I had the portfolios of Minister of state for Home and Public Distribution, Food and Seed Supplies. Draught was set in that year there. There was scarcity of foodgrains in the country and being a Minister of Food and Seed Supplies. I had to devote as much as time as I would of Bombay part because I had to wait for ships coming from foreign countries carrying foodgrains and making arrangement for unloading them and sending foodgrains to the ration shops. This situation prevailed till the year of 1970-72 and so.

Today I have been entrusted with the responsibility of Ministry of Consumers Affairs, Food and Public Distribution alongwith Ministry of Agriculture and today one of the problems before me is as to how I should ensure the quick distribution of foodgrains lying in godowns. We used to import foodgrains from foreign countries when the population was thirty five crore. I remember that in 1958 a meeting of All India Congress Committee was held in Poona and as a small worker of the party I had also attended that meeting. At that time Shri S.S. Patil was Agriculture Minister and he hailed from our state. He had delivered a speech in the meeting in which he said that now the people of India need not worry about foodgrains because he had made an agreement with America to import the wheat of variety PL-480. He further added that food grains would be imported to India as much as the country required. This situation provided between of 1957 to 1970. Today brave farmers of India have produced 212 million tones foodgrains and these the foodgrains are so surplus that we have exported foodgrains to sixteen countries this year. The farmers of India have done this job. We can never forget the responsibility of farmers. It is right that we have got great success in the field of cultivation but this is also a fact that the condition of common farmers of the country is far from satisfactory.

So, many points were raised here. As far as production is concerned, the India ranks either first or second today in many areas. Some people might have been unaware of the fact that India is the largest milk producing country in the world. India has the first position in the world in horticulture sector, secondly our country is the largest producer of bananas. India is also the largest producer of mango our country ranks second in the world in the production of wheat and rice. There are at least twenty such important items in which our country ranks first or second in the world. This progress has been achieved due to hard work of farmers of India. We can not forget it.

On one hand we see this situation and on the other hand there are also some major problems of farmers of India our production has increased tremendously and we are number one or two in production of several items in the world, but as far as yield per hectare is concerned, it is imperative to improve to some extent in that field. Today we are ranked second in the world in the production of wheat and rice but when we compare our per hectare yield with other countries, our rank is twenty eight or twenty ninth. This situation prevails in almost every field. Some farmers produce good on some places and they have succeeded them also. But we could not succeed in raising the production of common farmers. We can not ignore it. So many problems can be attributed for this situation. Around sixty per cent farming of our country is dependent on nature.

If the monsoon is good, the crops will also be good otherwise 60% of crops will be ruined. There are certain states where every year or atleast tho to three years in every five years, the drought conditions prevail. Just now Prabhunath Singh Ji and Jha Sahib have referred to Bihar that there and in some other states so much devastation is caused by the flood year after year which can not even be imagined. This is the situation we are facing.

In our agriculture sector the second problem is related to debts. This is a very serious problem. This also warrants attention. The third problem related to higher cost of agricultural production raised by several hon'ble Members is also quite enormous.

The Government of India took a number of decisions in this regard but in many states there is no provision or law for the purchase of agricultural produce and therefore, the farmers are compelled to sell their produce at non remunerative prices. At present, there is an agriculture Produce Market act in every state of the country. It needs to be implemented. A number of arrangements have been made to see whether the Agricultural Produce Market Act is being applied properly or not to the agricultural produce being brought into market by the farmers. But there are many states where there is agricultural production in abundance but there are no agricultural markets or the Agriculture Produce Market Act. The traders purchase the produce from villages at very insignificant prices. The farmers do not get reasonable returns despite working very hard and producing a lot. This problem prevails at many places.

We find that the fourth problem is with regard to insurance wherein several schemes have been launched but they require a lot of improvement. The concept of district as a whole unit was adopted. There are some districts which receive plenty of rainfall and at many places there is no availability of water at all. Under such a circumstance the districts which suffer damages cannot be extended any assistance. Corrective steps are required to be taken in this regard.

There are a number of such things. The total losses suffered during the course of movement of the agricultural

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produce from the fields to the house of the end customer or the consumer are called post-harvesting losses. These losses are upto 30%. The House would be surprised to know that Indian farmers have to incur an annual loss to the tune of Rs. 50 thousand crores as post harvesting losses. Post harvest losses of farmers are required to be minimised. We shall have to set up Agro processing units at different places. In many small countries it is not more than 3%. In a small country like Philipines there are no such losses at all where the production is 70%. In Thailand the percentage of agriculture production is 80%. Agro processing takes place there and it is exported to the world markets. The processing of agro products is upto only 3% in a large country like India. The farmers and the country have to bear losses to the tune of Rs. Several thousand crores. When the farmers have to suffer major losses they are compelled to commit suicides.

Many an hon'ble Members have very seriously raised the issue of committing suicides by the farmers. I would not like to go in details of figures. Here, mention was made about Andhra Pradesh and several other states. Several Hon'ble Members have expressed their concern in the House in this regard. I can appreciate that every Member sitting in the House has referred to incidents of suicides by farmers of the country. It hurts every body. There can be no greater grief then that. This issue has been raised time and again in the House for several years particularly for the last two years. I have tried to make a little inquiry ever since responsibility has come upon me. There had come a number of reports prior to this. I do not think that these states took proper notice of this problem. It was reported that the reason for suicides by farmers was drinking. We were told so. It was also told that they committed suicides due to their own family disputes.

Many reasons surfaced there. The condition in Andhra Pradesh is particularly serious. I entrusted an organization the task to look into the situation prevailed in Andhra Pradesh during the past 8 months. The name of the organisation is National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management. It is a very large institute of Management in Hyderabad. They were given the mandate to properly select the districts covering every region where such a situation emerged during the last 7-8 months in several districts of Andhra Pradesh. They were asked to carry out in-depth study by visiting the families of the farmers who have committed suicides and submit complete report to us in this regard. Three districts were selected under it—Ananthpur, Medhak and Prakasham. It is a limited study of the cases of suicides during the period from 14-17 May, 2004. According to the report the number of cases in the districts of Ananthpur, Medhak and Prakasham are 43, 41 and 26 respectively. Efforts were made to collect as much detailed information as we could in respect of these districts. The socio-economic profile that emerged from it was that male farmers constituted 96% of the total number of farmers who committed suicides and female farmers were not among them. It was further ascertained as to which section of the society-forward class, backward class, tribals or Dalits the farmers belonged who committed suicides. In this connection, it has been observed that among the farmers who committed suicide, there was 51 per cent belonging to forward class, 28 per cent from backward class, 15 percent from the Scheduled Castes and 7 per cent from the Scheduled Tribes. Thereafter, it was observed that the age group of the farmers who committed suicide was between 21 to 50 years and many of them were very old. It was published in the newspapers that old people committed suicide because they were instigated by their family members for that in order to get help from the government. One should not look at the problems of farmers with distorted vision.

Another important point which is noteworthy is that 57 percent of the victims were illiterate. All of them were engaged in agriculture and 58 per cent of them were working as laboures in the fields of other farmers, 22 per cent were engaged in other works also and 6 per cent of them were engaged in petty works. In addition to it, the agricultural land of 76 percent of the victims were totally dependent on monsoon for irrigation and there was no assured irrigation facility there. Among the victims, there were 11 per cent farmers from those areas where there was assured irrigation facility and 78 per cent victims were small and marginal farmers. In this way, the majority of victims were those who used to do cultivation themselves. Moreover, we have also analysed the investment made by them in agriculture. The evaluated assessment of farm assets was about two lac and thirty three thousand. It was largest in Anantpur district—three lac and thirty six thousand. In Medak district it was one lac and eighteen thousand and in Prakasham district it was one lac and seven thousand.

Adequate supply of irrigation water is a big problem. In the above mentioned district of Andhra Pradesh, the farmers tried to make arrangement of rain-well and bore-well for irrigating their fields and its average cost was 36,580 rupees. But, it was 70,190 rupees in other major

districts. The farmers tried to dig two or three bore-wells at some places and invested so much money for that purpose. Bore-wells are dug two or three times in those areas where there is no ground-water. It means that the district extension officer guiding those farmers have failed in their purpose, other-wise they need not try the same method again and again.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I would like to describe their financial position during the last three years. There was continuous drought in that area during the last three years.

[English]

Average household income declined by 93 per cent between 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04. Because of that decline, dis-saving was to the tune of Rs. 21,271 per victim during the year 2003.

[Translation]

Why did the amount of their borrowings increase and where from they got their loans?

[English]

Majority of the victim's household borrowed money from non-institutional agencies.

[Translation]

24 per cent farmers got loans from co-operative banks and the remaining 76 per cent farmers got it from private money lenders. This is just an example to show the deterioration of this system. I agree to it and would like to say that there is something needed to be done. The rate of interest of their loans was 9 to 12 per cent for commercial and co-operative banks and 25 to 36 per cent for private money-lender's money. Because of that, such a situation was created in which they could not repay their loans in time. It resulted into an average loan amount of 2 lac and 50 thousand per hectare in the name of every victim. From the above illustration, it becomes clear that only those farmers have suffered who had taken loans from private money-lenders. We must do something concrete in view of the above mentioned situation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some innovative steps are needed to be taken in view of all this situation. The problem is not confined to only three or four districts of Andhra Pradesh; it is widespread and other states of the country are also suffering. We are ready to see the details of other states also and its responsibility was given to some persons. But, it has become clear from the above-mentioned fact that there are compelling reasons which drive the farmers towards taking such a drastic step. This problem can not be solved just by solving the problem of drought and flood, we want that the farmers should get benefits from the schemes launched by the Government, but there is no proper environment in which they can get those benefits.

I have collected the data of last ten years about the money provided in the budget for irrigation purposes. Prior to this year, the government have never made provision of more than 35 per cent for irrigation from the total budget plan.

[English]

Last year, the total provision was somewhat near to Rs. 2300 crore and the total provision for drought, the subject which I am myself handling, was something like Rs. 3500 crore.

[Translation]

It means that the provision for drought is more than the provision for irrigation. I am happy that for the first time the Government had made an allocation of Rs. 4000 crore for irrigation so that improvement can be expected in that field. Besides, there is a need to revive those irrigation projects which have been closed many years ago and it is also needed to correct the deficiencies of ever continuing projects. We have to pay more attention to irrigation in view of all the conditions explained above. I am glad that the U.P.A. Government under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji would give proper attention towards it and would strive to give it importance.

Mr. Speaker, a statement has been made here with regard to the prices of our agricultural produce. We have adopted in our country a system of Agriculture Price Commission for the last few years. The guidelines in this regard have been formulated. This House has recognised and approved these guidelines several years back not prices are fixed according to that. I agree to the point put forth by Naidujee here that the per quintal cost incurred per hectare is less in several states. The rough estimate put forth before the Govt. of India by the Agriculture Price Commission was quite high with major differences among many states. The Agriculture Price Commission of the State Governments and collects

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information with the help of some NGOs and people of the private sector and strives to present a price before the country and the Government of India accepts it. This Government has this year increased the prices wherever it was needed but an effort has been made to put a higher price on certain items among which the oilseeds are the main item. More price has been put for the oilseeds because today we import oil amounting to Rs. 20 thousand crores. We want to check its import into this country. If we want to succeed in this regard, we need to help the farmers in the production of oilseeds and so efforts have been made to give a higher price to this item.

Sir, so far as Government is concerned, it is true that earlier procurement used to take place in two-three states of the country. Over the last few years Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh have made a huge contribution in solving the foodgrain problems of the country. But a change in pattern was required and therefore we have launched a procurement plan at a large level in the country in a decentralized form. Now, procurement has been initiated in 16 states and this would not affect the total procurement of Punjab, Haryana and Western U.P. We will complete its total procurement. We have arranged for the total procurement of produce that the farmers over there would give to the Government. But one point came into my mind that around Rs. 120 to Rs. 150 of transport cost per quintal is incurred when rice is transported to Tamil Nadu from Punjab. So, I think that instead of burdening the railways and incurring on expenditure of Rs. 150 per quintal in transportation, it better to encourage the farmers of Tamil Nadu. Probably they could produce paddy there itself if they are paid a bit more. This would result in more production over those with the farmers getting a bit more remunerative price thereby alleviating the problem of the people. As such, we have taken a good initiative and I am sure that the state Government would properly cooperate in this regard.

So far as the question of credit is concerned, this Government within 15 days of taking over the charge decided to make available more money to the farmers so as to improve the credit system of the country.

[English]

Up to last year the total money which was provided for agriculture credit was something like Rs. 80,000 crore. During the year 2004-05 the target fixed was Rs. 1,04,500 crore. Till 20th February, 2005 the total amount which was already disbursed is Rs. 1,04,718 crore.

[Translation]

This Government has got the target of 100 per cent achieved. Agricultural credit at such a vast level had never been given in this country so far after independence which has been given this year. This year and in the next season we have made an effort to make a 30 percent increase in this and I am confident that we will be successful in this regard. So far, total agricultural credit used to take place through cooperative sector. This year, the total credit made available is of Rs. 1,06,000, out of which the share of the co-operative sector is only 27 per cent. It was earlier 54 per cent which denotes that the share of the co-operative sector is declining. There are 141 such district co-operative lands in the country which have received notices under section 11 of the Reserve Bank and disbursement of funds in their districts has been stopped. There are six such co-operative banks in the country which have received notices under the section 11 and disbursement of credits to the farmers in the state through such co-operative bank has been called off. Until we strengthen the structure of co-operatives and make the societies strong in the villages, the villages will fail to receive credit. I have never observed the nationalized banks and commercial banks remaining open for the common man. That's why the common and small farmers are not properly welcomed over there and loans for them are not granted. Therefore, we would have to strengthen the structure of the cooperative sector by any method. A committee called Vaidyanathan Committee had been constituted for this purpose. The committee has submitted its report and I hope that based on the report of this committee, we would invest at least Rs. 14 thousand crore in the next three-four months to strengthen the weak position of the District Central Cooperative Bank and state Cooperative Bank and that money would be spent for giving credit to the farmers through the Co-operative Bank sector. This is major step suggested in the report. ...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, some other measure would have to be taken.

I have to admit that I was, hitherto, aware of one thing which Prabhunathji and several hon. Members have stated. In several states there are such laws for recovery in which there is a provision to arrest the farmers in case they turn defaulters. If they are imprisoned for six months or a year after the arrest, the total expenditure of their imprisonment is also recovered from them. This was also recovered from them. This is quite strange. How can it be possible? But we have heard so.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: It is happening in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Can you name the States where it is happening? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Name the states where it exists.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: According to the information I have got, it is happening in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

If there is a separate law, I have collected that information. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has very fairly said.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have collected that information when I heard from here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, the hon. Minister will now make investigation.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This thing has been stated.

[English]

Then, I will try to collect information. I could not collect information from all the States. But, I got a communication that, at least, there are three States, namely, Bihar, UP and Haryana, where this type of legislation is there. I got three names.

[Translation]

SHRI FURKAN ANSARI (Godda): You speak about Jharkhand, please.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have taken up the responsibilities of Maharashtra for many years and Mumbai is the city of the country having maximum industrial production. Mumbai is the city of hard working people and so far we have not seen any instance of recovering even a single penny by arresting the owners of the industrial laws who have taken the loan of crores of rupees from the nationalised bank and other banks. If this thing is taking place in the country today, then it is really a matter of shame. It has to be set right. I will personally look into the matter. It is taking place, I will talk with the Government and well try to put an end to it and make it sure that such a situation does not happen again.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Chhapra): Some provision should be made for this.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The recovery is made in all the countries. How can we send the farmers to Jail? What reputation of the farmers will have in the country?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): It is very shameful for Bihar.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Might be! But, I will go into details. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair. Please sit down. The hon. Minister has assured that he will himself look into it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: It is a very shameful thing, and the Government should ask the State Governments to scrap all such laws. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has been very fair. He has himself said that he will personally look into it. He has expressed his great concern and we share his concern; every section of the House shares his concern.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please no cross talks. It is a very important subject; it is a very important issue.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have to pay a lot of attention to several areas. The government under the leadership of the Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh

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has accorded more priority to agricultural sector than ever before. In several areas, more provisions have been made. It has been stated that we are ignoring the research work because a provision of only Rs. 50 crore has been made for the purpose. Shri Sumanji has stated so. Perhaps, he does not have the complete information. We have made a separate provisions of Rs. 50 crore for the research work. For total agricultural research a provision of more than Rs. one thousand crores has been made and it is much more than the third year. We have made a new provision of Rs. 50 crores because Dr. Swaminathan Committee, constituted therefor, has recommended the same. There are several agricultural colleges and Universities in this country and many young students are engaged in the research work. There is a need for a separate fund to encourage them and for this purpose, the provision of Rs. 50 crores has been made. This is just a beginning. There is a need for providing more money for this purpose which will be done from the next year. I will try my best for the same. We are not ignoring the agricultural research and can not do so as more than 80 institutions are working in the country today.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): What are the recommendations of the standing committee in this regard?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The farmers have made a significant contribution in the progress of this country. our hon'ble members from Punjab have suggested to give permission for the usage of BT Cotton. Recently, a delegation of the members from Punjab came to meet me and they unanimously to pay attention towards the use of BT Cotton for transgenic crops because it can have an adverse effect on the environment the human being and the animal and we can allow to use it only after putting it to trial for seven-eight years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that in several countries of the world the production has increased because of BT Cotton. In our country, several states have been permitted to produce BT Cotton. However, in Punjab the farming of BT Cotton has not been allowed. It is so because in the area of Punjab on Pakistan's side adjoining the Punjab on our side, the BT Cotton has been inflicted with some type of discard and if we allow in farming in Punjab, the disease may spare to our Punjab also from there and if it happens, it will lad to a large loss to farming in Punjab. Therefore, it was a proposed to be allowed only after examining it seriously. But I would like to assure the House that all the experts have been consulted and this problem will be solved this year easily. We would take steps to make a new seed available to the farmers of Punjab and your problem will be sorted out this year itself.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Please, also make it clear as to why BT Cotton is being opposed in some places of India?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have received some reports from Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, a report about two Varieties of BT Cotton has been received wherein it is mentioned that these are causing damage there. We are examining it as to why it is happening. Four or five new varieties have also been released. Their results are to be seen. I think that we have to go through this way. When we talk of increasing the yield per hectare, we have to purchase some kind of seeds which may be costly because it helps in increasing the yield per hectare. Assistance has to be provided in this regard. It is also a fact that it is being opposed in many countries of the world. But, I have observed that in a country like China, 90 per cent of farming is being done through the B.T. Cotton system. Some countries like Brazil, Mexico and America, where they have taken 80-90 percent of their area for transgenic crops, have done very good work in this regard and got success. But, in Europe, it is being widely opposed. We have to see to it. There is a problem of food security in India. But our country has the biggest problem in enhancing per hectare yield. Keeping this in view, it becomes our duty that we should provide assistance in this regard and we have done so too.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have spoken of agriculture credit as well as co-operative sector. 60 per cent of our country's farming depends on nature and monsoon. Attention has been paid to this aspect also. To pay more attention towards it, special emphasis has been given on two-three programmes. As I said, more provision has been made for irrigation this year. Besides, provision of allocation of maximum funds as against the previous allocations has been made for dry land farming and micro irrigation. Shrimati Puranedshwari Devi Ji has said that provision of only 400 crore rupees has been made. It is a meagre amount. It is a fact that it is a small amount but I would like to tell that 90 crore rupees were provided for micro irrigation last year. We have enhanced it from 90 crore rupees to 400 crore rupees this year. In regard to micro irrigation, the Planning Commission as well as the hon. Minister of Finance have assured me that they are ready to provide us as much funds under this item

as we utilize. So, you please don't displeased over the provision of 400 crore rupees. For this, the Union Government are also ready to provide Rs. 1000 or 1200 crore to the states and they are ready to provide assistance in every manner. We have accepted the recommendation of the committee headed by Shri Chandra Babu Naidu. The Union Government are ready to provide the required funds to implement these recommendations. The State Governments need to pay more attention in this regard. There is shortage of water. So, to make a good use of water, there's a need to introduce micro system in the Country. Hence, we have done it to assist in that work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our colleagues from Punjab have said that there is a need to bring about improvement or change in the quality of crops in many areas and states. I agree with them to their point that there is a need to bring in improvement or change in the quality of crops. Our total requirement for the rice is met within the country. But, there is no scope of taking low quality paddy in a number of states. It needs to be improved. It has been seen that poverty prevails in those areas of the country where only one crop of paddy is grown. The condition of the farmer there is not good. He is leading a miserable life. He is poor. We have to think over it and change such circumstances. We have started a horticulture mission this year to provide more assistance to the farmers of such places and I am happy that huge funds have been provided for this purpose. A suggestion to improve the environment has come here. To avoid soil erosion, Shri Prabhu Nath Singh Ji had informed of giving the subsidy to plant growers. In the horticulture mission, it has been decided to provide upto 50 per cent of amount for this. But who is to be benefited? Suppose, a farmer grows hundred plants there. Then he would have to see to it that atleast 90 per cent of them are alive after two year. Then he would get assistance. A step has been taken to boost the horticulture mission on a large scale. A provision of very huge funds has been made therein. The State Government has thought of providing the required funds for this. I am sure that it can change the circumstances.

Sir, it is the speciality of the soil of our country that some kind of fruit does grow every month in each of its states. Just see the Europe, nothing grown there but it is not so in any state of our country. Something certainly grown in every season in each of the States of our country. If we endeavor to produce on a large scale in agriculture sector, it would earn credit to India in the world scenario and help our farmers earn a lot from other countries of the world. So, we have laid trust on this sector. When we had a study on cases of suicides, we came to know one thing that in many states, the farmers did not commit suicide despite critical circumstances and drought there. We found that the farmers who have any supplementary income in addition to their occupation of farming, did never think about committing suicide. That supplementary income may be from dairy farming, fishery or acquaculture. That is why we have given thrust on dairy farming in this budget. But to achieve success in this regard, we have to keep in mind that India is at present the biggest producer of milk in the world, but the per capita lactation is the lowest here. There is a need to improve the breed of the animals. That is why, a very comprehensive scheme on genetic improvement of animals breeds has been included in the budget and we have made up our mind to pay more attention to those states of the country where a major part of their population lives below the poverty line. Besides, the Government have proposed to set up new organisation in the fisheries sector too in line with dairy sector where the National Dairy Development Authority was established many years ago which executed the Operation Flood Scheme. And the implementation of this scheme resulted in white revolution in the country. The Government are prepared to provide more assistance to dairy sector by making a big provision in this sector.

We will make arrangement for it during this year. Because it is a sector which provide more employment opportunity to the women and the poor people of the society can get benefit of it. We have paid attention to it also. We may produce as such as we can, but the farmers would not get any benefit until we make proper arrangement for marketing. Therefore, this Government have also proposed to make amendments in the Agricultural Produce marketing Act. We had convened a conference of the Marketing Ministers of all the states and I am happy that all the states have agreed to make amendments in the APMC Act. The raring amendments we want do bring in this Act include the farmers would have do bring this produce to the market set up by APMC under the Agriculture Produce Market Act. There is no such produces in the country who have the right to sell his produce at one place only. If some one has manufactured oil engine or cloth, he can sell it anywhere in the country. In the same way it all depend upon the farmers that can also their produce anywhere in the country. Therefore, we have prepared to bring about improvement in it. The farmer would have right to sell

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

his produce in that 'Mandi' where he get more remunerative price. This improvement has been made in it and we have prepared to bring about improvement in this regard in 16 states. These states are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)* Bihar is not included in it, as there are no 'Mandis' in Bihar. Therefore, the work to set up 'mandis' is to be carried in Bihar. We would like to provide the money, for the setting up of village 'Mandi'. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. Unless he yields, you cannot speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINOD KHANNA (Gurdaspur): Sir, I want to ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask a clarification later on.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The lowest amount of central fund has been given through Agriculture Produce Market Act to Bihar. There is a need to bring about improvement in this regard and therefore we would like to introduce a special scheme to develop market yard in Bihar. Because, there is no arrangement to provide remunerative prices of their produce to farmers in Bihar, as there is no such a market there. There is need to pay attention to it and we will definitely provide assistance in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Sir, I want to know one thing.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity to seek a clarification.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, not now. Unless he yields, you can not speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is one more thing in it. You would remember that commodity market has huge success in our country. It has oilseed exchange, cotton exchange and foodgrain exchange. Markets have been set up at many places and several new organisations have been formed in this country such as forward market commission, which is also called as 'Vayda Bazaar' in Hindi. This very old tradition was prevalent in the country. What is the system of forward marketing, please try to understand it. Supposing one is providing groundnut and is getting Rs. 500 per quintal for this. In the forward market its sale is repeated as to what would be its respective price in December, January and February. Suppose today, one gets Rs. 500 per quintal of his produce. Its price may increase from Rs. 500 to Rs. 700 in December. We would like to empower the farmer so that they can also sell their produce in December or throughout the year. Therefore, we want to make amendments in the Act for this purpose. By making amendment in the Negotiable Instrument Act we will be enable to store the commodity in the Godown. Today, the trader get the benefit of the forward marketing we have made arrangement, for bringing about improvement in this regard so that the producer can get the said benefit. We have introduced this system from the current year. Therefore, by making amendment in the Negotiable Instrument Act that stock would have to be kept in the godowns of the warehouse corporation and other corporation. After keeping this commodity in the warehouse 80 or 90 per cent price of the commodity would be paid to the farmer. After making payment of 90 per cent price, they will have to be given commodity in December as per the promise made earlier. In this way they will get more money. After deducting warehouse charges, the remaining amount would be paid to the farmers. Today, the hoarder and middlemen get its benefit. We would like to bring about improvement to provide this benefit to the farmers. We would like to introduce it in some states in the month of June. We would like to introduce it in the 5 or 6 states already selected for the same where the market base is good. The farmers will get total information on the computer through the internet about day to day price of each produce. He will also get the information about expected price in the next month in the modest self. The farmer will come to know about the position of today's and tomorrow's price of all the markets of the country when he will take this produce in the market. We would like to bring about this good improvement and we have made arrangements in this regard. There are some areas where there is need to change a lot. Seed Act is to be amended for this purpose the case was referred to the standing committee. The Government have received suggestions of the standing

committee. The Government would take steps urgently, as we have to bring about change in many areas.

We shall pay attention in this regard as to how the farmers would be benefited of the technology and new system developed for agriculture sector. We shall also endeavour that these facilities reach the rural people. The government will focus on this area. In the Common Minimum Programme importance has been given to all these areas and it is our duty to act in this regard. I would like to assure the House; and through the House also the farmers of the country that we would not waste our time into looking only the lapses of previous years. The Government will try their best to remove the shortcomings. This process would be introduced in this year. Therefore, in this budget the government have made higher allocation in comparison with the previous years. The House should approve and adopt the demands for grant. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am just trying to make the hon. Minister aware of something that has just recently happened in Punjab. He has taken up so many reforms on hand, he has done such a wonderful job and what he has said is really appreciated.

Sir, I have just come back from my constituency. We have fruits and vegetables markets there and they have all been privatised now. They have gone into the hands of private parties. Just as in the case of octroi, where private parties collect octroi, they have done the same thing in the case of fruits and vegetable markets also. They have privatised all the markets. So, the people who bought these markets.

[Translation]

They are acting arbitrarily. They charge arbitrary fee from anyone who enters into the market.

[English]

They value the goods according to their sweet will.

[Translation]

If the price of one apple is two rupees, they label its price as Rs. 10. They charge tax on that price you should find out solution to these incidents.

[English]

I do not think such fruits and vegetables markets should be privatised. These people are not just taking money. They are threatening people and they are extorting money from them.

[Translation]

If you do not give us money then we will not allow you to enter in the market.

[English]

So, these kind of things are also happening.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please note it down. You can answer later on.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Market would be regulated by the Market Act. In this way the facilities and safeguards provided to the farmers will continue and alongwith it we would also like to permit other markets for competition. The farmers will not go into that market again where they are looted. We would like to introduce both these systems so that the farmers could be benefited.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that Maharashtra witnessed heavy rainfall and Mango, Kokam and Cashew nut crops were destroyed in Konkan area. The hon. Minister belongs to Maharashtra I would like to know whethere the government will give compensation to the farmers of Maharashtra who have suffered losses.

My second question is that the farmers are committing suicide, today. I would like to know whether the farmers after taking loan from the banks, has been able to sow the crops properly. Due to heavy rainfall or in the absence of rainfall his crops do not grow properly and he can't repay the loan and he is declared defaulters. Due to it, the incidents of suicide by farmers are increasing. I, through you, would like to request the hon. Minister that he should talk with the Ministry of Finance to get the extension for payment of loan for a period of one year so that the farmers are not compelled to commit suicide. There is need to consider in this regard.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, mine is a small question.

MR. SPEAKER: Only that member will get a chance to raise a question where name is included in the list.

[English]

Be assured of it. I cannot call all 544 hon. Members to seek clarification. Please let me regulate it at least sometime. Give some freedom to the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): During the discussion, I submitted that sugarcane used to be grown on large scale in Bihar but it is a matter of regret that gradually sugarcane cultivation has come to an end. As a result of this the sugar mills of Bihar are lying closed.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not deliver a speech. Raise question only.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I would like to know why thus the hon. Minister propose to provide financial assistance to sugarcane growers so that the mills lying closed are able to be revived.

The other thing that I said is that as per the record there are hundred procurement centres in Bihar. Only two or four procurement centres as located in Bihar. It is causing a lot of inconvenience to the farmers. It should be ensured that all the hundred procurement centres are opened and if necessary, arrangement should be made to open more procurement centres so that the farmers could get more assistance.

17.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Agriculture has given a good reply, particularly, regarding farmers committing suicide and the reasons behind it in Andhra Pradesh.

But two things are very important. The amendment of Seeds Act is pending since many years. It needs no financial involvement. I would like to know when the Government is bringing forward this legislation to the House. Secondly, the Acquaculture Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha and it was referred to the Standing Committee. That Bill is also pending. A lot of agitation by the Acquaculture farmers is going on. I would like to know whether the Bill would be brought forward to the Parliament for consideration and passing.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, today, West Bengal is producing potatoes more than its demand. There is a great demand from various countries like Singapore, Thailand, Japan and China. They want to import potatoes from West Bengal. There is a demand for export subsidy also. Today, there is no export subsidy for export of potato.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Agriculture, in order to assist the farmers of West Bengal, who are producing more potatoes, whether the Government would consider providing export subsidy to the farmers of West Bengal for export of potato. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only those who reserved first are getting and later hand raising will not help.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to thank the hon. Minister that he has realised the problems of the farmers. I would like to ask the hon. Minister a question. In his speech he has said that three type of people are dependent on agriculture under the first type, they are prosperous farmers who send this produce to other areas, the second one consists of the farmers who produce foodgrains for their own annual consumption and the third are the people belonging to labours class. Two categories of people are suffering a great loss due to the manner in which the cost of production is increasing. I would like to know as to how to reduce the cost of production as well as the cost borne by the farmers for their produce. I would like to know whether the Government would take any action to make diesel available to the farmers on subsidized rate or on a rate equal to that of Kerosene oil for the purpose of ploughing their fields and for irrigation according to their land holdings, by issuing Kissan Credit Cards to the farmers in view of daily rise in the prices of diesel.

The use of to chemical fertilizers is prosing health hazard for humans and it is also taking a total on the life expectancy. So, has any survey been carried out to find out the extent of hazards of these fertilizers on human life? If so, the details thereof; and if not; the Government should get a survey conducted. Are the Government

taking any initiative to find out as to how more and more organic fertilizers could be used in agriculture? Please give all the details thereof.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, growing crop involves a huge cost for the farmer but when they are about to ripe, sometimes they get destroyed by flood or drought and the farmers suffer a great loss. The norms of providing compensation to the farmers dates back to British period. Some farmers suffer a loss of lacs of rupees. But as compensation, they are paid three hundred rupees, five hundred rupees or one thousand rupees. In to day's changing scenarios, this meagre amount is insignificant.

Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to change the old parameters fixed for the compensation of loss suffered by the farmers?

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, the hon. Minister gave a very good reply and he also put the Agriculture Policy of his Government on the floor of the House. He also announced regarding the second Green Revolution in the form of Horticulture Mission.

Here, I would like to get a clarification from the hon. Minister. While the hon. Minister was speaking, he admitted that it is a fact that nearly 60 per cent of present horticulture produce is getting wasted. As the preservation system and the preservation facilities in the country are not there, thereby, the farmers are losing it. Therefore, will the Government take immediate steps to refurbish the food preservation industry on a big scale?

Secondly, as agriculture is such a vast subject, it touches the nook and corner and every citizen of the country. Here, I would like to know whether the CII (Confederation of Indian Industries) and Federation of farmers have given a proposal to the Government to take agriculture in the Concurrent List or not. ...*(Interruptions)* It is because agriculture is such an important subject. Today, we are a part of the WTO. It concerns our food subsidy, agriculture produce subsidy and certain other things.

MR. SPEAKER: You said that you would be very brief. This is not a substitute for speech. Only seek some clarifications please. I have already given you enough time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then, I will call the hon. Minister. I will call him if you do not cooperate with the Chair. Shrimati C.S. Sujatha. Just a minute. I am trying to give chance to all the sides.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): In Kerala, there is an unprecedented situation due to the failure of the Government of Kerala to procure paddy. Will the Government consider procuring paddy from the farmers of Kerala?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKHLAL MANJHI (Akbarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Agriculture has just given an reply in which mention has been made about very good provision for the farmers. For this, he deserves our congratulation. I would like to urge upon the Minister of Agriculture to bring down the rate of interest on agriculture loan. At present this rate is 13 to 14 percent where as the commercial rate is 8 to 9 percent. The farmers are helpless, so they have to give interest of the rate of 13 to 14 per cent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. I compliment you on your maiden intervention.

Shri Ramdas Athawale.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will go to the hon. Minister, if you want to pressurize me. Give him one chance. I have sent him back.

Shri Athawale, address me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sugar industry in Maharashtra is in existence for years. But today a number of sugar factories are being closed down in Maharashtra. I would like to tell the Government that there's a need to provide financial assistance to the sugar industry though the NCDC. I would like to know whether the Government would provide financial assistance to the sugar industry.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I would like to raise two points.

MR. SPEAKER: Be brief.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Firstly, I would like to know whether the Ministry of Agriculture is interested to monitor the States to implement the Land Reforms Programme, which has been denied so far in most of the States.

Secondly, I would like to know whether the Minister of Agriculture is envisaging to set up a National Agriculture Commission for protecting the interest of the agriculture and the kisans of our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Lastly, Shri Kharabela swain.

He cooperated with me earlier. That is why he is getting a chance. This is the certificate, this is the prize that he is getting.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: My question is this. Would it be possible to reduce the rate of interest on agriculture credit disbursed through the cooperatives?

Secondly, will the Government ensure that the Cotton Corporation of India do not reject any cotton brought in by the farmers?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No more Members please. Please co-operate. I have given more than full opportunity. Time is important. If we had more time, we could have allowed more Members. No more 'Sir', please.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The hon. Member, Shri Yerrannaidu has raised certain issues. This is regarding the Seed Bill. The Seed Bill is right now with the Standing Committee. We are waiting for the final report from the Standing Committee. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Ram Kirpal Yadav.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: About Aquaculture Bill, as per today's programme, I think I will be able to present this Bill probably in the next week either in this House or in the other House. But this is absolutely ready. That is listed on the agenda.

[Translation]

Ram Kripal Ji has said that all the procurement centres are open in Bihar, but there's no procurement at those centres. As per the information available with me, some of the procurement centres are open and we shall do the needful and manage to start the procurement where these centres are still not open. If the hon. Member feels that there is need of opening such a centre at some particular area, we shall also manage to open there if you could only propose to us the name of that particular area.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have got a very good answer.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: So far as the sugar factories are concerned, most of them fall under the private sector. It is very difficult for us to take the responsibility of these sugar mills. But, as far as sugar mills of the Government of Bihar are concerned, they have given in the proposal for their rehabilitation. Hence, we can provide assistance for their sugar development fund. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the hon. Minister's reply.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: All the sugar mill owners have the right to contribute to Sugar Development Fund. We shall pay attention to such proposals. As far as the statement of Basudeb Acharya Ji about potato export is concerned, it is true. A meeting was indeed held in my office. The demand for our export is there and the production is also very much. We have given two suggestions and perhaps we shall take final decision on this issue by tomorrow. The first suggestion is about making improvement in the subsidy being provided through 'APEDA' and in addition to that, we shall try to provide relief to the farmers through NAFED or some other organization by making some arrangement for procurement of surplus production and taking advantage of market intervention scheme.

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*Not recorded.

As far as the statement of Prabhunath Singh Ji about bio-fertilizer and chemical fertilizer is concerned, it has come to light after conducting studies that

[English]

Per hectare utilisation of chemical fertilise is one of the lowest in India.

[Translation]

But, it is also true that about a separate scheme has been created about bio-fertilizer and the government will try to encourage bio-fertilizer and we are ready to assist that scheme.

As far as the statement of Shri Ramji Lal Sumanji is concerned,

[English]

regarding the assistance for the farmers where either there is a flood or drought, all the norms are not very old. I think they were recently revised about five or seven years back. But we have prepared some proposals on that and we are going to take in the NDC and then we will take a final view in the Chief Ministers' meeting and then a final decision will be taken.

About procurement of paddy in Kerala, that particular subject was brought to my notice and I have sent a communication to the Government of Kerala that they should start purchasing. Whatever paddy the State Government will buy, the Food Corporation of India will purchase it from the Government of Kerala. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The financial responsibility will be taken up by the Food Corporation of India. There is no problem. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Mr. Suresh Kurup, it will not be recorded. You cannot compel the Minister.

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: If the Government of Kerala is not procuring the paddy, I will send the FCI team there. The FCI will go there.

MR. SPEAKER: But no intervention of Mr. Suresh Kurup will be recorded. The answer will remain and not the question.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Kharabela Swain and some other hon. Members have raised the issue of the rate of interest for agriculture credit. You see, the commercial banks and others have accepted the Government's suggestion to keep it up to nine per cent. We have discussed with the co-operative banks. Their problem is that they have taken deposits at a higher rate. That is why, they are not ready to accept that suggestion.

The cooperative banks have collectively communicated to me that it will take another two to three years when their deposits will mature. Then they will be able to reduce the interest rate. So, it will take another two to three years. But the commercial banks are ready to take the responsibility at the rate of 9 per cent. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the hon. Members will appreciate a comprehensive reply and a very accommodating attitude of the hon. Minister. I appreciate.

I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the order paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the first column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

Demands for Grants—Budget (General) for 2005-2006 in respect of Ministry of Agriculture voted by Lok Sabha

No. & Name of Demand		Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 17, 2005		Amount of Demands for Grants Submitted to the Vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Agriculture					
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	957,53,00,000	72,16,00,000	3374,37,00,000	10,64,00,000
2.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	315,33,00,000		1626,67,00,000	
3.	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	150,91,00,000	3,37,00,000	759,56,00,000	16,85,00,000

The motion was adopted.

17.16 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Collision between Sabarmati Express and goods train on Vadodara Division of Western Railway

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Lalu Prasad.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Railways has given a wrong statement. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. I have called Shri Lalu Prasad to make a Statement. Nothing else will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am doing it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not helping him. I will request the hon. Member to please allow the Railway Minister. He is referring to the Railway accident.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not helping him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Railway Minister is obliged to make a statement on the Railway accident.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: He can look after himself. He does not need your help.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to his statement.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: It is with deep anguish that I apprise the House of an unfortunate rear end collision that occurred between 9168 UP Sabarmati Express and a goods train which was stationed at up loop line on Godhra-Vadodra section of Western Railway's Vadodra Division at 03.10 hrs. on 21.4.2005. Due to that accident the train again and 8 coaches derailed and 7 of those derailed coaches turned turtle. As soon the information regarding accident was reclined, Accident Relief Medical Vans from Vadodra. Ratlam and Ahmedabad along with teams of doctors were rushed to the accident site. Accident Relief Train along with a team of officers was also rushed to the accident site from Vadodra via Ratlam, Kankaria and Udhna. The injured have been admitted to Sayaji Rao Hospital, Vadodra and other adjoining hospitals. I, alongwith Shri Narainbhai J. Rathwa, Minister of State for Railways, Chairman, Railway Board and other officers visited the accident site and met some injured passengers and their family members.

In that accident 16 person including the driver and assistance driver of the Express train have died so far and the number of injured persons therein is 137. Among the injured 36 persons are seriously injured and 102 persons have minor injuries.

Sir, I have made an announcement that the dependents of the deceased will get a compensation of Rs. One Lakh, the seriously injured persons will get 15,000 rupees and persons with minor injuries will get 5,000 rupees as compensation. In addition to that, the dependents of the deceased will receive 4 lac rupees from Railway Claims Tribunal and the injured persons will also receive the amount as is determined by the Tribunal. The dependents of the deceased and as well as those persons who have become handicapped due to that accident will be provided employment in Railway Department. I have given directions that the Railway department will provide free treatment to the injured persons and after their treatment is complete they will be sent to their respective hometowns at Railway's expenses. Persons with minor injuries have been provided first aid before being sent to their destination along with other passengers by a special train from the site of the accident.

Sir, prima facie the cause of the accident seems to be grave dereliction of duty on the post of concerned railway employees. The railway employs prima facie found guilty have been suspended. Commissioner of Railway Safety, western circle has inspected the accident site and initiated the investigation regarding the cause of the accident.

Sir, regretfully I have to inform that when I was going to meet the injured passengers in Sayagi Hospital, Vadodara, the workers of Bajrang Dal, Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh and Vishwa Hindu Parishad shouted slogans against me ..*...* and broke the wind screen of my car and tried to assault me physically. They also pointed water bottles and ice-cubes at me.

The Chairman, Railway Board and other officers of the board were also stoned. *...(Interruptions)*.*...* I was assaulted. *...(Interruptions)*. There was a negligence on the part of State Government there. *...(Interruptions)* The police did nothing and remained as mute spectator *...(Interruptions)* It is significant in this regard that my Additional Private Secretary saw some people moving towards the car with a Jerrycan filled with petrol and a matchbox with the motive to set the car on fire. A Minister and the Members of Bajrang Dal and RSS made a fatal attack on my life. *...(Interruptions)*, but they could not succeed in their attempt. In the Hospital complex an ex-minister of Government of Gujarat and workers of Bajrang Dal, Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh and Vishwa Hindu Parishad were*...**(Interruptions)* Because of discourteous behaviour and the chaotic situation created by them, I could not meet some injured passengers admitted in the hospital. In this situation, I decided to leave the hospital. In the presence of some ministers of the Government of Gujarat, the workers of Bajrang Dal, Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh and Vishwa Hindu Parishad caused obstruction on the site of accident also during the inspection. *...(Interruptions)* The district administration did not make proper security arrangements and they remained a mute spectator during the whole incident. There was a situation of total anarchy there. The Western Railway has lodged a FIR in this Raopura police station about the incident.

I, on behalf of the Indian Railway and myself, express deep condolence towards the family members of the

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... Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

passengers killed in the accident and the injured passengers. ...*(Interruptions)**...* Bajrang Dal*...*...*(Interruptions)* I would like to tell the House that we have our full sympathy towards the people who have been killed. ...*(Interruptions)* I am quite sure that the whole House will join me in expressing the condolence towards the bereaved families. I would like to assure the House once again that the injured passengers will be given all out help and strict action will be taken against the incumbents and the employees found guilty after enquiry. Railway Safety and Security are our fore most priority and all out efforts would be made to check the recurrence of such ill-fated accidents in future. *...*...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): False allegations have been made on Gujarat Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Gujarat Government is being defamed and it can lead to an adverse impact on the business there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has made his statement. We are now coming to the Budget Discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Minister of Railway should resign after the charges have been framed against him...*(Interruptions)* His resignation in constitutionally and legally necessary ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. That chapter is over. This is Budget Discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I want to start the discussion on Demands for Grants.

...*(Interruptions)*

... Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you disturbing? You are a very senior Member of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are indulging in shameful behaviour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House would now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 79 to 81 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am requesting you to take your seats so that we can start the discussion on the Demands for Grants. Do you not want it?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will see that you would have to learn. You have to learn.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not go to your seats?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What you people are talking?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are all indulging in shameful behaviour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members from both sides are indulging in shameful behaviour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting hon. Members from both sides to please go to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, is Lalooji giving his resignation or not? *...(Interruptions)* Charges have been framed against him. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking of? He has made a statement with my permission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a shameful behaviour. You should be ashamed of yourself.

...(Interruptions)

17.24 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET—2005-2006— DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Ministry of Rural Development

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 16—Discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 79 to 81 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Only those cut motions will be treated as moved.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is his name?

[English]

What is his name? Please do not compel me to take any unpleasant action.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Prime Minister should seek resignation from Lalooji. *...(Interruptions)* We are staging a walk out.

17.25 hrs.

(At this stage, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members left the House)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not think that I am indulging in empty threats. I am not giving empty threats. I think the Members should learn the lesson. The country warns us.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Two days back in Indore, a freedom fighter has told me that tears come to his eyes when he sees this type of behaviour on the television. Do we not feel ashamed? Senior Members are behaving like this. You are not even interested in discussing the financial, budgetary provisions in this country.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you are crossing the limit. You have crossed the limit. Do you feel that I am indulging in *tamasha*? So long as I am here I will see that you behave properly.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table immediately.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the first column thereof, against Demand Nos. 79 to 81."

Demands for Grants—Budget (General) for 2005-2006 in respect of Ministry of Rural Development submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. & Name of Demands	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 17, 2005		Amount of Demands for Grants Submitted to the Vote of House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Rural Development				
79. Department of Rural Development	8743,16,00,000	2,40,00,000	13415,42,00,000	2,39,00,000
80. Department of Land Resources	233,23,00,000		1166,21,00,000	
81. Department of Drinking Water Supply	1900,23,00,000	...	2851,19,00,000	...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol): Sir, I want to ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is it your seat? Now, go to your seat. You go to your seat and speak.

...(Interruptions)

17.28 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil left the House)

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan): Mr. Speaker Sir, while taking part in the discussion on the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Rural Development, I have no hesitation in expressing dissatisfaction over the meagre amount provided for rural development. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. There should be order in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: We should first realise as to what are the basic functions of this Ministry. The main functions can be expressed in a nutshell. The main functions of this Ministry are to reduce poverty in rural areas and improve the quality of life there. To fulfil these two-fold objectives, the Ministry mainly consists of three Departments besides autonomous bodies for development of voluntary action such as CAPART, NIRD and NRRDA.

The net budget provision is only Rs. 18,353.87 crore.

During the Tenth Plan, the outlay agreed to is more than Rs. 56,000 crore against the proposed outlay of Rs. 1,29,464.27 crore which indicates that the allocation is less than half of what was proposed to the Planning Commission. For the remaining two years of the Tenth Plan, only an amount of Rs. 15,283.48 crore is there. That is the cause of my dis-satisfaction.

Following the hon. President's call in his Address to both Houses of Parliament about *Bharat Nirman,* our hon. Minister of Finance placed the Budget in this House. In his Budget speech, he spoke of many big plans which will continue up to 2009. The first is to connect all

habitations with all-weather roads. That is the first commitment. Secondly, he wants to construct sixty lakh additional houses for poor people. Thirdly, he said to re-excavate one lakh water bodies for irrigation of huge areas of land. May I ask one thing? Is it possible to achieve this target with so meagre allotment? I demand for more allocation to fulfil the commitment of the Government.

We know that India lives in villages. Two out of every three Indians live in rural areas. It is well-known that about 75 per cent of the rural people are attached with land in one way or the other—they are either farmers or sharecroppers or agricultural labourers. In most of the States no land reform has taken place. Huge areas of land has been concentrated in a fewer hands. Poor farmers do not get remunerative price of their produce. The unemployment is increasing every day. The villages have become private moneylenders' paradise. This is the position of rural India, of the rural poor. So, the rural poor are forced to migrate to cities or to commit suicide. That is prevalent now throughout India. We have to think about rural development in this backdrop. Only drinking water or sanitation programmes or rural road connectivity cannot change the lot of the poor, rural people. If this could solve the problem, then the farmers would not have committed suicide. That is the position not only in backward States but even in advanced States like Kerala, Karnataka and even in Punjab.

17.34 hrs.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav *in the Chair*]

Road connectivity is no doubt a good programme. But only metal roads cannot serve the purpose. First you have to arrange food security of the poor people. That should be given proper improvement. Will the village people enjoy metal roads with empty stomachs? That is the real question. Rural development means development of the people in economic sectors and that should be given priority.

If the purchasing power of the poor people, poor villagers is not increased, what will happen to the industrial goods produced? Who will purchase the industrial goods?

Only exports cannot help India. The whole country's development will be hindered. In that respect, we should take lesson from some States and especially from West Bengal where millions of acres of land has been distributed among the poor, cheap credit is provided and minor irrigation programme is encouraged. Due to that reason, West Bengal became a surplus State in food production from a deficit State. That is the real development. In 1977, when the Left came into power, the percentage of people living below the poverty line was 68 per cent, but at present, it is only 25 per cent. Due to these development programmes, the change has taken place a lot in West Bengal.

Many people think why Left Front rule in West Bengal has continued decade after decade. The real reason is that the Government's programme with the help of rural people's representative body, the panchayats—vibrant panchayats and living panchayats—actually made it possible. In West Bengal, 4.5 crore rural people now purchase annually industrial goods worth Rs. 17,000 crore That should not be minimised. The whole country should take a lesson from it. The Members from the Opposition Benches will not accept it, but I will urge upon the main Ruling Party at the Centre, which is controlling more than a dozen States in India, that they should take the lesson and start in that way so that they will be able to root out, in future, the Government in the States which have been dominated by the Opposition Parties. So, in that way, rural development should be taken up in this pretext.

Now, what is going on in those States? What happened in Rajasthan a few months back? People wanted canal water to save their standing crops and police fired on them. That incident took place. In Madhya Pradesh, within a year, firing over the farmers took place 22 times. Even the poorest of the poor, the tribal people, which number merely 80 million in India, are being deprived in many ways. In Madhya Pradesh, Tendu leaves would have been collected by the tribal people, but that right has been taken away and now contractors have been appointed by the BJP Government in Madhya Pradesh. The tribal people have no right to collect minor forest products. That is the position. The tribal people who have lived generation after generation either inside the forest or outside have now been threatened to be evicted from the forest land in this way.

In some other cases, I want to request the hon. Minister to think regarding safe drinking water. It is essential for survival. Everyone should admit it. But I am sorry to say that the Rural Development Ministry has no correct picture of how many habitations have no water source.

[Shri Nikhilananda Sar]

There is no correct figure for it, and after going through these figures alone it is being stated that safe drinking water is to be supplied in every village. The picture is unknown to the department itself with regard to the number of habitations that are there without any source of drinking water. There is no correct picture about it.

Secondly, the ground-water table is going down. If we cannot re-excavate water bodies; if we cannot start recharging more ground-water, cannot do more rain-water harvesting, etc. in a big way and in coordination with other departments of the Government, then we will be in big trouble in the near future. The Government should take steps in this area at the preliminary stage itself. Nearly half of the dams, barrages that were constructed 30 years or 40 years back have been silted up. No new investment is required, and no new dams are required in it. The de-salutation process for the old dams and barrages, which have been silted up, should be started in a big way so that we can preserve huge amount of water. It will provide us with more irrigation possibilities. At the same time, it will also serve as flood protection during floods.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: In a way, India depends on the flow of monsoon. There is one scheme in the department called the Desert Development Programme (DDP) in which deserts are being converted into greens, and utmost attempt is being made in it. The experts opine that if the deserts are to be made green, then deserts will become green. They state that there is no doubt about it, but the entire country will turn into a desert. So, the opinion of the experts should be regarded in this case, and the department should think over this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: Yes, Sir. The rainfall has already started becoming irregular, and the monsoon is not flowing in a regular manner. Irregular flow of monsoon—either drought or flood—is occurring every year in some or the other parts of our country. Hence, taking up this scheme will be a suicidal policy, that is, if DDP is followed in this manner. The scheme should be changed, and the name of the scheme should be Desert Restriction Programme (DRP), so that the desert are not extended any further. We should be concerned about this issue. I feel that the DDP is a suicidal policy.

In this department 10 per cent allocation is made for the North-Eastern States, and 10 per cent is kept aside for the Watershed Development Programme. Is it a farce? The highest rainfall of the country takes place in the North-East. There is no doubt about it, but still 10 per cent allocation is made there for it. This type of rigid policy should be changed. The respective State Governments, according to the specific needs in those areas should be given charge for their development. I suggest that more afforestation should be started in the North-Eastern States. I feel that it will help improve the complete climate of our country. Thirdly, I want to know about the Employment Guarantee Bill. It provides 100-days' work for one jobless person from a poor family. What happened to that Bill? I am given to understand that it is with one of the Standing Committees. When will it come in the House? I think, the hon. Minister should take the initiative in this case. Otherwise, it will come in the House after four years' time when the elections become due. That type of a thing should not happen in UPA Government's tenure. It has been stated that at the rate of 15 lakh houses per year, 60 lakh additional housing units would be constructed, which is next to impossible.

Regarding Panchayati Raj, we cannot expect much from it. It is a recently born baby and it has not even completed one year. This Department consists of only 25 people including the Minister and the Secretary and, therefore, we cannot expect much from it. The real task of this Department is to train people and to make sure of the involvement of people in village development. Training programmes are very nominal—only ten per cent of the people have been trained so far. Therefore, I not only want this Department but also the entire Government to come forward and make concerted efforts to fulfil the objectives.

With these words, I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Cut Motions

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PAGE 79) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1

Failure to build major bridge on river Hati in Kalanpur block of Kalahandi district from KBK Funds already sanctioned. (13)

Failure to launch afforestation programmes under the National food for Work Proramme in the State of Orissa. (14)

Failure to re-forest the villages under various programmes to ease fire wood problem in the rural areas. (15)

Failure to effectively implement the various programmes for the development in Orissa. (16)

Failure to implement the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the country particularly in the State of Orissa. (17)

Failure to create awareness about the water-shed programmes and to achieve the targets. (18)

Failure to strengthen the autonomy in the District Rural Development Authority. (19)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PAGE 79) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I beg to move:

Filure to cover the areas inhabiting 100 persons in hill areas under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. (20)

Failure in providing sufficient funds for the implementation of the various rural development schemes in Uttaranchal. (21)

(TOKEN)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PAGE 79) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I beg to move:

Need to accord approval for construction of road under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana from Thala Manral to Bhita-Kot Khal in Sult Development Block of Uttaranchal. (22)

Need to ensure early construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Almora, Pithauragarh, Bageshwar and Champawat districts of Uttaranchal. (23)

Need to give special relaxation in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the rural areas of Uttaranchal. (24)

Need to conduct inquiry to punish the employees found guilty of using sub-standard materials for construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Uttaranchal. (25)

Need to include the area having population of 100 people in hilly region under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Uttaranchal. (26)

Need to ensure construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on actual cost basis in hilly region of Uttaranchal. (27)

Need to increase the amount for construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana in Uttaranchal. (28)

Need to allocate funds to Panchayat in proportion to the population for balanced development under the Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana. (29)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES (PAGE 80) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100

Need to re-allocate more funds under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Jal Samvardhan Yojana. (30)

Need to accord approval to the bio-fuel pilot project in Almora, Pithauragarh, Bageshwar and Champawat districts of Uttaranchal. (31)

Need to allocate sufficient funds to Almora, Pithauragarh, Bageshwar and Champawat districts of Uttaranchal under the Rashtriya Jalagam Vikas Board Yojana. (32)

Need to bring Almora, Pithauragarh, Champawat and Bageshwar districts of Uttaranchal under the Integrated Barren Land Development Scheme. (33)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY (PAGE 81) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100

Need to clear the lift drinking water scheme for Ranchi-Billekh and Kunilakhet in the Almora district of Uttaranchal. (34)

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

Need to approve drinking water scheme for Budgal-Kathpuria area in the Almora district of Uttaranchal. (35)

Need to formulate scheme for the availability of potable water in Lod and Mansariala and Someshwar areas of Almora district of Uttaranchal. (36)

Need to formulate a comprehensive scheme for the availability of potable water in the Garur area of the Bageshwar district of Uttaranchal. (37)

Need to formulate a comprehensive drinking water scheme for Tehsil Kanda and Tehsil Bageshwar in the Bageshwar district of Uttaranchal. (38)

Need to formulate comprehensive scheme for the availability of potable water in Kapkate Tehsil in the Bageshwar district of Uttaranchal. (39)

Need to accord immediate approval to the Barkinda-Manila lift drinking water scheme in the Almora district of Uttaranchal.

[Translation]

Need to accord immediate approval to Ranchi-Thapla drinking water scheme in Almora district of Uttaranchal. (41)

Need to accord immediate approval to Danya-Dhauladevi lift drinking water scheme in the Almora district of Uttaranchal. (42)

Need to clear drinking water scheme for Baunarwal-Kath ki Nav in the Almora district of Uttaranchal. (43)

Need to approve the Gagas-Chamrakhan lift drinking water scheme in the Almora district of Uttaranchal. (44)

Need to approve Jalna-Lamgara Shahar-Fatak lift drinking water scheme in the Almora district of Uttaranchal. (45)

Need to approve the proposal of lift drinking water scheme for the Gangolihat in Pithauragarh district of Uttaranchal. (46)

Need to approve all the proposed drinking water schemes for the Pithauragarh district of Uttaranchal. (47)

Need to approve the comprehensive scheme for rain water harvesting in the Pithauragarh, Champawat, Almora and Bagehwar districts of Uttaranchal. (48)

Need to sanction handpump in every habitation in Almora and Pithauragarh Parliamentary Constituency of Uttaranchal. (49)

Need to formulate special scheme for providing for potable water in water deficit areas of Uttaranchal. (50)

Need to approve the Gagas-Chilianaula lift drinking water scheme in Almora district of Uttaranchal. (51)

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Sir, I take this opportunity to present my views on rural development and the need to fulfil the requirements of the people in the rural areas.

A reasonable person always adapts himself to living in this world, whereas an unreasonable person wants the world to be adapted to his kind of living. That is why, we always see that it is an unreasonable person's views that matter, and a lot of development is based on his policies and views. In the same way, I want to be very unreasonable in putting forward my demand for rural development. At the same time, I also want our hon. Minister, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, to be unreasonable in demanding more Grants for the rural areas. The reason why are need more Demands for Grants and more funds for rural development is that we have seen majority of the population the world over lives in urban areas—80 per cent of the population live in urban areas—but in India, it is the other way where more than 65 per cent of the population live in rural areas. A lot of people have this misconception that development means urbanisation; development means migration of people from rural areas to urban areas. Yes, we need to follow the developed nations in trying to build and create the best of infrastructural facilities, but at the same time, we need to understand what went wrong in the developed nations. One thing is certain that if we can provide the best of facilities in the rural areas, we can stop the migration. We have to ensure that people living in the rural areas have better employment opportunities, better living conditions and better earnings. That is the reason why I want our Minister and our Government to focus more on rural development.

If you look at the previous Government's budget allocations that were made during the last year of their rule, you will find that Rs. 10,000 crore was sanctioned for rural development, whereas this UPA Government

which is pro-poor and pro-downtrodden, has allotted more than Rs. 24,500 crore for rural development—a remarkable increase of more than 150 per cent when compared to the allocation made by the previous Government. However, we have to remember that if we look at the real needs and requirements of the rural areas, this is not enough. That is why, the saying goes, "*jaisi drishti, vaisi srisht*", which means, "as is our vision, so is our creation". We need to look at how we can improve the living conditions of the people in the rural areas.

First and foremost, drinking water is the most essential thing in the rural areas. In our Budget, we have allotted Rs. 4,700 crore for drinking water and sanitation, out of which, Rs. 3,600 crore is for drinking water alone.

I have seen many villages in Andhra Pradesh. I have travelled across 11 Districts on foot along with the present Chief Minister, covering more than 1,500 kilometre. That was before the elections. After elections, I did a *Padda Yatra* of more than a thousand kilometres in my constituency. I have travelled the entire length of breadth of my constituency covering all the villages. If you look at the condition there, especially of drinking water, you will be surprised. My District is located next to the perennial river Krishna. Even there, a pot of water is selling for Rs. 5. Womenfolk have to travel miles to get potable water.

My estimate says that in my Parliamentary Constituency Vijayawada, we need at least Rs. 200 crore to fulfil the needs of each and every household. If you adopt the same yardstick for the entire country, I think we need one lakh crore rupees in five years. That means, we need Rs. 20,000 crore this year and the Budget allotted is only Rs. 3,600 crore for drinking water even though it is a substantial increase when compared to the earlier Government. Yes, we have increased it by more than 150 per cent. Still, it might take 20 to 30 years before we can really solve the problem of availability of safe drinking water for the entire village population of this country.

Coming to sanitation, allocation is Rs. 630 crore. However, with so many household, more than a crore households, need independent sanitation. So, we need to allot more budget for sanitation.

The next most important thing is housing. In the Budget, we increased the allocation. We wanted to construct 15 lakh houses. We have allotted a Budget of Rs. 2,450 crore for housing. Andhra Pradesh alone has allotted 40 lakh houses in five years. That means, Andhra Pradesh Government is building eight lakh houses per year. The Government of India has plans to build 60 lakh houses in four years on all-India basis. I think there is a need to increase number of houses to be built.

At the same time, if you look at roads, we have PMGSY. Not a single rupee has been released in the last year for PMGSY. I am not sure why. This year we have allocated more than Rs. 3,810 crore for PMGSY in order to improve the lot of the rural roads. That means, each Parliamentary Constituency might get around Rs. 6 crore to Rs. 7 crore. But, it is not only link roads that need to be established, we also need to look at how we can improve the internal roads and internal lanes. My estimate says that each Parliamentary Constituency requires note less than Rs. 50 crore per year, if we have to really improve the standard of living of people in the rural areas. It is a huge requirement. So, we need to look at how to meet all these demands. We need to look at ways of finding resources either through LIC or GIC or multilateral agencies. We should get loans and try to allocate them for rural development.

Earlier, more than 200 Members of Parliament made a request to the Minister about housing. In the States, it is the MLAs who look at who the beneficiaries are and identify the beneficiaries and recommend them to the Government. When it comes to IAY, where we are talking about 15 lakh houses, it is the District Collector who takes the responsibility and tries to identify the beneficiary and allocates the houses. But we need to remember here that Members of Parliament are-day in and day out, night and day, it does not matter to them whether it is sunshine or night—always among the people. They are always mixing with the people trying to understand their problems. Today, Members of Parliament understand the basic needs of the people better and are able to identify who the really needy people are. We have already made a request to the hon. Minister that IAY houses should be given to the Members of Parliament to identify and recommend the beneficiaries within the norms. We are not asking for any violation of the norms. But, within the norms, Members of Parliament should be given the responsibility of identifying the beneficiaries and recommending their names to the Government.

At the same time, self-employment is the most important thing. There are thousands and lakhs of unemployed and educated youth seeking employment.

[Shri L. Rajagopal]

Allocation made for self-employment schemes is only Rs. 862 crores. There is a need to increase this allocation because Rs. 862 crores means Rs. 1.5 crore for each parliamentary constituency. If we give Rs. 50,000 to each family only 300 youth would be benefiting in each parliamentary constituency, which means not even a single person from each village would be benefiting from this scheme. So, there is a need to increase the allocation at least by ten-fold, that is, Rs. 8,000 crore is required for self-employed scheme for rural youth.

Then comes restoration of water bodies. We have more than a million water bodies which need to be restored. Restoration of water bodies not only provides employment but also provides water to lakhs of acres thereby bringing in millions of hectares of land under cultivation. We need to ensure as to how we can fund those restoration of water bodies. The budget does not provide enough. We need to look at ways and means to find resources.

We are also talking of *Bharat Nirman*—rural connectivity. More than 66,000 habitation to be connected by roads, more than 1,25,000 villages to be electrified; and more than two and a half crore families to be provided with electricity connection. We also spoke about more than one crore hectares of land to be brought under cultivation thereby providing employment to more than one crore rural population. We spoke about *Bharat Nirman,* which requires huge amounts and outlays. I sincerely believe and feel that the allocations that have been made are not enough. Even though we have increased by more than 150 per cent when compared to the previous Government, still there is a need to increase multi-fold; we need to exponentially increase the allocation for rural development.

Another important thing is, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, in the late Seventies or early Seventies, had distributed vast lands for rural poor, downtrodden, and landless poor. Those lands are lying barren for lack of resources or funds. In some areas, they had to sell off those lands to have a way of living. We need to work out a way because the allocation made here is only Rs. 1,100 crore for land resources. We need to increase and see as to how we can allocate more.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh have allocated more than Rs. 500 crore in order to bring back those lands under cultivation. We need to work out an all India policy as to how we can bring back those lands into cultivation and the poor and downtrodden can really cultivate, produce and have a way of living because we have been talking about *Indiramma Palana*—trying to bring back what Indiraji had done in her golden era and days, trying to bring in social justice. If we are talking of rural development, we need to bring about social uniformity and growth across the border and among all the sections. That is the reason we need to see how we can allocate more funds for bring about uniform development.

One more important thing is, thousands of hectares of forest land are barren. Why can't we allocate those lands to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes so that they can do plantation, bring about ecological balance and improve the environmental condition in this country? There are a lot of things that we need to do for bringing about rural development. I hope the hon. Minister, who has been fighting for the causes of downtrodden and development of the backward region would try to fight for more resources and will also be most unreasonable in fighting and asking for more funds from the Government.

With these words, I appreciate the Government for the initiatives and also request the Government to do more for the rural population.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, discussion on a very important subject is going on in the House and it is already six o'clock. If the House so agrees, the duration of the House may be extended up to 8 o'clock. Discussion may be continued up to half-past seven and thereafter the Government could give its reply.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, extend the duration of the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2005-2006. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): It is an important subject. The reply can be given tomorrow.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow, discussion on a different subject is to be held.

[English]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): It is a very important subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Rural Development is such a department under the Govt. of India which envisages all the development projects pertaining to the rural area. ...*(Interruptions)* I am fortunate enough to be a Member of the consultative committee of the Ministry of Rural Development and in any capacity as a member of this committee, I get the opportunity to interact with hon. Minister at regular intervals and also receive his valuable suggestions and ideas.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the Indira Awas Yojana. Being a peoples' representative, whenever we go among the people, we are approached by many such BPL cardholder beneficiaries, who are passing their life in cottage, living under the trees in the open sky and when their families expand, they do not get a shelter to live in. There are a lot of irregularities in the selection of beneficiaries and particularly the genuine and needy person are not getting the benefits thereof. There are cases where many members of a family get allocation of houses and the quality of such houses is not always better, which has a great importance. You have enhanced the amount for this purpose. I would like that in the time to come at least such a room be constructed, where there is sufficient space to accommodate the six-seven people, of which a family generally comprises of.

Sir, I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the national bio-gas programme. The second installment due to be released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh during the year 2003-04 has still not been released. The Uttar Pradesh Government has requested the Union Govt. to release the second installment amounting to Rs. 15 crores. I would like that the hon. Minister may immediately release the second installment of the National Bio-Gas Programme, 2003-04 to Uttar Pradesh Government, so that this programme could be carried on there. 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana' is the scheme of the Union Govt. only. Hon. Minister, Sir, earlier also, I had requested you that as D.D./Collector has been appointed the Chairman of this scheme and they do whatever and wherever they like to do. I know that projects are formulated there and are sent to the Union Government where discussions are held. But in these discussions our opinions are hardly accepted. The money pertains to the Union Govt. but our opinion hardly matters in that regard.

Sir, I request you that suggestions of at least the Members of Parliament be solicited for the 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana' and works be carried out according to their opinions. So far as the over all rural development is concerned, much funds have been invested in it from the 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana'. The Member of the Legislative Assembly selects them and the Member of Parliament has got no say in that. The money is of the Union Govt., but we have participation therein. I demand from you to pay special attention towards it. Particularly, the Uttar Pradesh Govt. has requested the Union Govt. for providing one percent amount for administrative expenses. I would like that the request of the Uttar Pradesh Govt. should be acceded to. I would like to inform the hon. Minister about another important point. While 22.5 per cent grant-in-aid has been kept reserved for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. But this amount is not spent on their welfare. I demand that the 22.5 per cent funds, if remains unspent, be kept in the district itself and should be spent as per the directions of the local peoples' representative and the Member of Parliament. What usually happens is that money remains unspent and some earth work is carried out somewhere in the village and shown in the expenditure. I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that the fund, are not being properly utilized.

Secondly, I would like to talk of phase four under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana. In Uttar Pradesh, work upto phase three has been completed, but the details of work to be completed under phase four has just been sent to the Union Government for approval by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. I would like to demand the Government to release the funds to the Government of Uttar Pradesh on priority basis to carry out the work under phase four. Another important thing is that it has generally been seen that during the course of carrying out of work, standing crops of many farmers are also dug out and destroyed and they are not even compensated for it. I demand that if standing crops of any farmer get destroyed during the work under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana, he should definitely be compensated for that because the farmer grows that crop suffering umpteen hardships. Even if his land is also acquired under the said yojana, he should be paid compensation for that.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

Thirdly, a number of schemes under the Regional Rural Development scheme are pending with the Union Government, especially with the Ministry of Rural Development. I would also like the Government provide funds to the regional rural development institute. Lucknow is also not an exception to the said situation with regard to work being carried out there. In the same way, a number of strengthening and extension schemes to be implemented in Lucknow are also pending with your Ministry. Those schemes should be given top priority so that we can do something there.

I would also like to say one thing about drinking water, which is very important. You have asked the villagers also to contribute something so that all the facilities could be provided there. Besides, the Union Government too would provide a part of the funds for that purpose. Some difficulties are being faced in it. There are some places where the villagers can not afford at all to contribute anything. The people are very poor and there is the problem of drinking water there. So, I request the Government to consider this also.

I had also placed a demand before you earlier that we, the Members of Parliament, do not have any funds. We are supposed to solve the problem of drinking water by utilising our MPLAD fund of Rs. 2 crore. Five to six assembly constituencies fall under the purview of our parliamentary constituency. I had placed a demand before you that you should make a provision so as to enable all the Members of Parliament to provide the facility of atleast 2 hundred, 4 hundred, 5 hundred hand pumps in their constituencies as per their requirement so that the facility of drinking water could be had there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I am just going to conclude. Presently, the drought situation is prevailing and the water level is going down. To tackle this situation, the 'India Mark-2' hand pump which is very effective could be installed. Its life span is about 20-25 years. One can draw water by that pump as per one's requirement and hence the water does not go waste. Therefore, I demand that each one of the Members of Parliament should be provided one thousand or one and half thousand hand pumps to be installed in their parliamentary constituency as per the requirement thereof so that they can solve the problem of drinking water in their constituencies.

Secondly, the Union Government have themselves come out with a scheme in this regard. The scheme demands 10 per cent contribution from the beneficiaries and the rest 90 per cent would be given by the Government themselves. But, at some places, the situation is that the beneficiaries can not afford to contribute even 10 per cent. So, the beneficiaries should be given relaxation beyond. The beneficiaries want the handpumps to be installed but they desire that the Government themselves should provide the whole funds required for their installation. I demand you to pay special attention towards this also. Through you, I demand the hon. Minister to clear all the schemes to be implemented in Uttar Pradesh which have been sent to his Ministry for their clearance so that the development works could be carried out there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak here.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to express my views on the Demands For Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. First of all I would like to thank and appreciate the hon. Minister that since when the UPA Government have come to power and the charge of the Ministry of Rural Development has been handed over to him, he has made a lot of efforts for the development of villages. He has got success in some tasks and there are some other tasks where work is in progress of their completion.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister especially to a few point. First is that the system adopted for the on going construction of houses under the Indira Aawas Yojana is alright, but in this regard I would like to suggest the Government that in all the villages where there is Panchayati Raj and Panchayat elections have already been held, the selection of the beneficiaries is to be made by convening a general body meeting there. I do not talk about other places, but I would like to talk about Bihar where general body meeting in any village does not take place. What to talk of general body meeting, even the opinion of the elected members of the Panchayat Committee is not taken by the village Pradhan and he selects the members in his own house in the presence of the Panchayat sevak. Bungling at large scale is going on there. The funds being provided for the poor persons should be properly utilized immediately in the village, whereas it is being siphoned off among their favourites. It would not be proper to speak in other words in the Parliament. I request the Government

that more stringent steps should be taken for smooth operation of this business so that the funds being provided by you should reach the real beneficiaries of the villages. The funds should not be deducted as also not disbursed in wrong manner.

The other point, I would like to mention in this regard is that a lot of damage to buildings was caused by floods in Bihar. We all had demanded from the Government to provide financial assistance for the flood victims. I thank the Government for providing funds for the flood victims of Bihar, but I would like to complaint that those funds have not been disbursed as yet. If I dwell further on this topic, then it will become more state specific. But, I would like to say that as one of my colleague was just saying, the district authorities do not think it proper to seek opinion of the Members of Parliament on all such issues. Though the letters regarding better utilization of the funds were issued on behalf of the Government, but, the opinion of the Members of Parliament should be obtained and included in the monitoring process of the relief work. I think then only these programmes can be more successful. You have provided 20 to 25 thousand rupees as assistance. For this I would like to thank you. In the Committee meeting also I asked for enhancing this amount.

Bihar has also been included in the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sampark Sadak Yojana'. But there are certain difficulties in the implementation thereof in our area. I would like to tell about Bihar that many difficulties have come across but in fact, nothing has been done there in this regard so far. I, through you, would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that only two months are left. Thereafter, there will be water every where. No scheme could be implemented there on the land. We have spent one year. A period of one year will be completed on May, 6 ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no quorum in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: There will be quorum in the House even if you leave it. House is not short of quorum. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to say that the hon. Minister would have to pay special attention in this regard then only we could be able to say something before the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to talk about Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Tender is floated for construction of roads under the said Yojana. Many companies of our area have applied therefor but they do not fulfil the eligibility as per the terms and conditions of the tender ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. The House lacks quorum. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bell is being rung. Please take your seat. The hon. Members should wait till the quorum bell is ringing.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Quorum bell is ringing, there will be no point of order during this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the quorum is complete. Hon. Member, Shri Sita Ram Singh may continue his speech.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Sir, I was telling that 'Food for Work? scheme is a very useful scheme among the schemes launched by the government. But very few districts of Bihar have been covered under this scheme. I, through your goodself would like to urge upon the Hon. Minister that this scheme should be implemented in the entire state of Bihar as all the districts of this state are either affected by drought or floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

Our State, Bihar has been neglected for years. The people sitting here on the other side have given due share of crores of rupees of Bihar to other states during six years of their regime and now they are making the excuse of quorum here when issues pertaining to villages are being discussed. I had also raised a question about covering all the districts of Bihar under the 'Food for Work' scheme. The hon. Minister should do something favourable in this regard. This is my suggestion as well as proposal. You have covered many districts under the Sam Vikas Yojana. But their number is still inadequate in

*Not recorded.

[Shri Sita Ram Singh]

Bihar. The poor persons have to go to Punjab and Haryana in search of work as they have to work in their own state. There is no scheme for them. They are suffering because of drought or floods in this state. I request that entire Bihar should be covered under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. I do not want to analyse. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sita Ram ji, please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: The most important point is that they have launched one more programme for the development of villages under which they are going to provide funds for the backward districts. The Finance Minister has delivered his speech in this regard and also allocated fund for this purpose. But they have not decided as yet when the funds will be released. What will be the benefit if the money is sent after the floods? I want to know whether the money will be sent before the floods or not? The most tragic issue is that the funds are being miscappropriated in villages under the JRY. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar ji is saying that these funds should be transferred to the Panchayat Accounts. I want to say that this will not serve the intended purpose. I would like to reiterate through this House that this money should be provided to the District Collector, as it is being sent for development of districts. The Panchayat are receiving funds under the JRY. I do not know whether it is being utilized properly or not in other states but it is crystal clear that it is not being utilized properly in my State. There is no agency to monitor and investigate it. So, the most important point is that the funds intended for backward districts should be provided to the District Collector instead of Mukhiya of the Panchayats. The funds will be wasted if it is sent to the Panchayats and the vision of the Government will remain a vision and it will never be reality, so, special attention should be given on this point. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji is the Minister in-charge of this portfolio and it is not under the control of the Minister of Rural Development. The work can not be completed, if the funds are provided to the Panchayat because the Mukhiya can not give his opinion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sita Ram ji, please deliver your speech addressing the Chair and now conclude your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: I want to say something about drinking water. ...*(Interruptions)* A lot of discussions and publicity are taking place in the Ministry of Rural Development on drinking water. ...*(Interruptions)* I am telling just that ...*(Interruptions)* An amount upto five hundred rupees is granted for development work on the recommendations of the MLA. There will be no misappropriation of funds, if the same is given on the recommendations of the Member of Parliament I want to emphasize that importance should be given to the recommendations of the Members of Parliament. Why is the Government curtailing the powers of the Members of Parliament. All the powers of the Members of Parliament are being curtailed now. They can neither recommend for sim card of telephone, nor for drinking water schemes. What can a Member of Parliament do with a fund of two crore rupees in six constituencies? I want to say that if you can not increase it, it is better to withdraw it. A minimum of 10 hand pumps can be dug on the recommendations of the MP in an assembly constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN; Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Sita Ram Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: The Members of Parliament have not knowledge about an irrigation scheme recently formulated by the Government of India. All the powers have been given to an executive engineer under that scheme. The Members of Parliament have no knowledge about the movement of files. They do not have any information about any thing. I want to say that the recommendations of the MP should also be made necessary. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: In the whole of Bihar, there is scarcity of pipe. The level of water has gone very low there. Our demand is that a pipeline should be laid in our village by giving a special package so that the people can get the facility. I would like to say one thing more about which the hon'ble member was discussing. You have decided to build a lavatory in the village. I would like to say that if you really want to construct it, get it done properly.

The amount has been allocated on the basis of the year 1940, however the manner in which the prices are rising, amount should also be increased, and if by increasing the amount, you want to take ten per cent from the beneficiary, you can do it, however, the government should increase the amount and make the collective development in the village in a concerted manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sita Ram Singh ji, you now conclude your speech. The chair has given the ruling.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, I have not finished yet ...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to say that the Hon'ble Minister should pay special attention to it and work in the interest of the villages. With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ilyas Azmi, now you speak please.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Here, I would like to bring to your kind notice as to how seriously the Bhartiya Janata Party is taking this debate. It is reflected from the very fact that only their two members are present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Hon. Members from your party are also not present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the statement of Shri Ilyas Azmi ...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you and state that I rise in support of the Demands for grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Chairman Sir, there is something very important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Manvendra Singh ji, you present your views, when you have your turn.

...*(Interruptions)**

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*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Ilyas Azmi.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Why are you disturbing me? I am supporting you only. The fact is that the Minister of Rural Development intends to utilize the full ability and capacity so that the better results come out. The amount of money, which the Government of India is providing, is not insufficient and the budget is also adequate. All the schemes are good, however, I would like to state with regret that if the Finance Minister had been present here and I had got the opportunity to speak to him, I would have asked him to increase the funds in the area of rural development, particularly the area of Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. From here the money flows to the DRDA through the State Government. And if, the collector is corrupt, then almost all the CDO's are corrupt there. I know about such incidents in Uttar Pradesh. The DRDA is out and out corrupt and in case of Central Scheme, the MLA's of ruling party in the state, hijack the whole scheme and in connivance with the Mafia people, embezzle the entire money allocated for the small schemes. The 22.5 per cent of the money allocated for Swarna Jayanti Gramin Rojgar Yojana is allocated for providing reservation to the scheduled castes, however, fictitious data are prepared and not even a single penny gets spent on Scheduled Castes. My demand is that first of all the guidelines should be issued mentioning therein that out of the amount of money allocated for the Swarna Jayanti Gramin Rojgar Yojana, 22.5 per cent money may be kept in a separate fund in the district and the people's representatives, the MLA's should also be included to oversee that the money is spent for the collective development of the Scheduled Castes. There have been instances when digging of earth takes place in some village and a colony or settlement of Scheduled Castes happens to fall within the village, then the whole of 22.5 per cent money is spent thereon. This is what has been taking place till now.

Sanitation programme or small programme and rural development schemes have become the illegal source of income of district collectors. The whole amount is siphoned off. No body care for it. I am the chairman of the District Vigilance and monitoring committee and I have not been told so far as to how much money was allocated under which head during 2004-05.

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

Sir, it may be instructed on behalf of the Central Government that account be placed before the Vigilance Committee as to how much and on which scheme money has been spent during 2004-05. I know it personally and I can tell it in the meeting whenever it is held. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is one of the best schemes and this schemes has been providing maximum development. The villagers have the same right to walk on good road as people surrounding go smooth roads have right to walk thereon. This scheme has been meeting this need. Although this year provision of 2100 crore rupees has been raised to 3800 crore rupees but it needs to be raised some more as this scheme has not been functioning properly. However Members of Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh have pressurised the village Development Commission of State Government to get directions issued to districts that the Members of Legislative Assembly would also be included in proposal of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana whereas there was provision in earlier guidelines that the Members of Parliament were supposed to propose and it was approved by the district Panchayats. Simultaneously a provision has also been made that the Member of Parliament will lay the foundation stone of scheme but the Member of Legislative Assembly will preside over the concerned programme. It means that if a MLA lay the stone then MLA's name will also be written on stone in bold letters so that an MLA could say that he has contributed to it whereas he has no contribution to it. These all things which should be checked.

As far as handpump and drinking water are concerned. I can say categorically cutting across party lines that ninety percent amount of the scheme will come from the Central Government and ten percent amount will be borne by the people. It is very good thing because if people contribute then they will maintain and repair the handpump. But in recent past the Government of Uttar Pradesh have allocated two hundred handpumps to each of the MLAs, MLC's and even nominated MLC's but not a single handpump was allotted to the Member of Parliament. I beg pardon from the honourable members of the Sammajwadi Party because when I talked in this regard then a person, very close to the Chief Minister said that they had to run the Government. So, I Manmohan Singhji not to run the Government? Doesn't he have any concern for his the one member of Parliament?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, the honourable member will know that a provision has been made to allocate one hundred and fifty handpump to each member of the Parliament in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shailendra Kumarji, you have already spoken, now please let the other member of Parliament speak.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: You are saying correctly. It has been said that one hundred fifty handpumps would be provided. Generally one parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh consist of five legislative assembly constituency. Thus one Member of Parliament can recommended thirty handpumps as per the quota of one legislative assembly. The whole fund is provided by the Central Government even then one member of Legislative Assembly will set up two hundred handpumps in one legislative assembly constituency and one Member of Parliament can set up only thirty handpumps. At least four or five handpumps are demanded in each village and there are around five hundred habitats in each legislative assembly constituency. The Member of Parliament is elected from the same constituency where Member of Legislative Assembly gets vote. You are wasting the money and marauders are looting the money and the most helpless person Member of Parliament as no body cares him.

Similarly the Food for work Programme is hundred per cent sponsored by the Union Government. Our one district Lakhimpur is covered by it. One day the District Magistrate of this district has phoned me. He asked me to attend meeting on 31st. He had done it in his own defence because local MLA's had corned him that the fund of Food for Work Programme might be distributed among MLA's and they could spend them accordingly. The DM of that district is something weak so I said that there was a programme of our party on 31st therefore you might call a meeting after four o'clock on that day then only I could attend the meeting.

When I went there and saw that all MLA's were unanimous that this was the fund and there were seven MLA's and one MLC and it became eight. I said that there were two MLC's not one, because one was from the BSP. Is aid in this regard that he has been nominated by honourable Governor. They said that the total member of Legislator is seven and one is MLC. You would distribute the money then all work will be accomplished. I said that it would not happen. Had this money been of the State Government then you could have distributed it but this fund belongs to the Central government, so how could for distribute it among MLA's? Therefore I become

rigid on this issue. So the DM had called me to attend the meeting otherwise if he denies he would be transferred.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recommendation or money is disbursed?

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: I am submitting that only. They were saying that they would spend it in place of the Member of State legislature fund. I became adamant on it and thereafter it was decided that proposals be put forward by you people and the priority proposals would be taken up first. This money was almost disbursed in the Lakhimpur district because the C.D.O. was threatened and the D.M. had been persuaded after he was threatened with transfer. Therefore, the D.M. had particularly called me. This is the condition over there. We are not in a condition to get even a hand pump installed. Theoretically, the money is of the Union Government and our party is supporting the incumbent govt. over there. This is correct that all the Members of the State Legislature over there have been allowed to get 200 each hand-pump installed in their respective constituencies. But the hon. Member of Parliament has not been given this permission. They say that they have to run the Government. I would like to request Shri Raghuvansh Prasad ji to tell the Prime Minister whether he does not have to run the govt. and only the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh needs to run his govt. That's why I have conveyed this to you.

Food for work is a good scheme. It is being implemented. Clear-out instruction may be issued from here that the proposals of the Members of the Lok Sabha would be given priority in all the schemes of the Union Govt. All the Central Schemes would be inaugurated by the Members of the Lok Sabha.

My second suggestion is that a total of 22 per cent may be got separated from here itself which is meant per SGRY. For this, please direct the districts to create a fund after separating the amount and spend that fund on community development through the people's representative. All the District Collectors should be directed to immediately intimate the concerned Member of the Lok Sabha about the fund received under the Central Scheme with the details of the head, scheme, amount and date of receipt. They should provide the individual details such as this amount is for SGRY and this much is for Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana etc. This would give us an idea about the scheme and the amount of funding provided there under.

Whenever, Rs. one and a half crore is sent to the districts, they should be directed to ensure transparency. Though you have done this through the monitoring committee but the details of expenditure during the year 2004-2005 and the dealing authority concerned in this regard must be intimated to the Member of the Lok Sabha. It is very good that vigilance committees have been constituted and their powers have been enhanced. I would like to thank you for this. But you know, I am also a Member of the Lok Sabha and perhaps we are not having enough knowledge about it. Therefore, you please convene a conference of the Chairmen of all the monitoring committees. In that conference, you may call the secretary as well. This would provide enough knowledge to the Chairmen of these committees about their powers. As such, about 500 perople may be called is this conference and they be imparted training so as to ensure that the funds allocated for rural development are not misused. There funds are none others than that of the poor. The government knows only one thing i.e. to tax the poor. That money is not properly utilized. These are misappropriated and we remain silent spectators. We do nothing else. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN; Ilyas Azmiji, your speech is deemed to be over.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: We expect the present Minister for Rural Development to do something worthwhile in this direction. With, these worlds, I conclude.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very serious and important topic is being discussed in the House. The Government have presented the Budget. Like the previous years, the funds which should have been provided for rural development have not been provided and the development of rural areas has not been given as much thrust as it should have been given and not much attention has been paid to rural India in this year's Budget also. His Excellency, the President of India expressed his utmost concern about the pace of rural development during his Address to both the Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the existing programmes as well as the previous schemes development are all good but the real problem lies with their implementation in the way the fund allocated and released therefore are spent and the House has expressed its concern in this regard from time to time. The country has also expressed its concern over it.

[Shri Anant Gudhe]

The problem of water scarcity is getting aggravated in all the states at with each passing day. The scanty rainfall has further compounded the problem. The directions are issued from time to time to the state government that the maximum of funds allocated to them should be spent on water. The directives of the Union Government also underline the importance of compulsory participation of the NGO's in the States in the implementation of programmes. I have been elected from Maharashtra. The NGOs recognised by the State Government are related to influential people, the MLAs and Ministers. They do not work at all. They do not follow the guidelines laid down by the Union Government. They corner a large chunk of the funds meant for development. There are no guidelines to the effect as to who is empowered to take action and what action can be taken against them. The action by the vigilance Committees, which have been appointed should be taken only after evaluating how the NGOs function and whether they have worked. The problem of water scarcity is bound to compound if substantial measures are not taken to promote water harvesting and developing irrigation facilities. Vigilance committees have been formed at the district level. Absolute right to suspend the NGOs after evaluation of their work should be vested in the Vigilance Committees if they do not work in a concerted manner. Only this would serve the purpose of formation of the vigilance Committees. ...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about Maharashtra. Your party is in power there and the NGOs are controlled by Ministers.

The Indira 'Awas Yojana' was launched with much fanfare. It was stated that the scheme aimed at providing homes to 60 lakh people in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are so many people belonging to the BPL in the country. There are approximately fifty BPL families in each village. Three or four families out of 50 BPL families in the village are provided houses under the scheme. In this way it will take 15 years to cover all the BPL families under the scheme if only four houses are provided to each of the village being BPL families. Therefore, the target of 60 lakhs is very low. We cannot provide adequate number of houses to the poor. Therefore, it requires to be increased. In those states where all BPL families have not been covered, the houses which had been built and allotted earlier collapse even before the remaining families can get the houses. Once there was a CAPART scheme under which 25 houses were to be built simultaneously in a village which has since been discontinued. That is why we cannot meet the aspirations of villagers.

Sir, there are a number of such poor people, who though do not falling under BPL or reserved category, cannot get their houses constructed as they are extremely poor and they are rendered homeless whenever natural calamities strike or they are affected by catastrophers like fire and drought. A scheme like this should also be introduced for those people. The people who are affected by natural calamities, whose houses have been burnt down in fire or washed away in floods, who do not fall under the BPL and reserve category but they are poor, economically backward and cannot get their houses constructed are required to be provided houses at the earliest after the submission of a report by the BDO and Subsequent enquiry thereon. In this way the Indira Awaas Yojana for the BPL families requires to be rectified.

Sir, houses have been built for the last several years but in many states electricity is not available under the Indira Awaas Yojana due to the scarcity thereof. I am talking of Maharashtra. Several times discussions have been held there with the State Electricity Board. Earlier, the electricity meter was installed on a payment of Rs. 60 under this scheme but now this amount has been increased to Rs. One thousand. Despite this they do not get the electricity metre or line. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to look into the matter as we are genuinely interested in the development of the poor or want to do something for people of the country in real sense. How their children will study, if there is no electricity? They are not be able to study as there is all around darkness there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Sir, still 20 minutes are left. Electricity can be provided to the poor families of the country at cheaper rates through the non-conventional sources of energy if solar system is installed at such places with cent per cent grants by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

Sir, the issue of drinking water is the most important one. Presently, all the states are struggling to get sufficient drinking water there are many districts in the country where there is no drinking water. The schemes for drinking water are not sufficiently funded. A five yearly pilot project named Swajaldhara scheme was launched in some selected districts of Maharashtra. Amravati, my home district was also among the four districts of Maharashtra selected for that scheme. The funds for first two terms were granted, but thereafter the funds were not granted for the next two terms. The total estimated cost of that scheme was twenty one crore rupees out of which ten

crore rupees were granted. From that money only half of that scheme was completed and pipeline was laid. But, they got no water. I want to know the reason for not granting the remaining half of that grant. People contributed ten per cent for that scheme but they got no drinking water. The Central Government have informed the State Government that they want to divert the remaining fund to Swajaldhara Yojana. They promised to provide funds for Swajaldhara Yojana. For Amravati district, the State Government have written letter to the Central Government in April last year, but, even after the lapse of one year, they have not got any money even when another budget has been presented. Work on Swajaldhara Yojana is not progressing because of lack of funds. It seems that the scheme is just a show. The villagers is not getting drinking water. What will happen to those people who have contributed ten per cent to this scheme? Moreover, the water tanks constructed fifteen years ago in the villages have got damaged, but, they are not repairing those tanks. People fulfilled the condition of contributing 10 per cent share in that scheme, but even then the work did not progress.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Melghat is a tribal area in my parliamentary constituency where the poor people have nothing to eat. They wander here and there in search of livelihood. They are not in a position to care for their children. How can they deposit 10 per cent of money? Will you not provide drinking water to the tribal people? I think that the Government is not of working property. As our House cares for such tribal areas, So it is my humble request that the Central Government should provide 100 per cent subsidy at such places and it should implement drinking water projects. Shall we make only tall claims about development of tribal without doing anything concrete? I would request the Central Government to provide the remaining grant to all the State Governments under Swajaldhara Yojana so that the ironic problem of drinking water. Which is continuing for 58 years can be solved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this comprehensive scheme was formulated during the regime of hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee and Shivsena-BJP Government in Maharashtra had also formulated a comprehensive scheme involving an amount of 1500 crore rupees. At that time, some funds were provided but the scheme came to a halt with the change of the government. The people are not getting drinking water and it is not proper. In the same way, the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana was launched during the regime of hon. Vajpayee Ji. Under that scheme, it was intended that every village with a population of 1000 in the plains and 500 in hilly areas would be connected with the main roads. There was a condition in that scheme that only one contractor would get tender for that work. But, the work was not done as the condition remained unfulfilled. I request that the above mentioned condition should be struck down. Sanction for that work has been provided in my district also. We can complete that work only if soil work, earth work and bitumen work are separated from one another. According to the stipulated condition, the contractor should deposit 10 per cent of projected amount as security, but he is not doing so. In addition to that, there is also a provision of giving a five year guarantee. I request that the terms and conditions for Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana should be changed. I hope that hon. Prime Minister will consider this matter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say something about sanitation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat now as your stipulated time is over.

Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan—Absent.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: I was telling about lavatory for women. ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech is not being recorded.

Shri Jai Prakashji.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the subject of rural development which is the yard stick of the governance and the development of the country. It is the subject of the discussion today. I would take to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards five-seven points as India lives in the villages and the condition of villages have not improved as much as it should have been even after 55-56 years of the country's independence. Today, the biggest problem in the villages of the whole country is of toilets particularly in the villages having Harizan population. Earlier, the land belonging to the community was used as toilet by the women. But with the growth of population and decline in the area of the common land, no space is left today in the villages to be used as latrines by the women. It is my request to the hon.

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*Not recorded.

[Shri Jai Prakash]

Minister that such a scheme be formulated, perhaps that is existing also; but it should be concretely reformulated under which toilets be constructed in at least four-five places in every village and mode of maintenance for these toilets be also chalked out so as to ensure their cleanliness.

Sir, concrete alleys are constructed in the villages from the Union Government funding. In my state of Haryana, these alleys are of bricks but when the rainwater accumulates over there the wet land subsides and the alleys get broken. This is my second suggestion and my submission to the hon. Minister that all the alleys being constructed in the villages, be constructed with cement and concrete as the roads in the towns are constructed so as to ensure that an alley once constructed need not require reconstruction over a period of five to ten years.

Now, I would submit my third suggestion. Now-a-days an exodus is from the villages to the towns is taking place. At present, there is scarcity of drinking water in the villages. I belong to the state of Haryana. There also there are many such village having saline ground-water. The wells have got dried up. the ground-water level has gone down. 'Swajaldhara Yojana' had been launched to tackle this problem. But the party in power at that time in the country used to formulate schemes only without striving to implement them. The hon. Member belonging to that party is not present now to whom I wanted to bring home this point. In my constituency, there were at least five-six such schemes among which they took funds from the Panchayats for 'Swajaldhara', Union Govt. have failed to provide funds to Haryana. I would like to request the hon. Minister that the due amount of our state under the 'Swajaldhara Yojana' be released to Haryana at the earliest. The month of June is not far away when people feel extremely thirsty. If the people of the rural areas remain deprived of the pure drinking water, diseases will spread over there. Therefore, it is my request that funds for the supply of water be remitted over there at the earliest.

18.59 hrs.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan *in the Chair*]

My fifth suggestion is that on the pattern of the community centres of the towns, such centres be set up in the villages also. Now-a-days, there is a lack of space in the villages to hold marriages and other social ceremonies organised by the poor farmers, common farmers and the rural families of the villages. Earlier, there used to be 'Chaupals' in the villages but now-a-days the people of the villages are migrating to the towns. It is my demand that community centres be set up in every village to curb this exodus.

My fifth suggestion is about electricity. Today, there is huge shortage of electricity in the villages. Power supply remains intact from 18 to 20/22 hours in towns. But in villages, when the farmer returns to his house after full day of work at his field, he does not get power to cut the fodder for his cattle. Though the Department of Power is separate, still I would request the hon. Minister to formulate such a scheme as to ensure adequate electric supply in the villages as it would help in curbing the exodus of villagers towards the towns.

19.00 hrs.

Some fund has been raised for the Indira Awas Yojana. In the state of Haryana, no poor Harijan has got a kutcha house. I am also a member of the Estimates Committee of the Lok Sabha. I had been to Andhra Pradesh recently. There was some programme of CAPART over there and we had inspected that. The money provided should be enough to construct at least a room, a kitchen, a bathroom and a verandah so that a family could properly reside therein. The fund meant for the Indira Awas Yojana be raised and the poor should be helped through it. The hon. Member is not present now. Their government is no longer in power and the people belonging to the ruling party are not is power. For five years, they continued to discuss about developing every village. The way these people put condition for the people to be considered as living below the poverty line under the Indira Awas Yojana, I can firmly claim that even the poor of the Haryana state can not come under that category because even the common Harijan of Haryana state can not come under that category because even the common Harijan of Haryana lives in a Pucca House with the facility of electricity and fan. I would like to request that these conditions be relaxed and these conditions should not be imposed on the poor of Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh. These conditions should not be imposed on them. Only the Harijans, dalits, exploited people should be given this facility irrespective of their income.

Now, I would like to talk about education. Every Government says that population is increasing in the urban areas while it is decreasing in the rural areas. I would

like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the cess was imposed for primary education in the previous budget. The provisions of primary education should be fully implemented. At present, rural areas of the country are far lagging behind in educational facilities. There are schools but without teachers. But again we return to the same point that education comes under the State Governments. I agree, but it should be ensured that the funds released by the Union Government to States for education are properly managed as well as education facility are provided in every village and a Central School should be opened for every five, ten or twenty villages, so that rural children can also receive quality education and compete with their urban counter parts born in affluent families.

There has been a lot of discussions on water-shed development scheme. It was a good scheme. Whom should I tell? Those colleagues have left. When the watershed scheme was formulated, a Government with the Cooperation these very colleagues was in office in the State that was a very inefficient Government. The funds meant for watershed were misused. A number of Committees were formed, but they comprised people belonging to a particular political party. The entire funds were misused in collusion with the local B.C.O.'s. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to conduct a thorough inquiry regarding the funds released to Haryana for watershed development during the past five years so as to ascertain whether the funds of Central Government are being utilised properly.

[English]

MR.CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: I have to express one more point. I do not speak much.

There has been discussion on rural employment. Our Government States and Common Minimum Programme of the UPA also envisages that employment opportunities will be provided in villages. I would like to make a suggestion in this regard. There are large villages in Haryana and in the entire country. When gas agencies are allotted in the urban areas, these should be allotted in the rural areas too. I was the Minister of Petroleum in 1990. We had formulated a scheme at that time which is still continuing, but not extensively. Gas agencies should be opened in every such village whose population is more than 15000 and where the number of gas connections exceed 500 and Petrol Pumps should be installed in bigger villages, so that the people living in rural areas can get facilities at par with their urban counterparts. Now a days, most of the people prefer cooking on the gas stove throughout the country. Now, the forest cover is depleting.

Out colleagues were talking of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana'. The previous Government did not provide adequate funds under the scheme to Haryana. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to release the entire amount collected from cess on Petrol and Diesel from the State of Haryana to the State Government at the earliest. Further, I would like to point out that the Governments spend more on the National Highways. I would request that more funds should be provided for the State Highways or the approach roads, which connects one village to the other. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister. I am also thankful to you and submit to the Hon'ble Minister that Committees have been formed at the district level. Such things have been stated by the Members of Parliament who spoke earlier to me.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: The hon'ble Minister should pay his attention to these things. The bureaucrats do not like interference of the politicians in their work. I would, therefore, request you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Sathee Devi will speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Public representatives are responsible to the people of the country and the States and not the bureaucrats. The job of the bureaucrats is to implement those schemes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record after this. You have taken more time. Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)**

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*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Sir, it is an undisputed fact that two-thirds of India lives in villages. Right from the year of Independence we were talking about uplifting the rural population and the Government is gradually increasing the annual allocation on economic and social development. But the actual benefit has not yet fully reached the rural people.

Over the last 15 years the condition of the rural masses has deteriorated considerably. The survival of the agricultural labour depends primarily on employment. The Economic Survey for 2004-05 has noted how rural employment has declined from 60 percentage to 57 in just one year. We have been noting all along how the days of work of agricultural labour have come down from 122 in the 1980s to about 72 per year now. This has led to total stagnation of life in rural India. Increase in farm debts and crop failure is the general phenomenon.

Between 1991 and 2001 some 3.30 crore peasants lost their lands and have entered the ranks of landless and migrant labour. Rural unemployment has resulted in increased migration of male and female. There are no official statistics available for this kind of migration in the rural India. The Economic Survey does not even mention it as a social phenomenon to be noted. This problem has to be recognised by the Government. On the one hand, the non-availability of work in rural areas is the availability of jobs in urban sector is also on the downswing. Marginalised sections, especially the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are the most affected and the gender impact of these processes on these communities also should be analysed. It is the womenfolk who are the worst affected by these issues.

19.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, the UPA Government has announced so many proposals of certain schemes to uplift the rural population. The UPA Government's proposal regarding the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is well appreciated by the rural population as a whole. The Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme should be designed in such a way to guarantee women's access to work. All the employment generation projects should be provided with a minimum of 40 per cent women beneficiaries. The scheme is now intended to operate in 150 districts. In Kerala, only one district is included in the scheme.

Considering the rural unemployment issue of Kerala, it should be extended to all the districts. Unlike in other States, the educated unemployment rate is more in Kerala. So, a special scheme should be introduced for the educated unemployed people for the States like Kerala.

The recommendation of the Twelfth Finance Commission towards the State of Kerala is not at all satisfactory to solve the problems of rural public.

Mere declaration of schemes is not sufficient. There should be calculated method for implementation of those schemes. The main aim of all the schemes should be the improvement of the status of the rural people below the poverty line.

The power to implement and the money to utilise should be provided to the local bodies. Then only there will be effective implementation of these schemes. Only through Government intervention within a pro-poor policy formulation in land reforms this can be done.

Tenancy rights should be protected. Making agriculture viable through proper pricing structure, and credit support are also needed.

With regard to providing minimum number of work days, it should be at least 180 days for both men and women, by enforcing minimum wages. Adequate food-for-work programme and BPL cards to all agricultural labour families are necessary.

The Government should ensure a properly functioning PDS and the provision of rationed goods at BPL prices to all agricultural families.

Another issue is with regard to the poor agrarian production. Basic infrastructure should be provided for agrarian production. The rural poor with holdings below one hectare of land and the agricultural labourers should be given free electricity. The amounts for schemes like Indira Awas Yojana should be increased. At least a sum of Rs. 50,000 should be given per household.

In the case of drinking water, there is only 50 per cent coverage in Kerala. In the Swajaldhara Scheme ten per cent beneficiary contribution is insisted. My humble suggestion is that in the case of SC/ST and people of coastal areas, there may be some exemption from the

payment of beneficiary contribution. There should be a provision and availability of safe drinking water in the villages.

Kerala is excluded in the National Health Mission Programme. Though in the previous years, Kerala was considered to be a State where there was an improved situation in the field of health, now the situation has totally changed. The diseases that were considered as wiped out from the society are now spreading in almost all parts of Kerala. So, the amount in regard to health facilities should be increased. There should be some schemes for the old-aged people also.

The rural sanitation is yet another issue. Kerala is a State where the entire western side is covered with sea. Now, for rural sanitation, a very meagre amount is provided. A sum of Rs. 500 for the construction of latrine is not sufficient for constructing latrines in the waterlogged and seashore areas of Kerala. So, the amount should be increased.

For the PMGSY Scheme, a sum of Rs. 20 crore is provided. That is not at all sufficient, considering the increased demand. So, it should be increased to at least Rs. 75 crore. The villages can develop only when we succeed in providing them water, roads and electricity. More funds should be earmarked for this purpose.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, I will conclude in a minute.

Now, my State, Kerala, has come forward with the functioning of schemes—like, 'Kudambasree Scheme'. Higher assistance is needed for these schemes. Now, the Government has already given proper guidelines and directions for promoting the involvement of the local MPs in the implementation of these programmes. Sir, the rural development solely rests on the efficient Panchayati Raj System. The development of the country has no meaning if our villages remain backward.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the amount should be given through local bodies as in the States like Kerala, where schools are run by these local bodies.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat now.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI; Sir, I am concluding. So, while supporting the Demands for Grants, I urge upon the Ministry to take initiative in transferring money and power to the local bodies and strengthen the Panchayati Raj System.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I want to make a request to all the hon. Members of this House. I have a very long list of speakers. Those hon. Members who wish to lay their speeches on the Table can do so. It will be treated as part of the proceedings. Now, I would request Shri M. Appadurai to speak.

**SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, let me thank you for giving me an opportunity on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2005-06. Sir, at the outset I would like to congratulate the UPA Government for seeking to legislate Rural Employment Guarantee Bill with a financial allocation of about Rs. 25,000 crore. It is a historical move and I heartily welcome it. In order to successfully implement this scheme there must be monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of these schemes and Members of Parliament must be included in such monitoring committees. As a pilot project, 150 districts all over the country have been identified to implement this scheme. I would like to request hon. Minister to reconsider and raise the number of districts identified already. Ours is a country with good number of people living still below the poverty line. The benefits of such pioneering schemes must reach all the poor. So more districts must be covered while you implement this scheme especially in all villages in several districts that are in the drought prone areas. Rural development would be possible only when basic needs are met and basic infrastructure is raised. It is needless to list out the basic needs of the rural poor. Protected drinking water, primary health service, road, communication facilities, rural electrification, telecommunication linkages, remunerative prices for the agricultural produce must be ensured to the rural masses. Only then we can usher in prosperity in the lives of rural poor.

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*Not recorded.

**Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri M. Appadurai]

I would like to point out to the lacunae in coordinating the centrally evolved and sponsored schemes. More particularly I would like to point out to the schemes evolved by the UPA Government to provide protected drinking water to several remove villages and hamlets. But the present government in Tamil Nadu led by AIADMK supremo Jayalalitha is ignoring the implementation of these need-based schemes. State Government there in Tamil Nadu is delaying the implementation of these centrally sponsored and funded schemes. Our hon. Finance Minister has apportioned adequate funds but still the allocated funds are lying unutilised. Tamil Nadu Government is not serious about really helping the rural poor. Apart from ensuring the availability of protected drinking water, the Union Government is keen about taking up land development measures. This would help augment water resources potential Scientific water management is the need of the hour and a viable mechanism must be in place.

In my Thenkasi Lok Sabha constituency, there is a river called Sitraaru which is more than a brook, stream and a rivulet. During monsoon season enormous amount of water flows through it and wastefully flow into the seas. Even after so many years no viable scheme or project is in sight to harness this water flow. There is no storage facility. If that river is scientifically handled with the construction of small dam like structures as is done in watershed management programmes, it would increase ground water potential. The irony is that such huge amount of water flow through that river that run through a perpetual drought prone area. But still that river runs waste untapped. Such natural resources must be handled with care. If that water resource is rightly managed it could give rise to prosperity in the lives of rural masses who live wide and far. I urge upon the Government to give priority to those schemes that will ensure maximum utilisation of such natural resources.

Today we are implementing schemes that will benefit the rural poor especially the deprived classes like the SC/ST people. Welfare measures like housing are being taken up to benefit people tormented by poverty. Sanitation facilities are provided in the form of latrines. But I am afraid the implementation of such schemes are not properly monitored. Hence I urge upon the Government to evolve suitable monitoring mechanisms ensuring the participation and active role of Members of Parliament, the elected representatives of the people. Such monitoring Committees with people's representatives will help plug the loopholes and justify further release of funds to such Central schemes that are left with the State Governments for implementation as constitutional scheme of things.

Land Reforms Bill is another need of the hour to ensure betterment in the lives of the rural poor. Tillers of the soil must get rights to own the lands they cultivate. Mahatma Gandhiji said, "land to the tillers and land to the farmers". Those who hold the ploughshare and cultivate the fields must get the land rights. A uniform land reforms Bill is still not in sight. Hence I urge upon this Government to take up land reforms and provide opportunities to the poor agricultural workers to meet with prosperity.

With this I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'-*not present.*

Shri Bapu Hari Chaure. Take only four or five minutes.

[Translation]

The hon. minister has to give his reply at 8 o'clock.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Up to 8 o'clock the discussion will continue and after that the hon. Minister will give the reply.

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE (Dhule): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you. It was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi that the rural areas should be developed which remained ignored. ...*(Interruptions)* But the dream of Rajiv Gandhiji was materialized during the Tenth Lok Sabha. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, proper efforts were made to develop the rural areas through the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana after getting the Panchayati Raj Bill passed during the Tenth Lok Sabha. Later on, Sampuma Gramin Vikas Yojana was taken up. The poor always, right from the morning, have to worry for their food. Worries are very much like pyres. Worries emaciate living humans and the

pyres burn the human corpses. This Government have provided relief to the poor by providing Rs. 22,682 crores through the 'Sampurna Gramin Vikas Yojana' and has taken a step in the right direction to provide support to the poor. For this, this government deserve congratulations.

The rural development sector has been divided in the tree parts. Rural Development, Drinking Water Supply and Land Resource Department. Under the rural development sector such schemes as JRY, IAY, SGRY and PMGSY have gone a long way in providing wage employment to the poor and in the proper rural development under the scheme for the over-all rural development. But the method of implementation being adopted for all these three sectors is through the panchayat system viz. Zila Panchayat, Talluka Panchayat and village Panchayat. The work is distributed in the ratio of 20 percent to Zila Panchayat, 30 per cent to Talluka Panchayat and 50 per cent to the village Panchayat. The President of the Zila Panchayat has been made the Chairman, the Chief Executive officer of the Zila Parishad has been made the Secretary and the implementation is carried out through the Zila Panchayat. but whenever the work is being performed through the Zila Panchayat, the Members of the Zila Parishad and the Panchayat Samiti should be taken into confidence. But this does not happen. The officers act in an arbitrary manner. Their modus operandi is bizarre. No body bothers to take the other into confidence. For example, let us take up the case of my constituency. Recently, 10-15 days back, I inspected the work being carried out through the 'Sampurna Gramin Vikas Yojana' in my constituency. It came to my notice that though there are no middlemen, but some contractors of the villages are getting that work done through the labourers they manage privately for that purpose. Though we do not allow for any middlemen, but some people are given contract on behalf of the middlemen to get the work done through them. It is my suggestion is this regard that if for the work being done through the 'Sampurna Gramin Vikas Yojana', the President of the Zila Parishad or the Zila Panchayat remains the Chairman, the Member of the Lok Sabha should be made the Deputy Chairman. The Member of the Lok Sabhha should at least get an opportunity to look into the file regarding the selection of items of works so that he could remain aware of the work being implemented through the Sampurna Gramin Vikas Yojana. The District Collector has been made the Secretary and the Lok Sabha Member-the Chairman of the vigilance and monitoring Committee. But this Committee is-related with only vigilance and monitoring. The selection of work is not done by the Collector. It is done by the Chief Executive Officer of the Zila Parishad and the Chairman of the Zila Parishad. It is my suggestion in this regard that the Member of Parliament should be a partner in the decision regarding the selection of work to be taken up. The Member of Parliament has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring but the responsibility for the selection of work has not been entrusted to him. For the supply of drinking water, site selection is done through the GSDA. They select the site where the well should be dug, but water is not found in that well. It is my suggestion that first, pond should be dug through the 'Sampurna Gramin Yojana, thereafter well should be dug. But usually, the opposite takes place. This results in the wastage of the money incurred thereupon. The method of monitoring in respect of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is excellent. That is monitored in a three-pronged method. The DRDA is the implementation authority in respect of rural development. The-District Collector is the Secretary of the monitoring Committee and the Chief Executive Officer of the Zila Parishad is the implementation officer. But who is responsible to ensure the quality of work that is done? Is it the DRDA or the Chief Executive Officer? As per the rule, who will be accountable if there is no improvement in the work or if the quality remains poor? It is my submission that accountability be assigned properly to the Collector, the CEO or to the officer of the DRDA so that action could be taken against him if some mistake is committed in the work. This only will ensure proper utilization of the fund meant for the 'Sampurna Gramin Vikas Yojana'.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'—*Not present.*

Next Shri Mitrasen Yadav. You have four to five minutes to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): I am grateful to you for providing me the opportunity to express my views. Due to time constraints, I would give only some suggestions.

Our hon. Minister and the Minister of State are present in the House. This scheme, envisage provide support to those rural unemployed people who have neither any dwelling unit, nor any facility for drinking water. So, the Central Government have given the opportunity of implementing those schemes which are sponsored up to 80 per cent to State Governments. The gist of entire discussion and the feeling of the House is that there is rampant misuse of the funds being provided for centrally

[Shri Mitrasen Yadav]

sponsored schemes and the hon. Minister as well as the Government will agree to that feeling of the House. In addition to that the guidelines of the Central Government are also misused. The representatives of the people have been made Chairman of monitoring and vigilance Committees. But the persons selected for Indira Awas Yojana in villages and regions are being selected twice or thrice. As per the guidelines of these schemes, sixty per cent of the selected persons should belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, three per cent from other categories and the remaining person from those who are living below poverty line. It is my earnest request that the scheme being sponsored by the Central Government upto 80% or cent percent must have at least 50 per cent participation from the Members of Parliament. These scheme must not be implemented without the monitoring of the Members of Parliament. For example, if in a district with five constituencies of the Legislative Assembly, there is a provision of two hundred pump sets for every MLA and there are 1200 handpumps in total, then there should also be a provision that the Members of Parliament can have a quota of atleast one thousand hand pumps in his/her parliamentary constituency. Likewise, there should be fixed quota also for Indira Awas Yojana.

They have launched 'Food for Work' scheme for the people of backward districts of India by providing foodgrains worth crores of rupees. I want to cite an example. Shri Beni Prasad Varma is the Chairman of the Vigilance Committee of Barabanki district in Uttar Pradesh. Not a single meeting of that Committee was held till date. Only 2 crore rupees were spent out of the budget of 27 crore rupees and the remaining 25 crore rupees were gobbled up. I want to say that some districts were earmarked for investigation by the Ministry of Agriculture. In the same way, the Ministry of Rural Development should earmark some districts to examine the poor condition of rural development schemes and the way in which they are being implemented. It is my humble suggestion to the Government of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs that if there is such a rampant misuse of funds earmarked to the scheme related to development of villages, employment to the poor, food for work, drinking water, then investigation in some selected districts should be conducted and the investigation and vigilance Committee must ensure its full strength participation within its budget.

Funds for sanitation scheme are also being misused on a large scale. It should be implemented either individually or collectively. If we operate it collectively, we shall not be able to check its misuse unless there is some person to take care of its washing and other related activities. If you want to provide benefit to individual families, then it is not possible to construct a lavatory costing less that four or five thousand rupees. So, please do not make a mockery of these schemes—either provide total funds for its construction or ensure sulabh sauchalya on a collective basis. At least, the loot of that fund in districts should be checked.

The number of unemployed person is very large. The land reform scheme initiated by the Government has not been implemented anywhere. The scheme to distribute new plots of land among the poor has not yielded the desired results. I do not know about all of your rural schemes. It is my request that we should give the benefits of some schemes to the unemployed. We can provide benefits to the unemployed persons under rural development schemes by associating them with dairy, fishery, piggery and cattle rearing like cows, goats and poultry. The landless people in the villages have to work as labourers in other persons' field and the people with land holding work in their own fields. There is no other industry in the villages. So, the area and scope of self-employment scheme having been launched in the villages should be enlarged and they should be encouraged to pay attention to cow, goat, pig rearing and other such schemes. It will be beneficial to the landless people. It is my demand as well as suggestion that vigilance and investigation Committee should be given full participation right in monitoring the funds being provided for rural development and quota should also be fixed. Members of Parliament should be given quota in Awaas and Handpump schemes.

With that these suggestions, I conclude.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar): Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, I thank you for permitting me to speak on the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2004-05. My thanks are also due to the hon. Minister for his sincere efforts to ameliorate the problems and to improve lives of the rural people.

India lives in villages. But unfortunately illiteracy, disease, poverty and other maladies have engulfed the rural masses. Unemployment in the rural area is rampant. Many villagers particularly in Karnataka have made it a

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

habit to migrate every year in search of jobs. Now, it is high time for the Centre to find out a permanent solution for the poverty especially in remote villages.

The Antyodaya Anna Yojana will continue and is proposed to be expanded. At present 1.5 crore families are covered. They get foodgrain at cheaper rates. The Centre propose to enact a new law, a new food for work programme is proposed to be launched in 150 districts classified as most backward and identified as areas in immediate need of such a programme. I hope at least ten districts from Karnataka will find their places in this list of most backward districts. My constituency is one of the most backward districts in the country and it should get all the support by the Centre and then only the villagers can survive.

Boosting agricultural growth through diversification and development of agro-processing is one of the objectives of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The Prime Minister in his address to the nation on June 24, 2004 promised "new deal" for rural India. This new deal is not only essential for rural development and welfare but also essential for achieving sustained overall annual growth of 7-8% and generating employment. The flow of agricultural credit is intended to be doubled in 3 years.

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) has been the main instrument to provide housing to SC/STs as well as to the non SC/ST rural poor. A subsidy of upto Rs. 10,000 and loan upto Rs. 40,000 is provided to eligible households. The total allocation is proposed to be raised to Rs. 2,247 crore. Sir, through you I request the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Rural Development to increase this amount to at least Rs. 3000 crore.

There is abundant milk production in my constituency. Now, this milk is being sent to Mysore and Bangalore. This very old system of milk trade should change. The farmers are not getting support price for their milk which they produce by working very hard. Hence there is urgency to produce milk powder, milk ice cream and other milk products. A number of modern machines are needed for this. In my constituency we have only one chilling centre. This is not enough. Milk product producing factory with all the modern machines must be set up in my constituency without any further delay.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is another important programme of the Centre for the rural people. These roads can link all the remote villages and that would enable and encourage marketing trade, business, education and other activities in the villages.

It is unfortunate that even after 57 years of our independence the villages do not have proper toilet facilities. This is a very problematic issue particularly for girls and women.

The Centre has another progressive programme Swajala Dhara through Panchati Raj. This is a very important programme because there is acute shortage of drinking water in Karnataka as it is facing drought situation throughout the State for the last 4 consecutive years. We have dug the ground 400 to 500 feet deep to get water. This is the serious situation. Hence Swajaladhara programme should be given top priority.

Neither there is Sainik school nor a Central school in my constituency Chamarajanagar. I therefore request the Centre to set up one Central school there immediately.

Another important issue is the involvement of MPs in the programmes. The State officials always neglect the MPs. In fact while printing the names in the invitation cards for various programmes our names appear after MLAs and MLCs. Sometimes the local officials like Tahasildar, District Commissioner, etc. will hoist the flag without bothering to invite the local MP. The Centre should take immediate steps in this regard and see that local MPs are involved in all the programmes and functions.

With these words, Sir, I thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support here the Supplementary Demands for Grant's of the Ministry of Rural Development. Our UPA Government has initiated a plethora of schemes for rural development. Rural areas were not developed during the six years regime of NDA Government. Our resolution is to develop the rural areas more because of villages are not develop than how will country develop? If villages do not get power supply then how will our country run?

Our Government have come to power in order to help the people but it is not possible to make alround development in one year itself. Inspite of it I have to say that 26% people are living below poverty line as per Census 2001 of the Government of India but according to survey conducted by the World Bank the number of these people is 43% per cent. There is a need to bring

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

some charges in the norms adopted to conduct the said surveys. We should try to extend maximum possible help to the people living below poverty line whether they belong to schedule caste (SC) and schedule tribe (ST) or other castes. A large number of people living below the poverty line also belong to castes other than SC's and ST's. If we want to uplift these people, the Government should chalk out a scheme to reduce the number of people living below poverty line. We discuss all the things but if we want to alleviate poverty in true sense then land should be re-distributed and it should be re-allotted. I demand that each and every landless family in the villages should have five acres of land irrespective of it caste and it is imperative for the Government of India to constitute a commission for this purpose. It is very good if a person have fifty acres of land but it is necessary for the Government to work out a programme to provide land to those people who do not have a piece of land. Therefore, our Government should resolve to reduce the number of people living below poverty line in the next five years. The people living below poverty line have grievance that a number of people's name do not figure in the list of village development whose name should have been therein. So survey conducted for BPL should be reviewed and facilities should be provided to such people who are living below poverty line. As far as Indira Awas Yojana is concerned, this Government have made a resolution to build a number of houses under this scheme but even than there is necessity to prepare to good scheme for that purpose. There is CAPART Scheme and also a Balmiki Ambedkar Scheme. The Houses have been built for schedule caste and schedule tribes people but after passing over so many years of independence the BPL people do not have houses. It is responsibility of our Government to provide houses to the people living in slums and our Government is good and both ministers are also good and the Prime Minister is also nice but there is no necessity to speak good but it is necessity to do good. In a true sense the Government should help BPL people. Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji, you are a very competent minister but it is essential to release maximum fund for the people. It is necessary to check the corruption being committed in implementing the scheme so that fund allocated for the scheme could be spent properly. It is necessary to construct road, rail lines and lavatory for women in rural areas. Therefore my submission is that scheme may be prepared to show results in the coming five years by conducting a comprehensive survey for this purpose otherwise our situation will be deteriorated opposition's. But we are with you, therefore, you will not face that situation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Athawaleji, it is all right and hon'ble Minister has accepted your advise.

[English]

Now, nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ravinder Naik Dharavath will speak. You give your suggestions in only three minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDER NAIK DHARAVATH (Warangal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give some concrete suggestions on some specific programmes. So at least five minutes should be given.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, you may speak only for three minutes.

[Translation]

I have to request the hon'ble Minister to reply at 8 o'clock in any situation.

SHRI RAVINDER NAIK DHARAVATH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are completing fifty seven years of independence. Our Government are taking some steps for development of rural areas but the benefits of those schemes are not reaching to the people for whom these schemes are being formulated. The SC, ST and other backward class people are included therein. I, on behalf of Telangana Rashtriya Samiti would like to put forth here those facts before you, which could not be considered by our governments during fifty seven years. I am not simply speaking to fill up the blanks but I would like to bring forth those discrepancies in front of Government. Our hon'ble Rural Development Minister is sitting here. There is lack of infrastructure facilities like road, power supply water etc. in slums where nomads and schedule caste people of this country are living. Today in our country nomads (Banjara community) are divided in many parts and there are around one lakh nomads (Banjara Tanda) in the country who do not have this type of facility. I would like to submit the hon'ble

*Not recorded.

Minister for this purpose some time back I had written a letter to hon'ble Minister for providing houses to nomads. He stated in his reply that they could not provide home in the name of a community. Sir, it is not a particular community but they are called by the name of ten-twenty communities. Around ten thousand nomads are living in very adverse condition in Telangana region where drinking water, power supply, road etc. civil facilities are not available. Today nomad and tribal community of the country particularly in Telangana region are compelled to sell their kids. This is the situation of those nomads (Banjara community) community.

Today, you talk to provide employment. Employment should be given there where disturbance prevails. Every year the Government spends crores-arabs rupees in the name of law and order. But I would like to request that it is not a law and order problem, it is socio-economic problem. Arrangement should be made to provide employment to the people there. Sir, I would like to suggest through you that a Bangara Tanda, whosoever it is, should be accorded the status of gram panchayat. The Government have not given attention on this issue as yet. I have written so many letters to the state governments in this connection, I demand that the Union Government should also write letter to the State Government asking them to accord the status of gram panchayat to these Banjara Tandas. Simultaneously I would urge upon that maximum budget may be provided for them by working out a time bound programme for development of these Banjara Tandas so that their condition could be improved. With these words, I conclude now.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Demands for Grants on of the Ministry of Rural Development. The issue of rural development is an important one. So, I stand in support of the Demands for Grant of the Ministry put forward for discussion by the hon. Minister.

The Majority of the people live in villages; so it is our prime duty to develop those villages we become very happy when many announcements about various schemes are made in the budget speech. But, we come face to face with reality when we visit those villages and it saddens us a lot. I do not demand that more announcements should to be made. But, it is my firm belief that we can ensure the development of our rural areas if the schemes already announced are implemented in a proper manner. So, when we talk about the development of villages, we should remember that the need of the hour is to ensure arrangements for education of the rural people. Arrangement should be made for drinking water and proper roads in the villages. Development work is also done is various states of the country through self help groups. There role is praiseworthy but they need encouragement as there are many women in those groups. The women should participate in the development of villages and the country as they constitute almost half of the population of the country. They should be encouraged for that. Only self help groups are not enough. Moreover, the majority of our youth power live in villages as CDO and clubs. it is possible to develop the villages and backward regions through their efforts. networking is needed for their support. All the self-help groups, NGOs and clubs should be brought under one umbrella through networking. Through that medium and through their monitoring we can ensure whether the schemes announced by the Government are properly implemented or not in the villages. I conclude my speech with these suggestions.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Vallabhabhai Kathiria—not present.

Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to participate in this discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. I largely associate with the other hon. Members who mentioned that the elected representatives, namely, the MPs, MLAs, and Members of the *Zila Parishads* and *Panchayats* are not consulted or taken into confidence while finalising the development schemes. This practice is prevailing all over the country. This complaint has to be solved by an amendment of the rules, which are involved in this issue.

As regards discrepancy in implementation of the rural development schemes in Assam, it is my experience that an amount of Rs. 25,000 crore given for the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) houses in the inaccessible and remote hilly areas is not really logical. I feel that a minimum of Rs. 50,000 crore should be made available for the IAY houses. Otherwise, it becomes a meaningless scheme. I am saying this because it takes more than Rs. 10,000 to

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

transport the housing materials to some of these inaccessible areas. hence, it is not a very practical work. I hope that the hon. Minister will definitely consider on this particular issue.

Secondly, the hon. Minister—we are having a very learned and educated Minister—evaluated the implementation of various rural development schemes in Assam. The implementation is very poor. One of the reasons, which I have found out, is the late sanction of the second instalment by the Central Government. The first instalment goes on time, but the second instalment is sent only in the month of March because the State Government cannot release its share on time. In Assam, the rains start in the month of March itself, and the working months in Assam are not more than five. Therefore, the Rural Development Ministry should tie up with the Finance Department and request the Planning Commission to cut the State's share at the national level itself, it should not be left to the State Governments to release their share.

There is another discrepancy in the implementation of rural development schemes. In Assam, though the rice component under the SGRY Scheme was sanctioned in 2001, it is yet to be released by the FCI to the district headquarters concerned. Lakhimpur and Darnoji districts in Assam are considered to be among the most backward districts in India. These two districts have also been selected for the implementation of 'National Food for Work Programme' where the rice component is 75 per cent. Right from 2001 till today, rice under SGRY Scheme has not been delivered by the FCI to these two districts. In such a scenario, how far this 'National Food for Work Programme' will be implemented? I would request the hon. Minister to take stock of this particular problem being faced by these two districts and to ensure that rice is delivered by the FCI on time at the local destinations of the district headquarters concerned.

The hon. Minister may look into the problems being faced by the Self-Help Groups in the implementation of SGSY and other infrastructural problems. Most of the banks which are the lead banks, mainly the UBI which has been designated as a lead banks, have largely failed in fulfilling their obligations. There should be a total review to see which are the banks which have not been complying with the requirements, and they should be blacklisted and that work should be allotted to another bank. Otherwise, these schemes, in the name of employment creation and in the name of infrastructure development, have become farce as nothing is being generated at the ground level.

Sending of rice is a temporary solution for the unemployment problem, and it is being done at the cost of productivity and work culture. If there is a surplus in certain States, that surplus in being sent to other States. This way, the economic situation of the farmers in those areas is not being helped. They are not actually given any employment. This dumping of surplus rice from one State to another is nothing but a spoon-feeding system. There should be a clear demarcation, so far as these SGRY and National Food for Work Programmes are concerned. The cash component should be at least 75 per cent in case of backward areas.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now. I now give the floor to Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when we are discussing the second most important Demands for Grants, that is, the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development, after discussing the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, it is very unfortunate that the Opposition is not here.

As the villages are heart of the nation, the UPA Government has rightly given the thrust and priority to rural development and rural prosperity by making various programmes of the Central Government more sensible and implementable.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention that contrary to the tall claims made by the NDA Government in the past five years, the recent India Development Report spells out the state of food security of the poor, which is a very paltry figure.

20.00 hrs.

Per capita availability of pulses has come down. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The proceedings of the House may be extended for half an hour if the hon. Members concur.

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*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Please extend the proceedings of the House for half an hour. The hon. Minister will answer after that.

HON MEMBERS: Yes, Sir, please extend the time.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The proceedings of the House is being extended for half an hour.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: During 1999-2003, availability of pulses had come down from 36.5 kilograms to 28.2 kilograms. In the same period, 47 per cent of children in India were malnourished and 74 per cent were anaemic. Thirty-six per cent of married women in the age group of 15-49 in rural areas suffer from energy deficiency. Fifty-four per cent in the same age group have no access to education. About 50 per cent of pregnant women suffer from micro-nutrient deficiency.

When 72.21 per cent of one billion people are living in 6.38 lakh villages in India, surely the focus of all efforts must be the villages. It is also disheartening to know that five per cent of the villagers do not have pucca houses; 25 per cent have no safe drinking water; 55 per cent have no electricity in their homes; and 85 per cent have no sanitation facilities.

A look at the budgetary provisions shows that allocation on rural sanitation and safe drinking water does not exceed more than two per cent of the total expenditure. There is a shortage of safe drinking water in many parts of the country, and especially so in my District Nizamabad. Three days ago in my District, a young boy of 21 years was crushed to death by a water tanker when he fell off from it while trying to take out some water. There are 922 villagers in Nizamabad district and in most of these villages people walk about two kilometres to fetch water.

Agricultural labourers get a daily wage of Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 for their whole day's work. They have to send their children to work for additional income. How can we expect them to send their children to school under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan? Even when somebody thinks of availing of a self-employment programme, there is a problem in getting financial help from the bank. To release Rs. 1 lakh as financial aid, they are demanding the youth to deposit of Rs. 50,000. That does not make any sense. I would suggest to the hon. Minister to issue clear instructions to the banks that are implementing self-employment schemes to ensure that the schemes are properly implemented and unemployed youth is in a position to take full benefit of those schemes.

It is also important that the Ministry of Rural Development conduct some educating programmes for the rural youth so that they can take advantage of them and start some small-scale businesses in the villages.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER; Please conclude.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: I would like to make one last suggestion to the Ministry. The Government allocation to this sector is not enough, we could also tap the NGOs, NRO's the big industrialists and the banks. They do sponsor different sports and other events and conduct Seminars and other programmes. They can be asked to adopt one or more villages. The Rural Development Ministry can start a Corporation. The said Corporation can frame model guidelines for building houses, providing drinking water and other sanitation facilities.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Special funds should be allocated to the Districts of Telangana area. When we talk of naxal problem there, the biggest cause for that is unemployment and lack of education. Stress should be laid on providing employment or self-employment opportunities to the youth there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shrimati Bhavana P. Gawali—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKHLAL MANJHI (Akbarpur): I am thankful to the Chair for allowing me to participate in the discussion of the Demands for Grant of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2004-2005.

It is an axiom that the soul of India resides in its villages and the source of the country's prosperity is its

*Not recorded.

[Shri Shankhlal Manjhi]

agriculture. Exhaustive discussions take place about these kinds of schemes and schemes are formulated. I want to add some points in his discussion in which many hon. Members have spoken a lot. We want to promote employment; we want to develop villages and ensure its upliftment through self-help groups. When we pay keen attention to the schemes formulated by Central Government, we must investigate whether the money sent by the Central Government for self help groups of the villages reach them or not? It is well known that one has to perform Herculean task to get money from banks. Corruption can be checked, all the beneficiaries can benefit and opportunities of getting employment can be available only when all these matters are considered.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many of my esteemed colleagues have talked about rural development. This task can not be accomplished in the country by increasing the budget by 500 crore rupees (from 3600 crore rupees to 4300 crore rupees). Villages can be developed by providing the opportunities of self employment, by launching food-for-work scheme and by providing drinking water facilities as well as houses for the rural people. Thousands of our youth are migrating from their villages and it can be checked through these schemes. only formulating schemes will not serve any purpose. Seventy per cent of our present population lives in villages. How many schemes are being formulated for the upliftment of villages? The present government in Uttar Pradesh has allocated 70 per cent of its budget for the development of villages. Without consuming precious time, I would like to say it seriously that every year floods create havoc in a vast area of the country which cover Deoria, Ambedkar Nagar, and Basti in Uttar Pradesh and even some areas of Bihar. The government spend hundreds of crores of rupees to check floods but despite that no effective action is taken to control floods. Many schemes have been formulated in last 56 years to check floods but Sant Kabir Nagar and Ambedkar Nagar districts are affected by floods every year and it destroys many precious lives and lots of property. Many villages were affected by land erosion in the past and many villages lost their existence. I think that hon. Minister is well aware of all these situation. Severe and devastating floods came in the year 1998 and 2000. Because of that the roads in Sant Kabir Nagar and Ambedkar Nagar districts were completely damaged and it because next to impossible to walk on these roads. In such a situation, why are you making a daydream of uplifting the villages? I would like to request the hon. Minister to provide a special package for the districts of Purvanchal to make effort to improve the condition of the roads dilapidated by floods. I believe that attention will certainly be paid towards these issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand in support of the Demands for Grant of the Ministry of Rural Development and am thankful to the Chair for providing me the opportunity to express my views on this subject.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. M. Jagannath—not present.

Shri Vijoy Krishna—not present.

Shri Nikhil Kumar—you can speak for only three minutes.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Thank you, Sir. As time is short I would confine myself to making some suggestions.

First of all, the Ministry of Rural Development has identified certain roads to be taken up for construction under the Prime Minister's Road Construction Programme.

In my area, there is a total of 400 kilometres of road stretches to be constructed in the next five years, of which in the first phase, three roads have been identified and the IRCON has been given the task to carry out the execution of this work. Unfortunately, for some reason, the IRCON is not proceeding with the work. My request is that IRCON should be asked to take up the work and expedite it.

I seek greater funds allocation under the Indira Awas Yojana and the Shram Vikas Yojana because the present allocation of funds is a pittance. They will not be in a position to meet the requirements. I know, in the current Budget, it may not be possible to increase the allocation. But this should be kept in mind when asking for funds under the Revised Estimates.

The third point is about the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Nearly 13,000 quintals of foodgrains come to my *Prakhand* under this Yojana. For seven continuous months, the foodgrains did not reach a *Prakhand* and the situation has not improved. Some kind of monitoring is needed to see that this very important scheme works efficiently and some kind of responsibility should be fixed as to why the foodgrains meant for a particular block did not reach there.

The next point is about the Kisan Credit Card. BDOs who certify, who furnish certificates, do so in an incomplete manner, with the result, kisans are made to run from pillar to post for getting their certificates completed. I think, some kind of centralised instruction should be issued to the BDOs as to what kinds of centralised instruction should be issued to the BDOs as to what kinds of certificates are required. They will be required to clarify that the applicant is only a part of a joint family and what is his share in the total land holding. Unless that is done, the banks will not give any rural credit.

The next suggestion is about the quantum of registration fee for tractors in Bihar. It is very high and as a result, it is some kind of a deterrent to the kisan. It could be considered to bring down this registration fee. I say this because Bihar is currently under the President's rule and, therefore, the Government of India can perhaps advise the Bihar Government to do the needful because of this is brought down substantially, it will be a great impetus to agriculturists.

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I rise to-support the demand for grants of Ministry of Agriculture. As far as I understand hon'ble Minister has done a great job by constituting a vigilance committee at district level and I am grateful to him for this act. These committees will be able to monitor the funds released by Central Government and the expenditure being incurred through state Governments can also be verified physically so as to ascertain that it is being spent on targeted motive and not being diverted. The people may also have information in this regard. I am really thankful to him that he has given to MPs a lot for their involvement in public welfare work.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while the land is given on lease on papers to potters in rural areas, but actually is not made available to them. Hon'ble Lalu Prasad ji has made the use of kulhar imperative in trains but clay is not made available anywhere to make kulhars. I will request hon'ble Minister to issue guidelines regarding making LMC land in rural areas available to potters so that the potter community can get its benefit and earn livelihood.

Just now my colleague talked about handpumps. I want to submit that all the material for it is given by Central Government hence which ever party is in power promotes their own MLAs. MPs don't have any say there. If hon. Minister had been present in that meeting in Parliament Annexe wherein the hon'ble Chief Minister was also present, he should be remembering that I had made a demand for 150 hand pumps. It is our own money and we are obliged. Therefore I submit that number of handpumps should be increased. The manner the legislators provide funds from their legislative fund for the welfare of their constituency in the states we should also be given similar rights to do so from the MPs funds so that we can also provide our share and help people in installing hand pumps. MLAs can provide funds from their Legislators fund but MPs cannot provide it from their MPs fund because of which we have to face many hurdles. The money is ours. We have to provide funds from that only. I request hon'ble Minister to increase MPLAD fund to Rs. 5 crore. Delhi MLA is given Rs. 2 crores. In Delhi, land is sold by NDMC and DDA at the rate of Rs. One lac per yard which acquired by them @ Rs. 100/- per yard. By this they stand to gain a lot but we MPs do not get anything. Even an MLA in UP gets Rs. One crore and in Delhi he gets two crore rupees. Since this Government itself running through patchy alliance, I want that a way should be found out to increase the funds provided under MPLAD scheme be increased five just crore rupees or even the existing fund of Rs. 2 crore should be withdrawn. At least we can save our skin that way.

With these words I again thank the hon'ble Minister and the Department and congratulate hon'ble Minister that he has made such a good provision in the Budget. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If it is withdrawn then no one will extend you even the marriages invitation.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the House as well as the Member of BSP and the hon. Mr. Speaker for raising the issue related to the millions of poor and unemployed people of the country who look towards the apex institution in much anticipation and hope as to what issues are being debated in the House that concerns their welfare. The discussion on this topic was accepted after much wrangling and today is culmination of that discussion.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Sir, 20 hon'ble members participated in today's discussion and raised several important questions. Hon'ble members have made many demands and given good suggestions also. All the suggestions, demands and the invaluable questions are raised for common men.

These issues have been raised for development of villages and poor people, unemployed women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. After giving due consideration we will see how all these issues can be solved out and proposals be implemented.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): What about MP Fund?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We will ask about that later on let me speak first.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: That is not a matter of his Ministry.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: To whichever ministry it may relate I will tell later. Let me say my words first. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir UNO has also praised National Common Programme. If the program is implemented properly then India will become number one country of the world in a few years and we are capable of doing so. Our Prime Minister's thrust are is how to enhance welfare of the poor how to increase employment opportunities for the poor? How to give employment to unemployed persons in rural areas, his stress is on "employment generation Programmes and then implementing them all through e-governance and he always mentions these things in his correspondence with us.

The Employment guarantee Bill introduced in Lok Sabha last time is pending in standing committee. Many of the hon'ble Members have shown curiosity in this regard. I want that it should be passed in this session itself that is why we have reminded hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs time and again. We have written to the Chairman of the Standing Committee and the hon. Speaker in this regard and reminded them twice that the Standing Committee should present its report so that we can pass the bill in the current session itself and implement the Employment Guarantee Scheme Shortly. In the National Common Minimum Programme commitment has been made for the poor, the village labourer to provide 100 days employment to them in a year. It would be a major step towards right to work. It would be a historical task. Therefore, we received suggestions from the entire country and we have also received the suggestion of the National Advisory Council. We have accepted their suggestions. The report of the Standing Committee is awaited. We are eagerously waiting for the report. Report be submitted at the earliest and I request the hon. Members that the village oriented and employment oriented bill be passed as early as possible.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Chairman is not submitting the report.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: We have told the Chairman in this regard and we have also made correspondence in this regard. We have also requested the hon. Speaker. Hon. Members have also raised this issue. It is our duty to apprise them with all the facts we do not like to conceal anything for the House. We would like to express our views without concealing anything have been making repeated efforts and are alert to ensure that is introduced. Therefore, we bring in the Employment Guarantee Bill.

Sir, today, discussion is being held on the budget of the Ministry of Rural Development. Mahatma Gandhi had once said that one should use one's conscience to judge and introspect as to whether any of our action is going benefit the poor or note and this may he had preached us that it is a litmus test for everyone to see as to what he is doing to contribute to the progress of the village and the poor. What are you doing for the development of the village and the poor? That is litmus proforma, therefore, village and poor are our priorities. Hence, we do not approve of any such scheme that does not take into account the welfare of the villages and the poors. Therefore, we would like to march forward with Gandhi, village and the poor. We do not believe in indulging in rhetorics only, Sir, rather we believe in the implementation of the National Common Minimum Programme. Earlier to this budget provision, the NDA Government used to make a mention about the village and the poor here and there. But it remained confined to discussion only. The NDA Government used to allocate meagre amount of one

thousand, one and half thousand or two thousand crore rupees for rural areas as if poors problem is no problem. The villages do not have any problem. However, this time 50 per cent increase in allocation has been made. Before the year 2004-05 their budget for rural development was Rs. 16,000 crore. Thereafter, it was enhanced to Rs. 18,000 crore. Sir, this time the budget has been enhanced to Rs. 24,000 crore. The budget has been enhanced one and one half times and the hon. Members have demanded for increasing the allocation more. They gave us strength and support. I think village and the poor and their priorities. Those who have been elected from the rural dominated areas know very well about the problems of the villages. Our endeavour is to increase the budget provision for them. Hike in the allocation for Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is 71 per cent. The budget provision of Rs. 2468 crore has been increased to more than Rs. 4200 crore. But, that also is not sufficient. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yajana was introduced in the year 2000. At that time it was estimated that Rs. 60,000 crore would be spent in this scheme but that was a totally wrong assessment. Recently, an assessment has been made in this regard which amounts to Rs. 1,20,000 crore i.e. two times of the earlier assessment. The said amount is also not adequate to serve our purpose. An amount of Rs. 1,32,000 crore is need to be spent on rural road only then we would be able to connect villages having population of more than 500 to the urban areas. Hike in the total budget is to the tune of Rs. 16,32,000 crore but we are still not satisfied. The Finance Minister has announced a major adventure scheme namely 'Bharat Nirman Yojana'. There are 6-6 provision in the 'Bharat Nirman Yojana'. Three provisions are related to the Ministry of Rural Development. The one is that villages having population of 1000 would be connected with roads upto 2009. A provision of Rs. 4200 crore has been made for this purpose and we need Rs. 9,000 crore annually in this regard. Only then we can inter connect the villages having population of 1000.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been an increase in the budget provision. In spite of it, I have made arrangements for increasing the budgetary allocation through international funding and assistance from World Bank and Asian Development Bank. It has been in the discussion here and there that Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana seems to have been shelved. I would like to say that it is not so. The government have enhanced the allocation for Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana upto 71 per cent in this budget. We have tried to make fund available from all sources. We are arranging fund from Asian World Bank and also from Leverage Domestic Funding. We have leveraged the institutional finance and we have submitted a proposal in the cabinet. We are making arrangement for spending the amount in lieu of the share which is to be given to the states in the coming 10-12 years.

Sir, the total length of rural roads in the country is 33 thousand kilometres. The length of the National Highways, State Highways, district roads and rural roads is 58 thousand kilometres, 125 thousand kilometres, 325 thousand kilometres and 27 lakh kilometres respectively. Rural roads are the life line of rural areas. For example blood circulates in every vein of the body and a body is remains alive as long as blood circulates in every vein and the circulation should continue. Similarly a network of roads is required to be extended to the villages for the smooth functioning of the country's economic system only then development of villages can taken place. As long as the rural roads remain the same muddy village roads with bull carts running on it, all round development of the country can not take place even if you have world class National Highways with four lanes or six lanes. Therefore, for the first time thrust has been given to the construction of rural roads.

Sir, earlier it was the Indian Road Congress. Importance was not given to rural roads there under too. There were discussions regarding National Highways and these ended on the PWD but now rural roads figure prominently even in Indian Road Congress. We have worked out the Rural Roads Vision-2025 for the development of rural roads. The task of rural roads is likely to be brought under it. The people should be familiar with every nook and corner of the country and it can be so only when the condition of rural roads improves. All informed people tell that without development of transport and communications, no area can develop. Therefore, a massive programme of rural roads has been worked out. I will tell further how quality will be maintained and selection of builders will be made while constructing the rural roads.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji please take your seat for a minute.

Hon'ble Members, will the House agree to extend its time till the Demands for Grants 2005-2006 of the Ministry of Rural Development are passed?

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes Sir.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there was an annual budget of Rs. 400 crores last year for rural sanitation which we have increased to Rs. 700 crores for this year with an increase of 75% and that too will not suffice. Total sanitation campaign has so far been implemented in more than 400 districts which we want to extend upto 600 districts so that toilets can be made available in every household. Our objective under the total sanitation campaign is that toilets are available in every household. We have worked out the statistics. As per current data toilets are available in 30% families. Still there are 70% families in our country whose members defecate along the road side, in the fields behind the bushes. It is a matter of great shame for us. Just now Shri Jaiprakash who hails from Haryana was telling about Haryana in his speech. We have been the figures about Haryana, Now he is not sitting here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can add Punjab also.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Yes Sir, seventy percent families in Haryana own television sets but only 40% families have toilets in their houses. They have a television set but not a toilet. That means toilets in houses are not constructed by even those families who can easily afford it. Therefore awareness regarding sanitation needs to be created invariably among the people in order to make total village sanitation campaign a success. Some people can construct flush toilets but they could not do so in absence of awareness regarding sanitation. Therefore, the poor will be provided assistance by the Union Government. The share of the State Government is also there. It includes some contribution on their part also. But we are thinking of making further increase in it. The amount of assistance was decided based on 1999 prices. We have stated in this regard that as there has been all around increase in prices, we want to increase this amount also. After that a total number of 14 schemes are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. The scheme no-1 relates to wage-employment—employment by providing work to the people so as to generate their income and enable them to eke out their living. The Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana is meant for this purpose. There has been a demand that funds be released to the village Panchayats. The funds are released directly from here to the DRDA and from there 20% of the amount goes to the Zila Panchayat Parishad within 15 days, 30% goes to the Prakhand Panchayat Parishad and 50% goes to the village Panchayats which is spent by them. Half of this amount is to be spent in the areas inhabited by the SC's and ST's. 22.5% of the amount released to the Zila Parishad and 12% that of the Prakhand Panchayat Samiti should go to the

[English]

individual beneficiaries to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families.

[Translation]

There is no other scheme like this anywhere in the world. They can be brought above the poverty line by providing 100% subsidy-on livelihood and giving them income generating assets. We spend Rs. 700 crores on providing foodgrains to them. The hon'ble Members have raised the point regarding 22.5% and have also complained of bungling therein. I am also telling its solution. I am also telling you what action has been taken thereon. Scheme number two-related to wage Employment, is Food for Work Scheme. For the National Employment Guarantee Scheme which we are going to implement and for the law we have to enact, we have selected one hundred and fifty districts of the country on an experimental basis. For that, last year, Rs. 2020 crores and of 20 Lakh tonnes of food grains had been provided for and this year a provision for Rs. 6000 crores and one lakh tones of foodgrain has been made to ensure that people get foodgrains and wages and they do not make an exodus from their villages and could get employment there itself. This could enable them to fight starvation thus ensuing their survival. This has been stated in the food for work scheme itself. The hon. Members raised the issue of monitoring and contended that expenditure is not being done there properly and monitoring is also not up to the mark. For this, I have held discussions in separate meetings with all the states. We have given pains to the hon. Members of all the states and particularly, two-three states jointly to call them in the meetings forgiving them the concerned papers and make them aware about the heads and details of expenditure and about the budget provisions. The hon. Members are to monitor the funds released to the districts because they are the Chairmen of the District Monitoring and Vigilance Committees and the District Magistrate have been made the secretaries of the Committee. The hon. Members are contending that they have not been given the power. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI M. APPADURAI PRASAD SINGH (Tenkasi): It is not working in Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I inform you in this regard that all these schemes are implemented through the Panchayat Raj or through the State Government. No implementation is carried out directly from here, only funds are allocated from here. We monitor to ensure that any state does not remain deprived of its share. We seek explanation if any state fails to expend its share. We ask for the expenditure details if it is not provided. I ensure the share of each and every by writing, telephoning and sending my officer to the concerned Chief Minister, and by instructing their concerned Ministers and officials. This work is related with monitoring, allocating and releasing funds and supervising but without the cooperation of the State Government and of the 'Panchayati Raj', no scheme can be quite successful. All have got their participation. The Hon. Members had made a strong demand and appeal in this House for the constitution of a District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee and that the Hon. Members be given participation and powers in that committee. But, now some of the states are feeling difficulty in conceding it. We are engaged in writing to all the State Governments asking for their co-operation to ensure that expenses are properly done at the ground level and strict vigilance be kept in that regard. For this purpose, we have made a provision for the participation of people as well. A committee comprising five to nine beneficiaries will be constituted for all the schemes being formulated and implemented under the 'Sampurna Gramin Vikas Yojana' and Food for work schemes and that committee will do the monitoring to ensure full transparency so that the common man could know about the estimate, the fund received, the work being done and its proper implementation and also whether the labourers are getting wages or food-grains or not. The participation of the common man and that of the beneficiaries has been ensured there. It has also been stated that any retired personnel of military or any other department, retired police constable school teacher residing in that 'Mohalla' will be included therein to supervise and monitoring it. So, a system of monitoring has been made at every level. We have the mandate for a strict vigilance. As per the National Common Minimum Programme, this would be implemented properly and strictly. Otherwise, there is a big lobby of anti-rural and anti-poor in Delhi. The enemy of the poor and the villages show their skill and usually say that Rajiv Gandhi contended that the funds fail to reach the villages. They do not directly contend that funds should not be released for the villages, for the poor. They would simply say that funds fail to reach the villages. Rajiv Gandhi had said that only 15 paise out of 100 paise gets its way to the villages. Who is responsible to take that funds and to monitor it? God will not come to serve this purpose. We, the elected representatives, the officials of the State and Union Governments, the intelligentia, the social workers—all have to jointly ensure that the funds are properly monitored with regard to the expenses. But I feel that some people here feel uneasy if the development fund is released for villages. Therefore, we want to have a public opinion in favour of the villages and the poor so that none could ignore the villages and the poor and could suppress their voice. The poor of the crores of villages keep an eye on the works being done for them. So, we have to get them performed.

As far as plan number three—Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is concerned, it is a common complaint of the hon. Members that they are being ignored. In it there is no provision to ignore them. The hon. Members can write to Zila Parishad and the State Government concerned about their recommendation of a particular stretch of road. They can attend the committee meeting and they are members of Zila Parishad. But, they face a peculiar problem in those meetings. In those meetings, all other Members join hands against the Member of Parliament and cause problems. Even then, there is a provision that they can send their recommendations. If Zila Parishad and State Government do not approve of their recommendations, they will have to give the reasons for not accepting his recommendation. If there is criteria that the habitation comprises of a population of one thousand people and if the Member of Parliament recommends in writing for that place, they have no choice but to accept his recommendation. Otherwise, we shall add that road from our side. But, the hon. Member should remain alert in these matters as we are operating under federal structure in which precarious balance has to be maintained in regard to Centre-State relations and Panchayati Raj provisions are also required to be implemented. So, it is necessary to coordinate. But, I accept that the involvement of the hon. Members of Parliament in the activities like of foundation stone and inauguration of these various projects should also be ensured. Instructions about all these things have been given, but at some places, they are not being adhered to. Whenever these incidents are reported to us, we take stern action against those.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH; I would like to express my views about the Zila Parishad which is being discussed by hon. Minister. Foundation stone was laid in my constituency for construction of road, but the road was constructed at some other place. I had written letters to the hon. Minister of State and also to you. The Minister of State told that the road would not be constructed at that place. But, no action has been taken in this regard till date.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Things like that happen at many places.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Please note down these things and inform me about it afterwards. Interruptions cause inconvenience to us.

Plan number four is about drinking water. It is our mandate to provide pure drinking water to the rural people. Quality of water is very important as fifty percent of diseases are water borne. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.VENKATSWAMY (Peddapalli): I had made a demand for providing water to Karim Nagar. The people in my area are in a great need of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of drinking water is a part of Bharat Nirman and its another part is Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana. There are 5920 habitation 'talls' where water is not available. There are 69 thousand 'talls' which are partially covered. It means that we need at least 40 litre water for every person in the villages. Even that is not enough. The hon. President gives us instructions and he guides us and tells us to formulate the entire scheme. Entire Scheme means that the facilities being availed by the urban people should also be given to rural people. In urban areas, it is a common practice that people waste a lot of water in flushing, in their bathrooms and urinals. Average water consumption a person living in urban area is at least three hundred to four hundred litres. On the other hands, average availability of water in villages is still less than 40 litres. Apart from fulfilling their own needs, the rural people have to take care of their needs of their cattle also from that water. What a big gap is between the town and the village! We are not in a position to provide even that much water to villages. Only 40 litre per capita water consumption has been fixed so far for the rural areas. So, how can we give those facilities to our villages which are being enjoyed by towns? There are separate taps for cold, hot and normal water in the urban bathrooms. But, there is not a single tap for thousands of rural people. How can this practice continue? The interference of influential people in those facilities which are supposed to be enjoyed equally by one and all will not be allowed for ever. The rural people must get enough potable water. So, budget allocation has been enhanced. There is also a problem of contaminated water. Eight districts of Bengal including Maldah, Murshidabad and 24 Pargana are affected by the problem of excess level of arsenic including the Nalgonda and Karim Nagar districts in Andhra Pradesh and some areas of Rajasthan. We have made on-the-spot investigation. The poor have to drink water contaminated with. Which causes skin diseases and even cancer. People do not prefer to develop material ties in the villages where the water is contaminated with arsenic. It is a great challenge for us. Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and some other areas of our country are affected by excessive level of fluoride in water. The water contaminated with the high level of fluoride become prone to disorder of bones. The poors, being ignorant of these things drink such water and fall ill. There are 2 lac and 16 thousand habitation which are affected by fluoride, arsenic, nitrate and iron contaminated water. They have to face the problem of bacterial or biological contamination too. At some place, especially in coastal areas, the water is saline. ...*(Interruptions)*

Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission was launched, under which Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) scheme and Swajal Dhara Scheme are being run. Under the scheme, 10 percent share of the funds has to be contributed by the people and the 90 percent will be provided by the Government of India. I am overseeing it also and the amount under the Scheme is not being spent properly. However, wherver, the 10 per cent amount has been deposited by the Government, the scheme will be implemented there. ...*(Interruptions)* There was a Sub Mission Programme under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. The NDA Government had thrown it to the back burner. We have undertaken it again. Under the scheme, the areas where the availability of water is scarce, there are schemes involving 200 crore, 500 crore and 1000 crores of Rupees, under which funds are released to the states in routine. But it will not solve the problem of water scarcity. Therefore, the State Government is required to make a project separately and the Union Government should provide the assistance to it. We have revived the scheme and the Planning

Commission has given its approval. Presently, it has been referred to the EFC, from where it will be sent to the Cabinet. The Hon'ble Member Shri Venkatswamy has been the Minister of Rural Development. He keeps on making demands. I would like to say that once it gets approved by the EFC, we will carry out the implementation of all these schemes. Whether be it the shortage of water or its impurity in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh or any other part of the country. It is our resolve to provide the pure drinking water and implement the total sanitation campaign. We should also provide the funds for computerisation of total Land Record because the people approach court for taking proof of accounts, maps, documents etc., and they do not get the papers from there for months together. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: The Chief Minister has distributed two hundred hand pumps in the legislative assembly. You also get them distributed in the same manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ilyas Azmi, please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have to speak about 14 schemes, therefore, I shall be brief. Computerisation of Total Land Record. The poor people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY: Sir, I am on a point of clarification.

[Translation]

Would the Minister like to state the date of implementation of the drinking water schemes worth of 340 crores and 370 crores which he has announced. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Venkataswamy, please sit down.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have already stated that the proposal has been sent to the EFC for approval. After receiving it from there, it will be sent to the Cabinet. I will not make any commitment about the time to be taken in case of a thing which is not in my hands. However, I would convey the correct information. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Azmi, please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Total sanitation campaign-about water and lavatory, it has been decided that the arrangement of water and lavatory will be done inevitably in all the schools, Madarasas, colleges and primary school by 31st March, 2006. The Government will bear the entire expenses. With this, the children after getting familiar with the utility of the lavatory can make it constructed at their homes by making their guardians aware of it. Our deadline is 31st March, 2006. We have to complete the sanitation campaign within the stipulated time. Similarly, there is computerisation of land records. With this, a villager can have information about his account. Under the scheme, he will get a document within five minutes after paying rupees 10 or 15. In this regard, some State Governments have progressed a lot, whereas some of the State Government are lagging behind. We have been bearing 100 percent expenses for the computerisation of Land Records. We give regular instruction to the State Governments about the land reforms, government land, waste land, surplus land and the land given under Bhoodan. In this regard, we have held a conference of Ministers of Revenue and Ministers of Rural Development. We have also held the Chief Minister's Conference and the Conference of project directors of the country. We are also going to hold a conference of the Ministers of the Department of Water and CATG. By doing all this, we are trying to motivate the states, implement all the programmes in consultation with the States and take them to the reach of the poor people and the villages.

The hon'ble Members have raised a question about the Indira Awas Yojana. There are about one and a half crore families in our country who have no houses to live in. They live in the slums. They do not have the houses. Presently, we are getting the houses constructed for 15 lakh families. In the budget provision of Rupees 2000 crores, we have increased the same to Rs. 2500 crores last year. This year, the budget has been increased to

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

the level of rupees two thousand seven hundred fifty crores. We have been asked to send a proposal regarding speedy construction of those houses. We have immediately sent the proposal mentioning that one and a half crore families are living without houses. If houses are constructed for 15 lakh families every year, it will take 10 years to do so. However, 10 lakh poor families are also being added up every year. We think that it will take more years, so we have felt to make it double.

In Bharat Nirman also it has been mentioned that we have to construct 60 lakh additional houses within four years. There have been three programmes under the Bharat Nirman—linking of villages with population of more than 1000 under the Prime Minister's Employment Road Scheme. Secondly, making arrangements of pure drinking water in two lakh 16 thousand habitations where drinking water is either not available or it is impure and thirdly, providing houses for poor people but the Supreme Court has issued stay orders in this regard. Shri Ramdas Athawale has demanded for getting a re-survey conducted in this regard because names of many people are not included in the below poverty line list. Shri Anant Gudhe was also demanding that if someone's house is damaged due to fire, the Government should make arrangements for the rehabilitation of that person. We have told all the State Governments to make available houses under Indira Awas Yojana to the person whose house have been damaged in fire on 15th and have been rendered to a very damaged condition due to it. We have directed all the State Governments that we will give all the money for this purpose and have asked them to send the list of such persons. We will reimburse all the amount. But also realise that the poor person who loses his house due to fire is left completely ruined. Therefore, he should be provided the due relief out of the district funds. But the Indira Awas should be constructed immediately for him by the Department of Rural Development and it should not be delayed. These instructions has been conveyed in writing to all the states. Now, the Members themselves have to monitor that wherever a house is caught on fire, it is their duty to check that the construction of brick house has been started there or not. We will provide all the money and support from here for this purpose. Similarly, all these schemes regarding area development etc. and the question of water scarcity has been raised here by saying that there will be water crisis in the coming days. For that we have asked to prepare a master plan for water harvesting, water shed management, water management in draught prone areas and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, Desert Development Programme and Draught Prone Area Programme *i.e.* IWDP, DDP and DPA. These three development programmes are popularly known as "Hariyali Yojna. I request the Members to get the schemes, on rain water harvesting for the draught prone areas under their constituencies prepared and sent to us. All the funds for all those schemes will be provided and those will be implemented from here. Our main focus is on water since there is possibility of acute water crisis in the near future. Hence we should be alert now itself and work for that. Thus there are fourteen schemes for rural development. Similarly there is "Annapurna Yojana". It is our duty to provide foodgrains to poor people and to monitor over that. Ten kilograms of foodgrains will be provided free of cost to the extremely poor person.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Does anyone is getting it? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Then, there is a social security pension scheme. The poor people above the age of 60 will get pension under the Old Age Pension Scheme, which is commonly known as 'buda-budi pension scheme in the villages. We will ensure that the needy persons are really getting it. Then, there is family security scheme under which there is provision of providing Rs. 10000/- in cash in case the head of a family dies in an accident. We held a meeting on monitoring of that and as well as all such schemes. We also inform the Members in writing about expenses involved in it. Therefore, I request the Members that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Just now I have told that there is "buda budi Pension schemes'. There are 15 districts under an officer. I have said that the Minister of State or our officers on behalf of the Ministry of Rural Development will visit and supervise atleast 10 villages in a district and see how the schemes of rural development are implemented. What are the problems of the villages and State Governments? It is Union Government's duty to extend help to solve all these problems and there is no discrimination in this regard. We have taken a pledge that we will not work with in a prejudice manner. I will do justice. We keep that oath

remembered. There will be no discrimination with any state. We will concentrate on how the poor people and villages can be developed. When we will work as per the thinking and guidelines of our President and the Prime Minister adopting the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi following the guidelines set under our common minimum programme unemployment and poverty will be eradicated and our villages will become prosperous then no super power stop India from attaining the number one position in the world. Thus, with the help of all the Hon. Members, we definitely will be able to meet their demands and our goals by implementing the schemes. ...*(Interruptions)* We will make all such arrangements.

I would, therefore, request all the Members to pass the Budget and make efforts for the development and prosperity of villages. Not only that alleviation of poverty and employment, we have asked the 'CAPART' for removing unemployment quality training should be implemented to 10 lakh people as per the demand and quality training should be provided to one crore people by the Department and they should be linked to the Banks. People have complained against the Banks. We have made correspondence to the Minister of Finance. There are 800 Branches of banks as well as there are also schemes like SGSY, Swarna Jayawanti Gramin Swarojgar Yojana which will promote self employment.

21.00 hrs.

Sir, it will lead to growth of self-employment. There will be arrangement of training for the workers, loans from the Banks and for sale of the items produced by them in domestic and international markets. 'Gramshri Mela' was organised by the 'CAPART' 'Saras Mela' was organised at the Pragati Maidan on the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru ji, which released a sale to the order of Rs. 4.50 crore. Similarly, 'Basant Saras Mela' which was organised at Delhi Haat registered a sale of more than Rs. One crore. As the hon. Minister of Agriculture has stated that there should be marketing arrangement for rural products. So, we are making arrangements for marketing also. The income of rural people will be enhanced, when the rural products are sold in domestic and international markets. Sir, these schemes are being launched for alleviation of poverty and unemployment and for development and prosperity of villagers. It would not be possible to run these schemes properly without cooperation of the hon. Members. Therefore, cooperation and guidance is desirable on the part of the hon. Members. We want to implement these schemes, so as to materialize the dream of Gandhiji and Dr. Lohia.

Sir, thanking you with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that each of the legislators is giving proposals for installation of 200 hand pumps with the funds provided by you in Uttar Pradesh. But there is no such provision for the Members of Parliament. I would, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to make the announcement today itself that each of the Members of Parliament would be empowered to submit a proposal for installation of one thousand handpumps in his constituency.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Azmiji, please take your seat.

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY: Sir, a new life has been breathed into the Ministry even since the Hon. Minister has assumed its charge. I feel disappointed to see the sorry state of affairs that prevailed in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj during the tenure of NDA Government. This feeling of disappointment is more so as I myself as a Minister of Rural Development had introduced this Bill in the Parliament and got it passed. I am disgusted to find that now a days the Chief Ministers are diverting the entire funds to other heads in States.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, please take your seat.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Hon. Minister your policy is good and your intentions are also genuine, but how can you shut your eyes to the scramble being made by the officers, agents and thieves for the money released by you to the States? Strict action needs to be taken on your part to prevent this loot.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A number of cut motions have been moved.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Azmi, sit down, please.

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*Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The responsibility of monitoring falls on the hon. Members also. You should also fulfill this obligation of yours.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: What can the Members of Parliament do against such corrupt official? Can we suspend the CDP? We should be empowered to suspend that officer if we find him involved in corrupt practices.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A number of cut motions have been moved by Members to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rural Development. Shall I put all the cut motions to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular cut motion to be put separately?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Sir, please put them together.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rural Development to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the order paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 79 to 81 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

21.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, April 26, 2005/Vaisakha 6, 1927 (Saka)

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