

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 06, 2006/Phalgun 15, 1927(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

MR. SPEAKER : No permission now please.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the Governments of Maharashtra and Orissa are constructing projects illegally.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you afterwards.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : They are constructing Babli project and Upper Vamsadhara and Lower Vamsadhara projects.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, I will allow you afterwards. This is not the time.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, our hon. Minister is here. We have given the representation to the Minister. They are constructing Babli project and Upper Vamsadhara and Lower Vamsadhara projects which is in violation of Inter-State Agreement and even the award of Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No.202. Shri Brajesh Pathak - not present.

Shri Hiten Barman - not present.

Q.No. 203. Shri Raghunath Jha - not present.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is to be recorded any further. I will allow you.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No.204. Shri Dhanuskodi R. Athithan - not present.

Shall we dispense with Question Hour on Mondays? I can only say that it is very unfortunate.

Q.No. 5 - Shri Asaduddin Owaisi - Not present

Shri Anandrao V. Adsul

National River Conservation Plan

*205. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI :

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

(a) whether the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is under implementation in the country since 1986;

(b) if so, the total funds released by the Union Government so far under this plan and utilized by State Governments;

(c) whether in spite of spending a huge amount on NRCP, the results have not been encouraging;

(d) if so, the total funds spent on Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans;

(e) whether monitoring system of the action plans of the Government for depolluting the rivers is not satisfactory;

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure the desired results;

(g) whether the Government proposes to seek external assistance to complete certain projects under NRCP; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (h) Yes, Sir. The works of pollution abatement in rivers started with the launching of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I in the year 1985. Subsequently, GAP Phase-II (GAP-II) was initiated which included the works on the tributaries of the river Ganga, namely, Yamuna, Gomti and Damodar. The Plan was further broad based to cover other national rivers under the aegis of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the year 1995. The programme which began with pollution abatement works in the river Ganga in 1985, thus, presently covers 34 rivers with works undertaken in 160 towns spread in 20 States. Under this Plan, the Central grant of Rs.2400 crore has been released to all the implementing agencies of the participating State Governments till December, 2005 so far, against which, an expenditure of Rs.2462 crore is reported to have been incurred by the State Governments including expenditure out of the States' shares/contributions from local bodies etc.

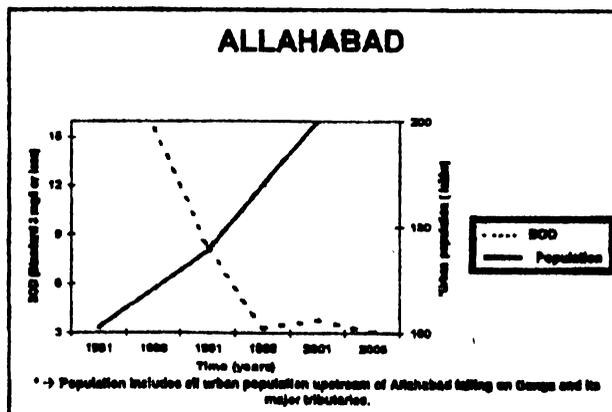
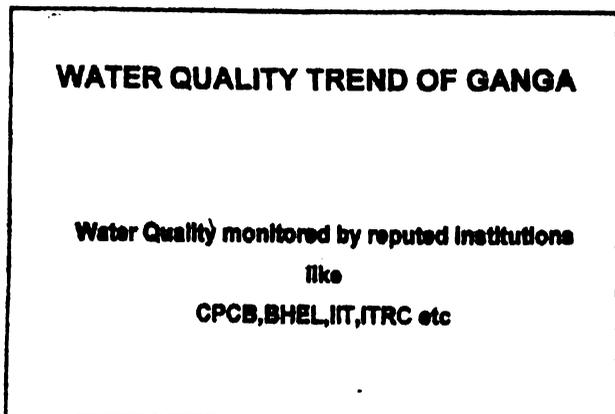
Out of the total amount utilized under the NRCP so far, an amount of Rs.1391 crore is reported to have been utilised till December, 2005 under the Ganga Action Plan (Phase I & II). This includes utilization of funds of Rs.678 crores under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I implemented during 1993-2003 and YAP Phase-II under implementation at present.

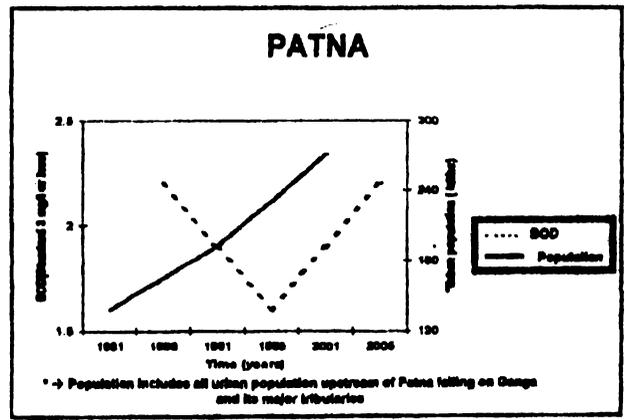
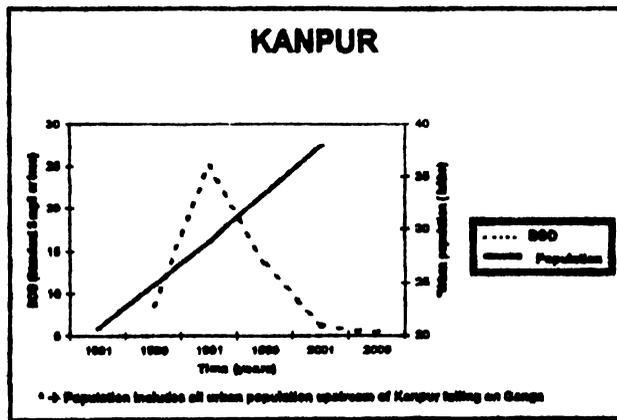
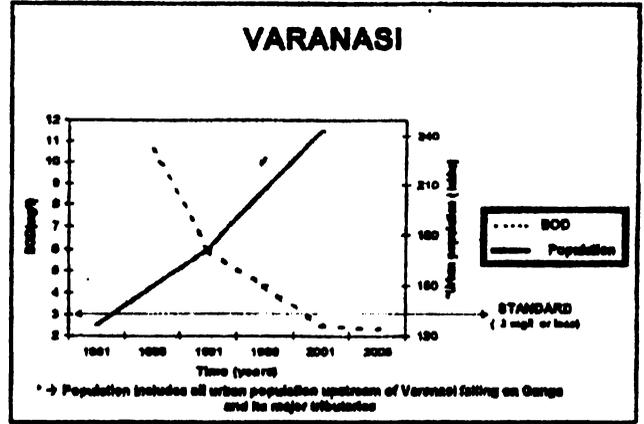
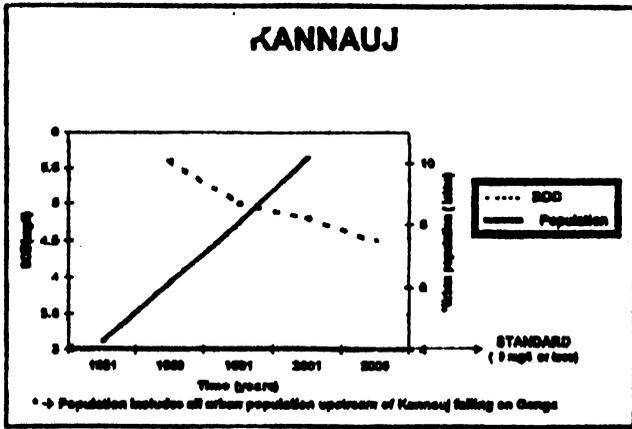
Notwithstanding the phenomenal increase in urban population leading to substantial increase in the pollution load of these rivers over the past years, the water quality of the river Ganga, unlike its tributary Yamuna, has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality. A graphical statement giving changes in Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) a key parameter indicating pollution by sewage in several monitoring stations, together with changes in upstream urban population over the same period is attached.

The Government, under the river conservation programmes, has attached due importance to the water quality monitoring of the rivers. The progress of the implementation of the pollution abatement works undertaken by the implementing agencies of the States is further monitored by a Steering Committee constituted at the Central level and at the State level by the respective State level Steering Committees.

In view of the huge requirement of funds for tackling pollution in the rivers, the Government has already availed assistance from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) under the YAP Phase-I & II. A loan agreement with the same agency has further been signed by the Government for pollution abatement works in the river Ganga at Varanasi. Assistance has also been sought from JBIC for similar projects at Allahabad, Lucknow and Kanpur as well as for Yamuna Action Plan Phase III and pollution abatement works in river Pamba in Kerala.

Annexure





SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Sir, water resources are getting depleted and polluted across the country. Almost 21 years into the Water (Prevention and Control) Pollution Act, many State Governments are yet to come up with the mandatory Gazette Notification on the quality of water in the rivers of their respective States. The country is struggling to keep its rivers and lakes clean. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken by the Union Government to provide enough infrastructure to prevent untreated sewage and urban waste water from flowing into the rivers. I would also like to know what results have been achieved by the Government under the National River Conservation Plan and National Lake Conservation Plan. He may also tell the amounts spent on the cleaning of rivers and lakes in the State of Maharashtra for the last three years.

MR. SPEAKER : You must know how to put supplementary. A supplementary cannot mean another three questions.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Member and the august House that river conservation in the country is a mammoth task before the Central Government. Appreciating the need for pollution abatement and rivers, the Central Government under the leadership of late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi had launched Ganga Action Plan I in 1985. Under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) total of Rs.4,735 crore worth of schemes have been approved for creation of 5,364 MLD capacity. Under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I which was started in 1985, total 259 projects were completed and the scheme is declared closed and 865 MLD sewage capacity was created.

Subsequently, the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-II was initiated by including some of the tributaries of river Ganga, namely, river Yamuna, river Gomati and river Damodar. The programme was further broad-based to cover other rivers under the National River Conservation

Plan (NRCP) which was started in the year 1995, and NRCP presently covers 34 rivers with work undertaken in 160 towns in 20 States.

Sir, a total of 2,320 MLD of sewage treatment facility has been created under NRCP including in GAP phase-I as against approved 5,364 MLD till 31 December 2005.

MR. SPEAKER : All these details cannot come in the answer to this Question.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Yes, Sir. As regards Maharashtra, I have got the details with me that they have approved certain schemes, and I will supply the same to the hon. Member.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is in the statement itself. My specific question was regarding the infrastructure provided to the States.

Secondly, so many States have not issued any Gazette Notification. This was my supplementary Question to the hon. Minister.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, facilities are created in the States by way of providing treatment plants, and they are handed over to the States concerned after completion for regular treatment of sewage. Thereafter, it is up to the State Governments to notify it. We are just supplementing the resources of the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Owaisi, I can give you a chance to put your Question provided you express your regret, and it should not be treated as a precedent.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Yes, Sir, I express my regret.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, but you will get to ask only one supplementary.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that a pilot study has been conducted by a team of experts in 2004, which clearly shows that the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels are not at the standard level of three per cent, but are still very high despite spending nearly Rs.1,391 crore on cleaning river Ganga? Is he going

to accept a plan created by an NGO called the *Sankat Mochan Foundation*?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, as I have already stated in my reply that there has been a substantial improvement in the quality of water in the river Ganga, but we have some problem in river Yamuna, to tackle. Actually, the problem is in the Delhi and Agra stretch, and this problem to some extent, is to be handled under the Yamuna Action Plan Phase - II, with provision of funds for the purpose for Delhi, UP and Haryana under this plan.

As far as the study is concerned, I am not aware of such type of a study.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, in the last part of the statement it is said that the Government has entered into an agreement with the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) for the implementation of this project in various States. There is also a mention about river Pamba in Kerala. What is the project that it going to be taken up on river Pamba, which is highly polluted due to the pilgrimage centre situated at Sabarimala? Has the Government started implementing the plan in relation to river Pamba?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Regarding external assistance, we are taking loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. We have taken loans for YAP Phase-I and YAP Phase-II and for abatement of pollution in other rivers, have urged the Government to take further loans from the same agency. We have included *Pamba* in this list of 160 towns. As I have stated in my written reply, the name of River *Pamba* has already been included. The approved cost for abatement of pollution in River *Pamba* is Rs.18.4 crores.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : He is only repeating what is already there in the written statement.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : I would like to add that a project of above Rs.18 crore has already been sanctioned for this.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know whether river Narmada, the life-

line of Madhya Pradesh, which is known for its religious, social and industrial importance from Madhya Pradesh to Gujarat has been covered under National River Conservation Plan? If so how much amount has been allocated for it and if not, by when it is likely to be included therein?

[English]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, in Madhya Pradesh, certain projects have been taken up by our Ministry. We have taken up pollution abatement works in the towns of Bhopal, Chhapara, Indore, Jabalpur, Mandla, Nagad, Seoni, Ujjain, Vidisha, etc. Money for undertaking pollution abatement works has been approved in respect of these towns.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : I am asking specifically about Narmada river. The hon. Minister has said nothing in this regard.

[English]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : *Narmada* is already included in this list. So far as pollution abatement works are concerned, *Narmada* is in our priority, and we have already approved the scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : How much money has been allocated for it?

[English]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : The approved cost for *Narmada* is about Rs.13 crores.

Funds for Development of Forest Villages

*206. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE :

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

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from various States for development of forest villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds provided to various States for development of forest villages during the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether certain norms for allocation of funds have been fixed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government of India has received proposals from 8 States for the development of forest villages. The State-wise details of the proposals are given below:

S.No.	State	No. of Forest Villages Proposed to be Covered
1.	Madhya Pradesh	679
2.	Assam	373
3.	Chhattisgarh	343
4.	Gujarat	199
5.	West Bengal	170
6.	Mizoram	27
7.	Jharkhand	21
8.	Orissa	20
Total		1,832

(c) During 2005-06, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has released an amount of Rs.181.04 crore for the development of 1,624 forest villages in 5 States under Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub-Plan. The details of State-wise release are given below:

S.No.	State	Released Amount (Rs. in crores)
1.	Madhya Pradesh	56.07
2.	Assam	40.57
3.	Chhattisgarh	43.57
4.	Gujarat	19.79
5.	West Bengal	21.04
Total		181.04

(d) and (e) As per norms, all the forest villages in the various States are to be covered. It has been decided to make provision of funds at the average rate of Rs.15 lakh per forest village.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government propose to declare the present forest villages as revenue villages because there is lack of basic facilities in forest villages. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have taken any initiative in this regard or have asked the Supreme Court to vacate the Stay Order? I would like to elicit information in this regard.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that it has been the forest policy of the Government of India to convert forest villages into forest revenue villages. As the hon. Member has stated that a stay order regarding de-reservation of the forestland has been issued by the hon. Supreme Court. My Ministry and the Government have moved the apex court against it, but it is still in force. It has been our policy to make forest villages as revenue villages.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Government had decided to improve 1832 forest villages. But till last year the amount provided for this purpose was Rs.181 crore. Out of this amount it was proposed to provided Rs.15 lakhs to each forest village. I would like to know the reasons

for providing such a small amount for this purpose, and whether it has been allocated for select villages only? May I also know the reason for not providing an amount of Rs.15 lakh for each village. Will the hon. Minister please elaborate?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs propose to spend Rs.230 crore in the year 2005-2006 and Rs.220 crore in the year 2006-2007, i.e. Rs.450 crore in all for the forest villages during the Tenth Five Year Plan. An amount of Rs.181 crore out of Rs.230 crore has been earmarked for the development of 1624 villages in the first year. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received proposals for certain villages, for which also, allocation is being approved.

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know specifically about Madhya Pradesh. There are 827 forest villages in toto in the state and for half of these, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted proposals amounting to Rs.82.73 crore, which were approved, but the amount allocated so far is only Rs.56 lakh. The plight of forest villages in tribal areas is such that these villages can't be provided electricity and linked with roads. If the proposals get delayed, the area will definitely be affected adversely. I would like to know whether the Government have decided to get it done within the time-limit.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, there are a total of 925 villages in Madhya Pradesh and 539 villages are being covered in the first phase and an amount of Rs.56 crore has been released for this purpose. The Ministry has received some more proposals from the Government of Madhya Pradesh and amount would be released soon for them also. There are 2690 forest villages in 13 States of the country and I assure you that all these villages will be covered this year and by the next year, and the amount will be released in this regard.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Govt. has included 8 States all over India under this programme and they know that Jammu and Kashmir is also a State with a large number of forests and about 720 villages. May I know the reason that for not including even a single village

of Jammu and Kashmir? What's his policy in this regard and whether he would include Jammu and Kashmir therein.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, I have already stated that there are total 2690 forest villages in 13 States of the country and the objective of the special Central Assistance component launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is to focus on the development of the forest villages. But the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has not sent any proposal for covering villages, which are forest villages under this component.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : The Government. ...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That will not be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Sir, the government is fully aware that the existing forest villages are small, covering a handful of tribals in each village. May I know whether the Government has any plan to go for regrouping of forest villages to extend infrastructural facilities, etc. Has the Government sent any proposal for the sanction of funds for the development of 96 tribal forest villages? May I know whether funds have been sanctioned as asked for?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Sir, the objective of this scheme is the human development index. Basic facilities and services like food, safe drinking water, healthcare, primary education, approach roads and vocational training are included. So far as Tripura is concerned, from this list, there are 96 forest villages in Tripura. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This habit cannot be entertained.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : As I have said, all forest villages in the country will be included in this year itself or the next year. This year, villages from Tripura have not been included. The Ministry follows the 'first come, first served' formula. The concerned State Government must

*Not recorded.

have sent the proposal earlier. We will start the process for these forest villages after 31st March. All forest villages will be covered. Funds will be released to Tripura forest villages.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : What I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, is this. A large tracts of Orissa comes under the Scheduled area and many number of villages comes under the Reserved forest area category. What steps have been taken to provide funds for Orissa to develop the livelihood of tribals dominated Kanadamal, Putwadi and Malkanagiri areas?

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to know whether there are schemes for those tribal dominated areas? Or else, what is your question?

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Have funds been allotted?

MR. SPEAKER : All these details cannot be given in the Question Hour.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Have those areas been covered?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mahtab, your intervention will not be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : In Orissa, 20 forest villages will be covered. Proposals have come for 20 villages and they are being processed. Funds will be released shortly.

MR. SPEAKER : That is a good answer.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government have formulated a scheme for the development of forest villages of tribal community. The Forest Conservation Act, 1984 poses great difficulty in the way of the development of villages. For this reason, there

*Not recorded.

is a need to make amendment in the Forest Conservation Act for the development of forest villages. Whether the Government propose to amend the Act? There are such areas pite Thane, Nasik, Chandrapur, Garhchirauli in Maharashtra. What is the Ministry's strategy to seek proposals from the States, whcih have not sent any proposals? My third question is that...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more. There cannot be three supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I have an important question to ask.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We should learn how to put a supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to give you any trouble.

[English]

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : Regarding Maharashtra, 73 forest villages will be covered under this Scheme. Proposals have not been received in this regard. But they will be covered next year. Regarding other villages, which are not forest villages, I would like to say that those villages can be covered under various schemes in the Ministries of Tribal Welfare and Rural Development.

MR. SPEAKER : The only thing is, whatever the projects are, they have to be completed in time.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this is a scheme for Special Central Assistance under the Tribal Plan. I would like to know whether the Central Government will intervene in the matter and ask the State Governments to send the proposals. Andhra Pradesh has got more forest villages. I would like to know whether the Government will

intervene and write a letter to the State for sending the proposal or not.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : I would like to inform the hon. Member that as per the record, there are no forest villages in Andhra Pradesh. The question of asking the State Government for sending the proposal does not arise. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : In Andhra Pradesh, we have got eight Integrated Tribal Development Agencies. ... (Interruptions)

MD. SALIM : They are infested with naxalite activities. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 207 – Shri D. Vittal Rao – Not present

Q.No. 208 – Shri Bir Singh Mahato – Not present

Shri Harikewal Prasad – Not present

Q.No. 209 – Shri Raghuveer Singh Koshal – Not present

Q.No. 210 – Shri Ganesh Singh – Not present

Q.No. 211 – Shri A. Sai Prathap – Not present

Q.No. 212 – Shri Ravi Prakash Verma – Not present

Q.No. 213 – Shri Subrata Bose – Not present

Q.No. 214 – Shri Jivabhai Ambalal Patel – Not present

MR. SPEAKER : We shall have to think of imposing some penalty. Would you agree with me?

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 215 – Kunwar Manvendra Singh

– Not present

Q.No. 216 – Shri Rakesh Singh – Not present.

Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao to put the question.
Probably, you will get that penalty amount.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We will make money out of these.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will be liberal with you today.

[Translation]

**Agricultural Land for Residential and
Industrial Purposes**

*216. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAKESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to
state :

(a) whether the agricultural land in the country is
gradually shrinking due to exploitation of agricultural land
for residential and industrial purposes;

(b) if so, whether agricultural land is being used for
other purposes apart from industrial and commercial in the
country;

(c) if so, the area of agricultural land decreased
during the last five years;

(d) whether the Government are considering bring-
ing any legislation to prevent conversion of agricultural land
for any purposes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/Union
Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (e) A
statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) There is a marginal decline in agricultural
land in the last 5 years from 183.63 million ha. in 1998-
99 to 182.9 million ha. in 2002-03; during the same period,
land under non-agricultural use has increased from 22.80
million ha. to 24.25 million ha. indicating that much of the
increase in non agricultural land appears to have been
achieved by utilizing uncultivable land.

Land is a State subject and, therefore, it is for the
States to bring about suitable legislation regarding
regulation of conversion of cultivable land for any other
purpose. Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka,
Kerala, Maharashtra, Tripura, Goa and Union Territory of
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry have legislations
for checking diversion of agricultural land for non-
agricultural purposes. State Governments of Uttar Pradesh,
Rajasthan and Assam have issued rules and executive
orders to check the diversion of good agricultural land for
non-agricultural purposes.

[English]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Sir, the hon.
Minister in his reply has stated that land is a State subject.
Diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural use is a
very serious issue in Maharashtra and all other States. I
would like to ask, through you, the hon. Minister whether
the Central Government has any strategy or plan to instruct
the State Governments not to allow diversion of land for
non-agricultural purpose. In my constituency Khed,
particularly in places like Man and Marunji in Mulshi Taluka,
hundreds of acres of land reserved as 'green land', are
being utilised for industrial purpose for establishing IT parts.
I would like to know whether the Central Government will
intervene and instruct the State Governments not to use
such important agricultural land for industrial use

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want the Central Government
to give direction to the State Government? I do not know
whether they will listen to it or not.

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

State subject. And being a State subject, there are limitations for the Government of India to instruct the respective State Governments. The issue which has been raised by the hon. Member regarding his own area, it is true that the particular area which he has mentioned, is somewhat near the city of Pune. It is also true that a sizeable area has been acquired by the State Government for the sake of Information Technology Parks and a number of such Parks are coming up there.

It is also true that there are certain villages, where farmers have objected. We are taking up this issue with the State Government. We are requesting the State Government that, at least, the land where irrigation is available, should not be acquired. On the point of industrial development or any other development which they would like to do, we are requesting them that only the barren lands; the lands where there is no water; and the lands which are not useful for cattle purpose should be acquired. In this regard, we are definitely going to communicate with the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you may ask your second Supplementary.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Since I am satisfied with the answer of the hon. Minister, I do not have to ask my second Supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : Very good.

MD. SALIM : Sir, from the reply itself, I find that the agricultural land is going to be decreased slightly, but more and more of non-agricultural use of land is on the increase. The Minister's argument is that a small amount of uncultivable land is being transformed into industrial and commercial land rather than being agricultural land. That is the point of satisfaction.

But part (b) of the main Question, namely, "Whether agricultural land is being used for other purposes apart from industrial and commercial in the country;" has not been answered. The anxiety is that because of the industrial urbanisation, some space has to be given. But the question was: "...Whether agricultural land is being used for other purpose apart from industrial and commercial." What is that use?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The main problem which the country is facing today is rapid urbanisation, and because of this urbanisation, the agricultural land has been converted into non-agricultural purposes, essentially for the urban purposes. This is a common problem in most of the cities and most of the States.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : My Supplementary follows to the answer which has been just given by the Agriculture Minister. In respective States – as the land is a State subject – respective revenue laws are there, which clearly state that no encouragement will be given to convert the cultivable land into homestead land, as urbanisation is growing. But it is seen that in many States, because of the pressure of urbanisation, the cultivable and the agricultural land is being converted into homestead land.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government would convene a meeting of all the Revenue Ministers to control the conversion of the agricultural land into homestead land because the fallow land is also increasing, the grazing ground is also being converted into homestead land.

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Would the Central Government convene a meeting of all the Revenue Ministers and impress upon the respective State Governments to bring a limit so that urbanisation of agricultural land, conversion of cultivable land into homestead land can be stopped?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, this particular point has been dealt with in the Ministry of Rural Development. I have no hesitation to request the hon. Minister of Rural Development to call a meeting of all the Revenue Ministers, discuss this particular subject with the State Governments and try to find some solution.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a fact that urbanization is taking place at a fast pace for which cultivable land is being acquired. As is clear from the reply that in the last few years i.e. during 1998-99 to 2003 about 10 lakh hectares of cultivable land has been

lost to urbanization. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, it is the only way out that some schemes should be chalked out to convert barren land into cultivable land? Whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that certain State Governments are already implementing such schemes? Whether the Union Government would give directions to the State Governments that they should think of converting wasteland into cultivable land as we are losing cultivable land due to growing urbanization. If not, the time by which the Government propose to do so?

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : National Land Use Policy has been prepared and has been communicated to various States. Under that policy, a number of suggestions have been made to the respective State Governments. For instance Land Use Boards at the State level should be re-vitalised. In States where the Land Use Boards are there but are not at all active, they should be re-vitalised and wherever they do not exist, they must be created. Land Use Policy must be evolved by all users of the land within the Government jointly and prominently, urban policy must be restructured, etc. Like these, a number of suggestions have already been given to the State Governments. Some of the States are definitely taking interest but day-by-day growing urbanisation is going to create problems and that is why I will definitely take up this subject with the respective State Governments.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Sir, my supplementary is related to part (b) of the main Question. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Union Government has conducted any study about the diversification of agricultural land to the non-agricultural purposes; if not, whether they are going to set up a Committee and conduct a study so that the figure as to how many Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, poor and marginal farmers have been affected due to diversification of land, can be made available.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The study has been made and regular report is also collected from the State Governments on the distribution of agricultural land under

different uses. Right from 1950-51 till 2002-03 these figures have been collected from the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a State subject. This should not have been admitted.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : We are well aware that land is a State subject but in States like Tamil Nadu, with the connivance of the officials, agricultural land is being obtained by the ruling party people and converted ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not permitted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : If you say that it is a State subject and the Centre has a limited role to play. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, it is a State subject and it should not have been admitted.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : What is the remedy for such a calamity?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : When we get the opportunity, in another one-month's time, we will take action.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several Hon. Members have asked questions about wasteland. Our country has lakhs of acres of wasteland and the scheduled tribe people, who are already working in the fields, are willing to convert the wasteland into cultivable land. Will there the Ministry issue any such instructions which would permit the schedule tribe farm labours to work on wasteland? It would be better if they were given the opportunity?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is no authority of giving order.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I require a operate notice for this.

[Translation]

Increase in Sugar Price

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*217. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

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

(a) whether there has been a continuous increase in sugar prices in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the rates at which the sugar was sold in open market at the end of each month during the last one year.

(c) the steps taken/proposes to be taken to contain the sugar prices;

(d) whether the Government proposes to raise the price of sugarcane in view of the increase in price of sugar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

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

(a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The month end wholesale prices of sugar that prevailed in the principal markets of the country during the last one year are at enclosed Annexure-I.

(c) To control sugar prices, the Government have *inter-alia* taken the following steps:

(i) Additional release of 4.5 lakh M.Ts of free sale sugar for the quarter January-March, 2006,

(ii) Making mandatory the sale of non levy sugar released for a particular month within the stipulated period,

(iii) Conversion of unsold/undespatched quantity of free sale sugar into levy sugar,

(iv) Enforcement/checks of the sugar mills on a random basis,

(v) Closely and constantly monitoring the price of sugar in the country,

(d) and (e) The Statutory Minimum Price payable by sugar mills to the sugarcane growers for each sugar season is fixed by the Government on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) having regard to factors like cost of production of sugarcane, return to the grower from alternative crops, recovery of sugar from sugarcane, price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers etc. Accordingly, as per the recommendation of the CACP, the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) for 2005-06 sugar season has already been fixed at Rs.79.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 9.0% subject to a premium of 0.88 paise per quintal for every 0.1% increase in recovery.

However, some of the State Governments have been advising the sugar factories to pay cane prices generally at levels higher than the SMP.

Annexure-I

Month and wholesale prices of sugar in the principal markets of the country as per Price Monitoring Cell, Department of Consumer Affairs.

(Rs. per quintal)

Year/Month	Delhi	Mumbai	Kolkata	Chennai
1	2	3	4	5
2005				
January	1870	1850	1900	1800
February	1840	1875	1850	1800
March	1785	1828	1865	1740
April	1800	1868	1870	1740
May	1755	1820	1815	1700
June	1830	1773	1845	1680

1	2	3	4	5
July	1875	1905	1910	1700
August	1865	1905	1900	1770
September	1860	1848	1890	1710
October	1820	1930	1890	1740
November	1852	1880	1920	1740
December	1830	1930	1910	1765
		2006		
January	2003	1980	200	1790
February (upto 15th)	2050	2015	2080	2050

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked was whether there has been a continuous increase in sugar prices in the country and in his reply the hon. Minister admitted that there has been a continuous increase in sugar prices in the country and today the retail prices of sugar is Rs.25 per kg. Even in the festival season, the wholesale price of sugar is around Rs.2080. In the last one and a half year, the Government could not lower the prices of sugar and the steps now being taken by the Government are insignificant. How could we believe that the steps being taken by the Government to control the price of sugar are in the right direction. The Minister of Agriculture is present here and is well acquainted with the problems of the farmers. Will the Hon. Minister take any concrete steps to stabilize the prices of sugar at around Rs.15 per kg in view of the 'Holi festival' next week.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : Sir, the factor responsible for this situation is that during the last three years farmers have not been given remunerative prices for sugarcane. Hence, plantation of sugarcane has been

affected. Production of sugarcane was never so low in the country as it was during the previous year. However, total production of sugarcane is around 180 lakh tones, which is commensurate with the requirement of the country. Today the country's buffer stock is sufficient, production is also good. This year sugarcane has been planted in the whole country. This has ensured that next year sugar will be surplus in the country and there will be no shortage. The situation, which developed in the last two-three years, specially the drought conditions have affected the prices of sugarcane, but now the situation have improved.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Sir, the Minister of Agriculture is well acquainted with the agriculture sector. It is a natural phenomenon that after every 3-4 years the prices of agriculture produce will either increase or decrease. Last year, private sector sugar mill owners did not do justice to farmers as they didn't give reasonable prices to the farmers. Today the same mill owners are procuring or manipulating purchase of sugarcane at higher prices. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that today when price of sugar is above Rs. two thousand and ratio of the price of sugar and sugarcane is the same, what is the price of sugarcane? The procurement price for sugarcane has been fixed at Rs.110 or Rs.115 by the State Governments, whereas the prices are determined by the Centre. As per the rule, the farmer should get a price of Rs. two hundred per quintal for sugarcane. This is a question of procedure to be followed. I does the hon. Minister not have any soft corner for farmers? It should be ensured that they get Rs.150 to Rs.200 for per quintal sugarcane? The Minister should not say that sugar mill owners are competent enough to fix the price on their own. Will the Government issue any instructions that the farmers get at least price of Rs.150? May I know the steps being taken or efforts being made by the Government in this regard? It is a wrong conception that if we have a buffer stock of sugar, then it will not fetch even the price of Rs.100. We want that a procedure should be followed which would ensure remunerative prices to the sugarcane farmers. Sugarcane is the main crop of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already asked this question.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, I want to make it clear that when prices are fixed by the Government, it is ensured that the interests of farmers are protected. The interest of the industry is also kept in mind as well as consumer interests are also to be taken care of. The question is that price of sugar is increasing and a price of around Rs. two thousand should be given to the farmers. If we give a price of around Rs. two thousand to the farmers, then the price of sugar will go upto Rs.27-28. This price is on higher side. There is a need to safeguard the interests of farmers, but there is also need of safeguarding consumer interest too. There should be a balance between the two. I am fully aware of the prevailing price. The rate is around Rs.1700 or Rs.1800 in the country. The situation demands to give the rate of Rs.1000 of & 1100 or 1200 to the farmers. Many states are paying more than that. There is a competition going on, as in Uttar Pradesh more rates are being given to the farmers. This is in favour of the farmers.

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to reduce the price of sugar given through Public Distribution System to the BPL card holders.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The price which has been fixed for BPL card holder is definitely lower and it is much cheaper than the market price.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has given a flimsy argument that this year farmers have shown more sugarcane therefore the prices will naturally come down next year as a result of more production, which means that consumer will have to buy sugar at a price of Rs. 30-35 per kg throughout the current year. If this is the viewpoint of the Government I feel, it is most regrettable. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the present stock of sugar with our mills and Government is sufficient to meet the requirement of the people during the festival season and moreover, sugar should be sold at reasonable price through 'fair price ration

shops'. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in view of the 'Holi' festival more quota of sugar will be released for the public distribution system?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had decided 2-3 years back that out of total production of sugar in the country hardly 10 percent would be procured by the Government. Hence, only 10 percent sugar is available for public distribution and rest of 90 percent sugar is available in the open market. I would like to clarify that it is not proper to say that the price of sugar will go upto Rs.25,27 or 28. The Government will see that the prices of sugar are not increased. If such a situation develops, the Government will increase the release order. One and a half month ago when sugar price began to rise, we increased release order and price of sugar came down. Hence under such circumstances we need to keep in mind that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce and the interests of the consumer are also safeguarded.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just said that if we give a rate of Rs.150 per quintal for sugarcane to our farmers, then the rate of sugar will be more than Rs.2700 per quintal, but I would like to say that while making sugar from sugarcane only 10 percent sugar is extracted while there is about 15 percent bagasse and 65-70 percent molasses. Some scum also comes out. When we are selling sugar at Rs.2000 per quintal bagasse at rupees 150, scum at rupees 100 and molasses which is a complete waste, we are selling it at Rs.300 to 500 per quintal, then by this calculation the rate of sugarcane comes to be Rs.200 per quintal. Hence, even if we give Rs.300 per quintal for molasses to farmers then I think the farmer will prosper and production of sugarcane will be increased which will in turn increase the production of sugar. Whether it will be done?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices being given to farmers this year for sugarcane, have never been given in the past. In comparison to previous years, this year, maximum rate is being given. Those who know about this sector, will agree that sugarcane is fetching good price this year. There are no two opinions about it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kharventhan, please be more attentive next time.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Sir, I am sorry.

There are cases in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere in the country that several sugar mills both in the private sector and in the co-operative sector are wantonly not settling their dues to the sugarcane growers, who have supplied sugarcane to these respective units, even after so many months.

Is the Government aware of this fact? If so, what kind of remedial measures would the Government like to take in order to save the poor sugarcane growers from hunger and debt?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, such cases are definitely there. The Government of India has taken this issue very seriously. I would like to say that some of the Governments, for instance, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have taken this issue very seriously. Practically, more than 95 per cent payment has been made. If there is a specific case in Tamil Nadu, I will personally look into the matter and I will see to it that the farmers are paid their dues.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Question NO.218

Shri Kailash Nath Singh Yadav - Not present

Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar.

Production of Fertilizers

*218. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) the total quantum of fertilizers produced by the Public Sector Undertaking during 2005-06;

(b) whether all the undertakings are earning profit;

(c) if not, the number of undertakings incurring loss during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has sanctioned restructuring of such units on the basis of techno-economic feasibility; and

(e) If so, the funds spent so far during 2005-06 to improve their production and turn them profit making?

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have produced about 25.51 lakh tonnes of Nitrogenous and 2.35 lakh tonnes of phosphatic fertilizers in nutrient terms during 2005-06 upto January, 2006.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd.(FCI) and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.(PPCL) are three sick fertilizer PSUs in respect of which a decision for closure had already been taken by the Government and they are not in production. Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.(FACT) and Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.(BVFCL) have been making losses during the last three years. Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL) which earned profit during 2002-03 has been incurring losses from 2003-04.

(d) Financial restructuring proposals in respect of FACT and MFL have been considered by the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) and recommendations of the Board have been processed for obtaining approval of the competent authority in the Government. HFC and FCI have submitted proposals for the revival of the Barauni & Durgapur units (HFC) and Gorakhpur & Sindri units (FCI), respectively by setting up gas based brown-field urea plants. In respect of Haldia unit of HFC, Shriram EPC has submitted a proposal for reviving the unit by setting up Coke Oven Complex including manufacture of fertilizers. FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Ltd. (FAGMIL) has expressed its interest in reviving

the Amjhore unit of PPCL by mining and selling the pyrites directly as fertilizers. However, the revival of the above units will depend on the techno-economic viability and availability of gas in respect of the urea units.

(e) Government of India has released the following budgetary support to the loss making PSUs during 2005-06 (upto February, 2006):—

(Rs. in crore)

Name of PSU	Plan	Non-Plan
BVFCL	35.34	10.61
FACT	40.00	—

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister, in his written reply, has given the details regarding the total production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers in our country. Will the Minister be pleased to state the requirement of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers in lakh tonnes in the country? In view of deficit on shortage in production vis-a-vis their requirement, what quantum of fertilizers were imported and how much expenditure in foreign exchange was incurred on such import? At the same time, I would also like to know whether those three big companies of the country which are stated to be closed could not have been revived with the amount of foreign exchange spent on such imports. My next question is about the requirement of these three fertilizers and the quantum of their import along with the policy of the Government to revive these closed PSUs.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have three main fertilizers-Urea, D.A.P. and M.O.P. Last year, in 2005-06. We achieved 206 lakh tones production of urea. We imported 19.67 lakh tonnes and total consumption was 232 lakh tonnes. Similarly, 45-41 lakh tonnes of D.A.P. was produced indigenously and 21.77 lakh tonnes was imported. There was a total consumption of 77.72 lakh tonnes. Since M.O.P. i.e. potash, is not produced in the country. That is why we have to depend totally on import. We imported 38.14 lakh tonnes of potash. Out of that, 28.41

lakh tonnes were consumed. As far as the amount spent on these imports is concerned, I will give a separate written reply to the hon'ble Member if he wishes to know the same.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked the hon'ble Minister how much foreign exchange of this country was spent on importing these fertilizers. He has given no reply. Will the Minister be pleased to state about it? That is why I am repeating it. At the same time, would you give me an opportunity to ask another supplementary?

MR. SPEAKER : Granted, please ask together.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my another question is that Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited are the public sector undertakings which are lying sick. Whether the government are making any efforts to revive these sick units. If these undertakings cannot be run as public sector undertakings whether the Government are formulating any policy to run them by having them privatized or handing them over to the private parties or this matter will keep on pending in this way?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already given reply to the 'b' part of the first question raised by the hon'ble Member that as far as the amount is concerned, the prices of phosphoric acid, D.A.P., M.O.P or Urea are fluctuating every year in the international market. I will furnish it to the hon'ble member in a separate reply. So far as the sick units are concerned, we know that they were wound up during the time of N.A.D. Government:- They were not only wound up, but they were instructed to be sold out....(Interruptions)

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Mr. Speaker, sir, the prblem continues. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? You are a professor?

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : So listen.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one PSU was closed in 1999-2000; another in 2002 and yet

another was closed in 2003. It was the N.D.A. Government at that time. The then Government had asked to wind up and sell out all the fertilizer plants, whether they are in Sindri, Barauni, Gorakhpur or in Haldiya. I protested the sell-out. If you once sell out all these assets, you have to sell out not only the factories, but also the whole city. Therefore, we will not sell them. We will revive them, but you know we need raw material to revive them. This time there are two types of raw material. They are the feed stocks—one is naphtha and the other is gas. Naphtha is many times costlier than gas. Therefore, the Government have chalked out a policy to convert all the naphtha-based factories into gas-based ones in a phased manner and for that we need to arrange gas. Presently we have a requirement of 34 M.M. S.C.M.D. whereas only 28 MMSC MD gas is available with us. If we have to revive all these factories, we will have a requirement of 68 M.M.S.C.M.D. gas. Now, in these circumstances, we are taking up the matter with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Government of India, GAIL and even the private companies. We expect that the gas will be available by the year 2009. When the gas is available, all these factories will be revived.

As far as the question of selling out them to the private parties is concerned, we have a unit in Haldiya which the State Government is also ready to sell. If any private party comes forward for it, we will welcome them.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, fertilizer is one of the most important inputs for the farmers. Immediately after Independence, as there were no big private investors to invest in core sectors like steel, cement, fertilizer, the Government had to enter into these fields. In the beginning, the public sector undertakings worked very efficiently. They also performed the task of being a check on the private sector to control the prices. But we all are aware that over a period of time, due to inefficiency, irresponsibility, lack of accountability and corruption, they all have become sick and are regularly demanding for increase in prices. The private sector companies took advantage of this inefficiency of the public sector undertakings and they earned a lot of profits due to increase in prices.

The hon. Minister has already answered that the Government is not in favour of selling these units. I am also not in favour of selling these units because the assets are quite costly.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will think in terms of leasing out these units to the private entrepreneurs for a period of ten years or fifteen years so that they can transform them into profitable concerns. Then the Government can think of taking over these units.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : As I have said, our main concern is that the said properties remain with the Government. If anybody approaches the Government for lease, we will examine the offer, but as soon as gas is available with us, we will start them and the same is applicable in regard to Amjhor.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q.219. Shri P. Mohan-not present.

Agro-Credit Card for Farmers

*220. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has issued agro-credit card to the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details and salient features thereof;
- (c) whether with the help of this credit card, farmers will be able to get reimbursement immediately after loss is incurred as in the case of LIC and GIC;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any long term policy has been framed by the Government in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof?
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the details of the farmers benefited through this scheme, State-wise?

[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) : (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (g) There is no scheme of issuing "Agro-Credit Cards for Farmers", however, to provide adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs in a flexible and hassle free manner, a model scheme for providing credit cards to the farmers known as "Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) scheme" was introduced in the year 1998-99.

2. Salient features of the KCC Scheme are :

- Eligible farmers are provided with a Kisan Credit Card and a pass book or a Card-cum-Pass book.
- Revolving cash credit facility involving any number of drawals and repayments within the sanctioned credit limit is available to the card holder.
- Entire production credit needs of the farmer for a full year plus ancillary activities related to crop production to be undertaken by the farmer as also medium term investment loans and consumption credit are incorporated in the same card.
- Credit limit is fixed on the basis of operational land holding of card holder, cropping pattern followed by the farmer and the scales of finance approved by a District Level Technical Committee for cultivation of different crops, based on agricultural practices adopted in the area.
- Entire credit limit is disbursed in cash with discretion to farmers to purchase inputs of their choice in cash from outlets of their choice.
- Card is valid for 3 years subject to annual review by financing bank.

- Each drawal made by Card Holder is to be repaid within 12 months.
- Conversion/reschedulement of loan is permissible in case of damage to cultivated crops on account of natural calamities.
- As an incentive for good performance, credit limits could be enhanced by financing bank to take care of increase in costs, change in cropping pattern adopted by the farmer and such other reasons.
- Security, margin for loans are stipulated by Reserve Bank of India uniformly for all card holders.
- Operations on the credit card account may be through card issuing branch or through other designated branches (at the discretion of financing bank).
- Credit balances in the cash credit account are eligible for payment of interest by bank (as applicable to saving bank accounts)
- Withdrawals from accounts are permitted through withdrawal slips/cheques duly accompanied by card cum passbook.
- Coverage of KCC broadened to cover tenant farmers, oral lessees, share croppers.
- With a view to making available all the credit requirements of the farmers under a single window, the scope of the scheme has been enlarged to cover other related purposes like term loans/working capital for agriculture and allied activities including a reasonable component to meet consumption needs.

3. Personal accident insurance cover upto Rs.50,000/- to cover accidental death/permanent disability under a master policy at a nominal premium of Rs.15/- for a one year policy and Rs.45/- for a three year policy has been made available to the card holder. The financing bank is to bear two-third of the premium amount

Crop loans disbursed under KCC scheme for notified crops are covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS). In the event of crop loss due to occurrence of natural calamities, claims are settled under NAIS on the

basis of yield data made available by the respective State Government.

(h) State-wise details of the farmers benefited through the Kisan Credit Card Scheme is at enclosed annexure.

Annexure

KCC Scheme - Progress as on 31 December 2005 (Cumulative- Agency-wise) (Since inception)

(Rs. lakh)

S. No.	State/UT	Cooperative Banks			Regional Rural Banks			Commercial Banks		Total	
		No.*	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	No.*	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.	Cards issued	Amt. sanctd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	3435529	537808	16	1213606	222728	4561856	828483	9210991	1589019
2.	Assam	1	4410	398	5	50810	7042	169789	19935	225009	27375
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	980	147	1	1334	193	8698	1041	11012	1381
4.	Bihar	25	775438	79854	16	188207	48999	666726	145084	1630371	273937
5.	Gujarat	18	1093743	1148274	9	157284	110878	799183	251641	2050210	1510793
6.	Goa	1	3310	679				5376	6490	8686	7169
7.	Haryana	19	1151120	609690	4	206510	146182	457014	303987	1814644	1059859
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	44322	22953	2	17038	11519	121521	34232	182881	68704
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	43355	5150	3	7575	4335	5229	1336	56159	10821
10.	Karnataka	19	1254599	672768	13	672977	508059	1350536	560327	3278112	1741154
11.	Kerala	14	763491	157640	2	276992	71546	914125	218416	1954608	447602
12.	Madhya Pradesh	38	2601658	684828	19	250341	102045	810846	367570	3662845	115443

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13.	Maharashtra	29	3667537	1878855	10	155126	39546	1246159	413218	5068822	2331619
14.	Meghalaya #	1	3251	373	1	7250	798	19107	1911	29608	3082
15.	Mizoram #	1	2104	126	1	1114	258	5045	779	8263	1163
16.	Manipur #	1	491	57	1	1037	152	11719	1956	13247	2165
17.	Nagaland #	1	1209	25	1	659	51	8003	907	9871	983
18.	Orissa	17	2443721	508859	9	304314	56669	545462	75145	3293497	640673
19.	Punjab	19	802642	452976	5	62182	50570	819297	532419	1684121	1035965
20.	Rajasthan	27	2644083	728813	14	228767	210456	810083	387018	3682933	1326287
21.	Sikkim # \$	1	1855	188				2778	471	4633	659
22.	Tamil Nadu	22	1472840	322464	3	133679	17691	1982387	426543	3588906	766698
23.	Tripura #	1	2489	383	1	12597	1551	17328	2101	32414	4035
24.	Uttar Pradesh	50	5312308	549497	36	2094905	388441	3371101	991090	10778314	1929028
25.	West Bengal	19	914446	156027	9	161193	36470	677281	105252	1752920	297749
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island \$ #	1	2554	352				843	160	3397	512
27.	Chandigarh \$							935	172	935	172
28.	Daman and Diu @ #										
29.	New Delhi # \$	1	1714	678				2864	1965	4578	2643
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli @ \$							16	14	16	14
31.	Lakshadweep @ \$							308	103	308	103
32.	Pondicherry \$	1	5793	1127				21242	5422	27035	6549
33.	Jharkhand	9	99165	13216	6	173450	14046	191802	25594	464417	52859
34.	Chhattisgarh	7	663825	106805	5	137962	24960	124957	33520	926744	165285

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
35. Uttaranchal		9	269665	46215	4	18970	4807	129199	49659	417834	2100681
Statewise breakup not available for CBs (1998-99)								188005	26604	188005	26604
Total		382	29483647	8687228	196	6535879	2079992	20046820	5820566	56066346	16587786

Note : # SCB functions as CFA. @ No Cooperative banks in these UTs. \$ No RRB in these States/UTs.
 * No. of banks implementing the Scheme Amount sanctioned data provisional CBs data received from RBI upto Sept. 2005

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Chaudhary Lal Singh, you are an attentive Member. Are you ready with any supplementary Question?

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Yes Sir, I ask just now.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you need to recollect about it?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : It gives me a great pleasure that my question has been admitted and it is also good that the hon. Minister has replied to it. This is a satisfactory reply and I am satisfied. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do co-operate like this in future also.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT : The hon'ble Minister has given a very detailed reply wherein he has also stated about providing compensation to the farmers under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme for those crops which are notified under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme. I would like to know from the Minister whether the crops destroyed due to severe cold apart from natural calamities like flood, drought, hailstorm etc. have also been included in this scheme for providing compensation. For example during the last winter season half of the mustard crops particularly in Rajasthan and Haryana were destroyed due to severe cold, then would he like to make a provision of treating such severe cold as a natural calamity?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : As far as the insurance is concerned, there is the provision of covering only a limited number of crops under the insurance. Under the crop insurance, the farmers are eligible for getting compensation depending on the effect of the natural calamity on the total crop-production whether it is on account of severe cold, hailstorm or any other reason and this is done following an area specific approach. If the farmers of Rajasthan have taken insurance cover, they will be considered in these circumstances.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No.221, Shri Prabhunath Singh. This is the last Question of the day.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, it is a record.

MR. SPEAKER : But this should not be followed because so many Member are absent.

Adulteration in Edible Oil

*221. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of samples of edible oil found adulterated have increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of samples drawn and those found adulterated during the said period;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that adequate number of oil samples are drawn for analysis to check adulteration;

(d) the number of cases related to adulteration in edible oil pending in various courts alongwith the steps taken to expedite their disposal;

(e) whether the Government proposes to make provision for punitive punishment to the adulterators; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) As per the information provided by the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts responsible for the implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 in their respective States/U.Ts, the number of food samples of edible oils examined and found adulterated under the category of "Edible Oils, Fats and Vanaspati" for the years 2001, 2002 & 2003 are as under:—

Year	No. of samples examined	No. of samples found adulteration
2001*	15918	1790
2002**	12096	1255
2003***	15650	1578

Information for the years 2004 & 2005 is not readily available.

The Food (Health) Authorities of States/U.Ts have been advised from time to time to keep strict vigil on the quality of all food items including edible oils being sold in the markets and draw random food samples from all sources viz. Manufacturers/Wholesalers and Retailers.

(d) to (f) The total number of court cases relating to all the food commodities including edible oils, pending in various courts are as under:—

Year	No. of Court cases pending
2001*	53644
2002**	62282
2003***	68735

Information for the years 2004 & 2005 is not readily available.

* Does not include information from the State of Gujarat.

** Does not include information from the State of Gujarat, Bihar and Jharkhand.

*** Does not include information from the State of Tamil Nadu.

The punitive provisions are already existing in the Prevention of Food adulteration Act, 1954.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

*202. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :
SHRI HITEN BARMAN :

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

(a) the details of sick Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Ministry as on date;

(b) the total investment made in each of them;

(c) the details of losses incurred by each of these undertakings during the last three years and till-date, year-wise and PSU-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to revive such PSUs;

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

(f) whether the Government has made payment of salaries and arrears of the employees of sick undertakings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :
(a) to (c) A Statement of sick Public Sector Enterprises referred to BIFR under the Department of Heavy Industry including investment made in terms of equity as on 31.03.2005 and losses incurred by these PSEs during the last three years, year-wise and PSE-wise is enclosed.

(d) and (e) National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) envisages that every effort will be made to modernize/restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry. Accordingly, a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has been constituted to make recommendations on the revivability and future of the PSEs. 20 PSEs of the Department of Heavy Industry have already been referred to the BRPSE. Out of the above BIFR referred cases revival plans have been approved by Government in case of 4 PSEs, namely (i) Hindustan Salts Ltd. (ii) Praga Tools Ltd (iii) Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., (iv) Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.

(f) and (g) Primarily it is the responsibility of the company to make payment of salary/wages to its employees. Government has been providing financial assistance as loan to PSEs which are unable to generate enough resources to tide over the situation. During the last year and a half, Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs.761 crore on three occasions as per details given below:—

S. No.	Salary support sanctioned in	Duration of support	No. of PSEs	Amount
(i)	October, 2004	Upto 31.7.2004	24	Rs.517.43 Cr.
(ii)	June, 2005	From 1.8.2004 to 31.3.2005 (8 months)	16	Rs.150.23 Cr.
(iii)	October, 2005	1.4.2005 to 31.7.2005 (4 months)	15	Rs.93.41 Cr.

Statement

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of PSE	Investment In terms of equity as on 31.03.2005	Loss (-) of sick PSEs		
			2002- 03	2003- 04	2004- 05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	158.84	-60.66	-54.63	-75.44
2.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	108.99	-29.22	-23.56	-21.91
3.	Company Ltd.	10.10	-10.58	-24.05	-28.10
4.	Burn Standrad Co. Ltd.	128.82	-73.74	-110.65	-118.72
5.	Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.	33.80	-187.63	-152.92	-78.24
6.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	53.53	-12.92	-18.64	-11.62
7.	Richardson & Cruddas	54.84	-28.19	-39.26	-33.06
8.	Triveni Structural Ltd.	21.02	-26.26	-47.99	-48.00
9.	Tunghabhadra Steel Products	8.44	-2.63	-99.98	-16.64
10.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	419.36	-256.31	-307.87	-270.88
11.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	432.15	-173.82	-132.68	-285.02
12.	Praga Tools Ltds.	36.34	-37.50	-16.04	-34.39
13.	Instrumentation Ltd.	83.77	-29.18	-29.02	-16.98
14.	Cement Corpn. of India	429.28	-215.36	-80.95	-218.94

1	2	3	4	5	6
15. Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co.Ltd.	199.87	-385.39	-443.02	-496.41	
16. Hindustan Salts Limited	12.70	-2.78	-2.41	-8.34	
17. Nepa Ltd.	105.39	-52.11	-46.17	-48.61	
18. Tyre corpn. of India Ltd.	93.10	-16.91	-4.55	-56.87	
Total	2390.34	-1601.19	-1625.29	-1851.49	

Note:- In addition, there are 3 PSEs namely, Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd., National Instruments Ltd. & Nagaland Pulp & Paper Co.Ltd. which are not in operation.

[English]

ESI Dues Against Defaulter Employers

*203. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the dues of Employees State Insurance (ESI) contribution by the defaulting employers are increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the cumulative defaulted dues outstanding as on date and the period of default;

(c) the details of the defaulting employers from whom ESI dues amounting to Rs. One crore or more are to be recovered as on date; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to recover these dues?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO) : (a) The contribution collected by the ESI Corporation, outstanding dues, and dues recovered from the defaulting employers during the last 5 years are given below:—

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Contribution	Dues outstanding	Dues recovered
1	2	3	4
2000-01	1255.44	92.50	72.59

1	2	3	4
2001-02	1249.91	79.18	88.03
2002-03	1302.38	105.05	131.50
2003-04	1380.71	122.75	176.10
2004-05	1689.08	220.22	111.59
			(upto Jan. 06)

(b) The dues outstanding against the defaulting employers are shown below:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
Inception to 31-3-00	395.45
1.4.00 to 31.3.01	92.50
1.4.01 to 31.3.02	79.18
1.4.02 to 31.3.03	105.05
1.4.03 to 31.3.04	122.75
1.4.04 to 31.3.05	220.22
Total	1015.15

(c) A list of 113 defaulting employers having ESI dues more than Rs.1 Crore is given in the enclose & statement.

(d) The classification of dus outstanding as on 31.3.05 is as follows:—

(Rupees in crores)

As on 31.3.2005

A	Arrears Recoverable	Private	Public	Total
1	2	3	4	5
	Amounting pending with Recovery Officers	465.37	85.10	550.47
	Total	465.37	85.10	550.47

1	2	3	4	5
B Arrears Not Recoverable for the present				
a	Amount of arrears disputed in Courts	265.02	101.02	366.04
b	Amount due from Factories/Estts. which have gone into liquidation	63.53	11.26	74.79
c	Amount due from Factories/Estts. but recovery barred by Act of State/Central Govt. viz. Nationalization	1.22	11.12	12.34
Relief				
Undertaking, Claims filed with Commissioner of Payment, Moratorium granted etc.				
d	Amount due from Factories/Estts. which have closed and whereabouts of employers not known	10.33	1.09	11.42
e	Decree obtained and execution proceedings in progress.	0.09		0.09
Total (a to e)		340.19	124.49	464.68
Grand Total (A+B)		805.56	209.59	1015.15

- Out of total recoverable due of Rs.550.47 crores as on 31.3.05 (as mentioned at A above),
- recovery action was initiated and after April, 2005 the employers obtained stay orders from the Courts for an amount of Rs.61.26 crores.
 - an amount of Rs.176.13 crore is held up in the BIFR cases.
 - balance amount recoverable is Rs.313.08 crores.
 - The recovery of the dues of the Corporation is effected through recovery machinery of the

Corporation consisting of 31 Recovery Officers and supporting staff posted in the regions.

- These Recovery Officers initiate recovery action according to the provisions of Section 45-C to 45-G. of the ESI Act 1948.

The details of prosecution cases filed against defaulting employers in the year 2004-05 under Section 85 of ESI Act and 406/409 of IPC are indicated below:—

Sl. No.	Particulars	Section 85 of the ESI Act	Section 406/409 of IPC
1.	No. of cases pending at the beginning of the year 2004-05 (1.4.2005)	17572	1786
2.	No. of Prosecution cases filed during the period	2942	39
3.	Total (1&2 above)	20514	1825
4.	Total Number of cases decided during the year 2004-05	1453	30
5.	Classification of punishments awarded by the Court:—	393	10
	(a) Defaulters convicted with imprisonment	693	05
	(b) Defaulters convicted with fine	151	02
	(c) Cases acquitted/ dismissed	174	13
	(d) Number of cases closed by the Courts	39	—
	(e) Number of cases withdrawn		
6.	Number of prosecution cases pending as on 31.3.2005	19061	1795

The position of the dues of the Corporation with break up of recoverable, presently non-recoverable dues and recovery made during the last 5 years is as follows:—

Sl. No.	Arrears as on	Arrears recoverable	Arrears recoverable	Total	Dues Recovered
1.	31.3.2001	317.35	332.45	649.80	72.59
2.	31.3.2002	376.24	372.02	748.26	88.03
3.	31.3.2003	245.37	663.62	908.99	131.50
4.	31.3.2004	334.49	583.98	918.47	176.10
5.	31.3.2005	464.68	550.47	1015.15	111.59 (upto Jan '06)

Bank Accounts Attached:

2004-05	—	4806
2005-06 (upto Jan.06)	—	4052

Out of the total dues of Rs.423.69 crores in respect of 113 defaulters having arrears of Rs.1 crore or more, the category wise detail is as follows:—

(a) Amount disputed in Courts :

(Rs. in crores)

Category	No. of defaulters	Amount of arrears
CPSU	10	48.17
SPSU	07	15.86
Private	31	153.04
Total	48	217.07

(b) Amount held up in cases referred to BIFR

Category	No. of defaulters	Amount of arrears
1	2	3
CPSU	09	41.05
SPSU	04	9.71

1	2	3
Private	12	45.67
Total	25	96.43

(c) Amount held up in cases under consideration of Official Liquidator:

Category	No. of defaulters	Amount of arrears
CPSU	—	—
SPSU	—	—
Private	09	38.94
Total	09	38.94

(d) Cases in which recovery is in process:

Category	No. of defaulters	Amount of arrears
CPSU	03	9.03
SPSU	14	40.68
Private	14	21.54
Total	31	71.25
Total (a)+(b)+(c)+(d)	113	423.69

In order to recover the dues of the Corporation, following steps have been taken:—

1. The Ministry has taken up the matter with concerned Ministries for advising the CPSUs to clear the dues of the Corporation.
2. The dues position of the Corporation is reviewed in the meetings of Standing Committee and ESI Corporation.
3. The position is monitored at Hqrs. Office level and the Regional Directors are advised to recover maximum dues.
4. The Zonal Meetings with Secretaries Labour/Health of all State Govts. were held requesting them to liquidate the dues in respect of State Public Sector Undertakings.

Statement

Statement showing the details of arrears of ESI Corporation above Rs. One crore
Individual Employer-wise for the period Ending 30.9.2005

Sl. No. of the Region	Name and code No. of the factory/estt.	Arrear due (Rs. in Lakhs)	Whether Pvt./ CPSU/ SPSU	Address	Remarks	Details of BIFR Cases			Nature of Dispute	
						1st Hearing	Latest	Status		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Raj Kumar Mills Ltd. 18-5302	157.44	SPSU	7, New Dewan Road, Indore	BIFR	06.02.90	16.07.93	Pending in BIFR	
2.		Indore Textile Mills Ltd. 18-7045	232.79	SPSU	Agra Road, Ujjain	Claims under persuasion with State Govt.				
3.		MPSRTC Gwalior 18-5526	147.93	SPSU	MPRTC Central Workshop, Kampu, Gwalior	Claims under persuasion with State Govt.				
4.		MPSRTC Gwalior 18-5527	116.4	SPSU	MPRTC Depot, Kampu, Gwalior	Claims under persuasion with State Govt.				
5.		MPSRTC Ujjain 18-5584	109.71	SPSU	Max Road, Ujjain	Court case				Claim disputed
6.		MPSRTC Segar 18-5325	100.09	SPSU	MPRTC Workshop, Sata, Segar	Claims under persuasion with State Govt.				
7.		Shree Synthetics Ltd. 18-7042	358.36	Pvt.	Max Road, Ujjain	Claims under persuasion with State Govt.				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8.	Jayent Vitamins Ltd.	205.39	Pvt.	Doshi Gaon, I/A, Pb No.2, Ratlam	Mumbai High Court					High Court has sent the claim to DRT Mumbai
9.	Hukumchand Mills Ltd.	489.06	Pvt.	Mill Area, Indore	O/L appointed. Claim lodged.					
10.	Sajjan Mills Ratlam	235.14	SPSU	Dhamnod Road, Ratlam	BIFR case No. 175/89				Ordered for winding up. NO. O.L. appointed	
11.	MPSRTC Satna	113.68	SPSU	Satna Depot, Satna	NA					
12.	Vinod Mills Ujjain	879.19	Pvt.	Agra, Road, Ujjain	Official Liquidator appointed, Claim loaded.					
13.	Mumbai Shree Sitaram Mills	284.66	CPSU	NM Joshi Marg, Mumbai-400 011	BIFR				Dispute pertains to pre-take over	
14.	Bradbury Mills	273.62	Pvt.	20, Dr. E.Moses Road Jacob Circle Mumbai-11	Official Liquidator appointed,					
15.	Finlay Mills	31-935	CPSU	Dr. SS Rao Marg, NTC	BIFR				Dispute pertains to pre-take over	
16.	Kent International Grocery Markets & shops	1666.73	SPSU	K.N. Road, Chinchbunder, Mumbai-400 009	Establishment exempted by State Govt.					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
17.	cotton Market Labour 31-31321	139.54	SPSU	cotton Green, Mumbai-400 033	Establishment exempted by State Govt.					
18.	Tuticorin Thermal Power 57/32024	255.38	CPSU	Mulla Kkadu Village Muthiahapuram Panchayat, Tuticorin	Court case					Applicability of the Act disputed.
19.	Perfect Thread, 15-8883	122.99	Pvt.	PBX-59, NH-8, ambeni Udaipur	BIFR	8.2.90	28.9.99	Order BIFR/AAIF R disputed in High Court		
20.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd. 15-4739	132.97	pvt.	Debari Udaipur	Court case					Claim Disputed
21.	RSRTS (All units)	326.44	SPSU	Parivahan Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur	High Court					Enhancement of wage ceiling disputed
22.	West Bengal NJMC (Alexandra), 41-3159	587.04	CPSU	P.O. Jagat Dal, 24 Parganas (N)	High Court					Order of commissioner of payments disputed
23.	NJMC (Unit Khardah), 41-3194	400.4	CPSU	P.O. Titagarh, 24 Paraganas (N)	BIFR	15.05.01	03.01.06	Scheme Sanctioned		
24.	NJMC (Unit Kinnison), 41-3203	615.55	CPSU	P.O. Titagarh, 24 Paraganas (N)	High Court					Claim of damages disputed
25.	NJMC (Unit National Jute Mills) 41-4049	1171.07	CPSU	Rajung Sankrail, Hawrah	BIFR	15.05.01	03.01.06	Scheme Sanctioned		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
26.	NJMC (Unit Union Jute Mills) 41-3156	258.55	CPSU	12 Convent Lane, Kolkata	BIFR	15.05.01	03.01.06	Scheme Sanctioned		
27.	Garden Reach Workshop Ltd. 41-3771	263.07	CPSU	43/46 Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-24	Court Stay			Claim disputed		
28.	Steel Authority of India Ltd. 41-7192	2122.52	CPSU	Durgapur Steel Plant, Durgapur, Distt. Burdwan	Court Stay			Applicability/ Claim disputed		
29.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. 41-7362	527.95	CPSU	P.O. Durgapur, Pin-713212, Distt. Burdwan	Court Stay			Applicability/ Claim disputed		
30.	Bandel Thermal Power Station 41-5177	520.16	SPSU	WBPPDC, BTPS, Tribeni Hooghly	Court Stay			Rejection of exemption order disputed		
31.	Meghna Mills Co. Ltd. 40-3185	238.33	Pvt.	P.O. Jagat Dal, 24 Parganas (N)	Court Stay			Bank attachment order disputed		
32.	Agarpara Jute Mills Ltd. 40-3185	141.77	Pvt.	P.O. Kamarhati, 24 Parganas (N)	BIFR			Pending in BIFR		
33.	HMP Jute Mills Ltd. (Unit Nadia) 40-3195	1209.62	Pvt.	Goshpara, P.O. Naihati, 24 Parganas (N)	Court case			Disputed recovery action of Recovery Officer		
34.	Titagarh Jute Mills Ltd. (Unit No.2) 40-3205	539.09	Pvt.	P.O. Titagarh, 24 Parganas (N)	High Court			Claim disputed		
35.	Eastern Mfg. Ltd. 40-3236	328.39	Pvt.	Ali Haiar Road, P.O. Titagarh, 24 Parganas	High Court			Claim disputed		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
36.	Gauripore Mills co. Ltd. 40-3155	397.18	Pvt	P.O. Garifa, 24 Parganas (N)	High Court Stay					Claim disputed
37.	Kankinara Co. Ltd. 40-3163	115.98	Pvt.	P.O. ankinara, 24 Parganas (N)	High Court					Claim disputed
38.	Alliance Mills Ltd. 40-3164	102.23	Pvt.	P.O. Jagat Dal, 24 Parganas (N)	High Court					
39.	Kamarhaty Co. Ltd. 40-3165	181.58	Pvt.	P.O. Kamarhati, 24 Parganas (N)	High Court					Claim disputed
40.	Kelvin Jute Co. Ltd. 40-3171	474.49	Pvt.	P.O. Talpukur, Titagrh, 24 Parganas (N)	High Court					Claim disputed
41.	Baranagar Jute Factory 40-3175	423.84	Pvt.	Alam Bazar, P.O. Baranagar, 24 Parganas	High Court					Appeal filed against order of Official
42.	Howrah Mills Co. Ltd. 41-1047	111.02	Pvt.	493/1, G.T. Road, South Howrah,	BIFR	31.10.95	14.02.02			pending in AAIFR
43.	Delta International Ltd. 41-1050	108.13	Pvt.	P.O. Delta Mills, Manikpur Sankrail, Howrah	BIFR	23.06.2001	17.01.2006			pending in BIFR
44.	Kanonia Jute Mills Ltd. 41-1068	357.91	Pvt.	188, Lal Bahadur Shastri Road, P.O. Sejerberia, Chengail, Howrah.	BIFR					pending in BIFR
45.	Prem Chand Jute Mills 41-1062	166.46	Pvt.	Chengail, P.O. Chakkasi, Howrah	Recovery in progress					
46.	Caledonian Jute & Industries Ltd. 41-3176	126.57	Pvt.	Badekalinagar, Budge-Budge 24 Parganas	BIFR	25.06.97	07.07.03		Scheme Sanctioned	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
47.	New Central Jute Mills. Co. Ltd. 41-3197	1200.15	Pvt.	Joychandpur, Budge-Budge, 24 Parganas (N)	BIFR	06.06.01	08.02.06	pending in BIFR		
48.	Victoria Jute Co. Ltd. 41-5037	346.66	Pvt.	P.O. Telinipara, Hooghly	High Court			Claim disputed		
49.	Shyamnagar Jute Factory 41-5039	473.75	Pvt.	26, G.T. Road, P.O., Bhadreswar, Hooghly	Court Stay			Claim disputed		
50.	Ambika Jute Mills Ltd. 41-1060	238.84	Pvt.	3, Haren Mukherjee Road, P.O., Belurmathu, Howrah	Official Liquidator appointed					
51.	Angus Jute Co. Ltd. 41-5038	421.65	Pvt.	Bhadreswar, Hooghly	BIFR	Since 87	06.07.2002	Pending in AAIFR		
52.	Indo Japan Steel Ltd. 41-7965	225.27	Pvt.	5/1, G.T. Road, Belurmath, Howrah	Official Liquidator appointed					
53.	Hukum Chand Jute Mills 40-3186	124.88	Pvt.	P.O., Hazinagar, 24 Parganas (N)	Recovery in progress					
54.	Gaurishankar Jute Mills P Ltd. 3186	176.09	Pvt.	Shyam Nagar, P.O., Ganulia, 24 Parganas	Recovery in progress					
55.	Nafar Chand Jute Mills 40-3187	104.49	Pvt.	Kantadanga, P.O., Kankinara, 24 Parganas	High Court			Claim disputed		
56.	Durgapur Chemicals 41-7211	164.1	SPSU	Durgapur Dist. Burdwar	Cooust Case			Coverage disputed		
57.	Pune Maharashtra State Electricity Board 33-3113	549.44	SPSU	Administrative Building 1st Floor Rastapath Pune 411011	Cooust Case			Coverage disputed from 06.12.98 to 13.09.04		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
58.	Laxmi Vishnu Mills, 33-3389	246.8	Pvt.	Station Road Solapur						Property disputed by DRT. Application filed with DRT
59.	Thane HMP Engg. Ltd., 34-1927	106.04	Pvt.	H.O. H.M.P. House, 4 Fairlie Palace Kolkata		Official Liquidator appointed.				
60.	Sheena Textiles 25706	288.57	Pvt.	Plot No. A-145/4 TTC Industrial Area MIDC Khairane Thane		Closed				
61.	Gujarat Baroada Rayon Corp. 6989	262	CPSU	Hoechst House, 193 Backbay Reclamation Nairman Point Mumbai		BIFR			Pending with BIFR	
62.	Vijayawada Sarvaraya Textiles 27956	125.93	Pvt.	Factory & Regd. Office P.O. Fateh Nagar Udhana Surat Beach Road Kakinada (AP)		BIFR	05.02.98	07.07.05	Scheme Sanctioned	
63.	Neilimarla Jute Mills 42213	116.32	Pvt.	P.O. Neilimarla Vizianagaram Distt. (AP)		BIFR			Scheme Sanctioned	
64.	Hindustan Petroleum Corp. 33317	789.48	CPSU	Visakha Refinery P.O.B. No. 15 Vishakha patnam 530011 (AP)		Court Case/SLP				Claim disputed
65.	Hindustan Shipyard 33319	126.65	CPSU	Gandhigram Vishakhapatnam		Court Case				Claim disputed
66.	AHMEL 16326	132.16	SPSU	Kondapalli-521228 Krishna Distt. (AP)		Court Case				Claim disputed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
67.	Salem	Uma paremeswari Mills 4581	106.75	Pvt.	Dindigul Road Ranji Nagar Tiruchirappalli-9TN	BIFR	07.10.02	26.07.05	Dismissed in AAFR	
68.		Uma Maheswari Mills 45015	111.01	Pvt.	Plot No. 86 to 89 Sipot Industrial Complex Hosur 635126	Court Case	19.04.02	31.03.03		Disputed attachment of order of Recovery Officer
69.	Chennai	Standard Motors 51-3630	839.94	Pvt.	Perungalathur Chennai-600063	Official Liquidator appointed.				
70.		SPIC Ltd. 51-18038	7180.97	Pvt.	SPIC House, 88 Anna Salai Guidry, Chennai-32	Court Case				Claim disputed
71.		NEPC Airlines 51633	368.15	Pvt.	G.R. Complex, 407 & 408 Anna Salai Nandham Chennai	Court Case				Claim disputed
72.		Kiran Fashions 52520	112.4	Pvt.	Whites Road Royal Pethah, Chennai, 600014	Court Case				Claim disputed
73.		TASMAC 76166	193.13	SPSU	4th Floor CDMA, Tower Egnore, Chennai-600008	Exempted granted				
74.	Delhi	Pure Drinks (New Delhi) Ltd. 11-01200	122.22	Pvt.		Court Case				Claim disputed
75.		Defence Services Officer Instt. 11-12357	178.99	Pvt.	Dhaura Kuan, New Delhi	High Court				Claim disputed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
76.	Group-4 Securities Guarding Ltd. 11-16640	219.61	Pvt.			Pending at Delhi High Court				Claim disputed
77.	Ashoka Hotel 11-925	130.52	CPSU			Pending at Delhi High Court				Claim disputed
78.	Opera House Exports 11-9775	481.56	Pvt.			Disbursed in BIFR	03.07.2000	20.02.2002	Dismissed in AAIFR	
79.	Pondicherry Transport & Tourism Dev. Corp. 55-21087	191.82	SPSU			High Court				Applicability of the Act disputed.
80.	Leela Scottish	7984	298.66	Pvt.		Court Case				Claim Disputed
81.	RBHM Jute Mills (NJMC) 42-3057	243.48	CPSU			BIFR			Ordered for winding up.	
82.	ITC Bhadrachalam Paper Board	126.52	Pvt.			Court Case High Court				Inadequate medical arrangement agitated
83.	IDPL Ltd.	52-0742	663.07	CPSU		Court Case				Enhancement of wage ceiling disputed
84.	Cement Corp. Ltd. 52-7374	129.39	CPSU			Court Case				Rejection of exemption application disputed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
85.	A.P.D.C.F. Ltd. 52-0877	109.89	CPSU			Court Case				Enhancement of wage ceiling disputed
86.	Alwyn Watches 52-11410	139.86	SPSU			Court Case				Application filed by Corpn. seeking direction to clear statutory dues out of fund placed by BIFR
87.	Hubli The Mysore Kirtoskar Ltd. 58-194	123.46	Pvt.		Yantrapur Hariharr	Official Liquidator appointed				
88.	Karnataka ITI Ltd, Bangalore 53/0130/67	294.2	CPSU		Dooravani Nagar Bangalore	Court Case				Enhancement of wage ceiling disputed
89.	The Mysore Lamp Works Ltd, Bangalore 53/0047/64	316.28	SPSU		PB No.5551, Old Tunkur Road Malleswaram West Bangalore	Closed as per order of Govt. of Kar.				
90.	Bharath Earth Movers Limited 53/1354/76	153.93	CPSU		BEML Nagar KGF Regd. off BEML Soudha 23/1 4th Main S.R. Nagar Bangalore	Stay by Court				Enhancement of wage ceiling disputed
91.	Samrat Ashoka Exports Limited 53/3239/	363.24	Pvt.		85/1 Shiva Shakthi Building KH Road Bangalore	Closed claimed by O.L.				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
92.	Nagpur	Model Mills, Nagpur 23-292-11	205.08	CPSU		BIFR				
93.	Orissa	Orisa Textile Mills 44-1141	263.31	SPSU		Official Liquidator appointed				
94.		Sonpur Spg. Mills 44-2436	120.93	SPSU	at PO Sonapur Distt. Subarnapur Corres- pondence Add. ABS Spg. Orissa Ltd. Bhubaneswar	Official Liquidator appointed				
95.		M/s. Orient paper Mills 44-1063	261.54		P.O. Brajrajnagar Distt. Jharsuguda at PO Choudwar Distt. Cuttuck	Appointment of Official Liquidator disputed				Claim disputed
96.		M/s. Bhaskar Textile Mills 44-1423	156.77	CPSU	at P.O. Distt. Jharuguda	Factory defunct				
97.		M/s Central Electricity supply Co. 44-4212	260.22	Pvt	18 Forestn park Bhubaneswar	Disputed in High Court				Refusal of Exemption by State Govt. disputed
98.	U.P.	Raph Housing Gorakhpur 13108	121.73	Pvt	Golghar Garakhpur	Whereabouts wanting				
99.		Jal Sansthan, 21-104	133.59	CPSU	Local Body	High Court				Coverage disputed
100.		A.H. Wheeler Allahabad 4952	304.32	Pvt	Allahabad	E.I. Court				Coverage disputed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
101.	Postal Seal Industrial Co-op Society, 7303	153	CPSU	Govt. of India, Aligarh	Court case					Coverage disputed
102.	Coimbatore Associated Cement Co. Ltd., 56-6031	124.21	Pvt.	Associated Cement Co. Madhurai P.O.	Court case					Employer moved court seeking exemption
103.	Kerala Travancore Ply-wood Ind. 54-124	137.15	SPSU	Punalur Kollam	Recovery in progress					
104.	Kerala Roadways 54-3705	112.27	Pvt.	Kozhikode	Court case					Claim disputed
105.	Jhalani tools Ltd. 13-5027	187.31	Pvt.	Pvt. 10-12 NIA Faridabad	Official Liquidator appointed.					
106.	B.J. Duplex (P) Ltd. 13-19818	380.23	Pvt.		Recovery in progress					
107.	Jhalani tools Ltd. Kundli, Sonipat 13-19532	163.66	Pvt.	Narela Road Kundli Sonapat	Official Liquidator appointed.					
108.	Shree Lalit Fabrics (P) Ltd. Faridabad 13-16082	109.5	Pvt.	13/6 Mathura Road Faridabad	Official Liquidator appointed.					
109.	East India Cotton Mfg. Co. Ltd. Faridabad 13-2169	1264.11	Pvt.	17-N NIT Faridabad	BIFR	From 1996	30.07.02	Pending in AAIFR		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
110.	Partap Steels Ltd. Faridabad 13-6357	144.63	Pvt.	21/3 Mthura Road Faridabad	BIFR	From 1996	20.02.99	Ordered for winding up.		
111.	Chattisgadh M/s ACC Jamul Bhilia 59-9860	123.68	Pvt.	P.O. Jamul Cement works Distt. Durg. CGC 490024	High Court					Coverage disputed
112.	Jharkhand M/s I.S.W.P. 60-1017	132.71	Pvt.	Indira Nagar Jamshedpur 831008	Court case					Attachment order for recovery disputed
113.	M/s Tinplate Comp. of India Ltd. 60-1009	119.91	Pvt.	Golmury Jamshedpur	Court case					Claim disputed
Total										42368.68

Production of Foodgrains and Pulses

*204. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is implementing various schemes for increasing the production of foodgrains and pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount allocated to various States during each of the last three years for the implementation of these schemes and the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To increase production of cereals under specific crop based systems, the Central Government has been implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems areas (ICDP-Wheat), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals) under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). For increasing the production of maize and pulses in the country Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented in 14 States from 1st April, 2004.

(c) Under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) the funds are allocated to States in lump sum and not for individual scheme. The total amount allocated to various States under erstwhile Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) and National Pulse Development Programme (NPDP) subsequently, merged into Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) from April, 2004 is given in the enclosed statement-I and II respectively. Details of funds allocated for Macro Management of Agriculture in last three years are given in the enclosed statement-III. During 2002-03 and 2004-05, the area under food grains increased by 5.5%, production increased by 17.1% and yield increased by 10.9%. In case of pulses, the area increased by 9.6% production by 20.3% and yield increased by 9.6%.

Statement-I

Funds allocated under Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP).

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Andhra Pradesh	33.75	5.00	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.46	15.95	
3.	Assam	0.00	4.44	Merged in ISOPOM
4.	Jharkhand	3.00	0.00	
5.	Gujarat	0.00	2.00	
6.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	
7.	Himachal Pradesh	47.57	47.27	
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	5.00	
9.	Karnataka	42.62	4.00	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	3.00	20.62	
11.	Chhattisgarh	6.36	10.07	
12.	Maharashtra	80.77	15.13	
13.	Manipur	13.44	22.30	
14.	Mizoram	44.72	29.89	
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	4.30	
16.	Nagaland	0.00	4.30	
17.	Rajasthan	20.88	50.31	
18.	Sikkim	17.85	3.00	
19.	Tamil Nadu	11.48	15.75	
20.	Tripura	13.53	15.82	
21.	Uttar Pradesh	38.92	51.20	
22.	Uttaranchal	10.35	10.65	
23.	West Bengal	1.30	0.00	
Total		400.00	337.00	

Statement-II

Funds allocated under National Pulse Development Programme (NPDP) and Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM).

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name/U.T.	NPDP		ISOPOM
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.00	59.00	3559.97
2.	Bihar	0.00	9.00	145.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	45.00	42.00	625.00
4.	Goa	1.00	1.00	10.00
5.	Gujarat	50.00	42.00	1883.00
6.	Haryana	10.00	61.00	497.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2.50	4.00	40.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.50	4.00	85.00
9.	Jharkhand	2.50	9.00	—
10.	Karnataka	67.00	117.00	2155.00
11.	Kerala	4.00	3.00	5.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	132.50	336.00	2925.00
13.	Maharashtra	147.00	212.00	1040.00
14.	Orissa	10.00	33.00	455.00
15.	Punjab	0.00	9.00	52.50
16.	Rajasthan	254.00	269.00	2000.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	93.00	69.00	990.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	60.00	172.00	785.00
19.	Uttaranchal	4.50	13.00	—
20.	West Bengal	4.50	21.00	260.00

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1.00	—	—
22.	Delhi	1.00	—	—
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	15.00	—
24.	Assam	15.00	50.00	4.00
25.	Manipur	40.00	20.00	—
26.	Meghalaya	15.50	15.00	—
27.	Mizoram	51.00	25.00	107.00
28.	Nagaland	37.00	35.00	—
29.	Tripura	37.00	30.00	5.00
30.	Sikkim	10.00	10.00	—
Total		1129.50	1685.00	17628.47

Statement-III

Funds allocated under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA).

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3800.00	3400.00	3600.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	500.00	400.00	500.00
3.	Assam	700.00	700.00	800.00
4.	Bihar	2400.00	1800.00	1800.00
5.	Jharkhand	1200.00	1200.00	1400.00
6.	Goa	200.00	200.00	200.00
7.	Gujarat	3140.00	2300.00	2300.00
8.	Haryana	1600.00	1600.00	1600.00

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1600.00	1600.00	1600.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1600.00	1600.00	1600.00
11.	Karnataka	5800.00	5500.00	5700.00
12.	Kerala	3000.00	2900.00	2900.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4500.00	4400.00	4500.00
14.	Chattisgarh	1400.00	1400.00	1800.00
15.	Maharashtra	8200.00	8000.00	8200.00
16.	Manipur	600.00	600.00	700.00
17.	Mizoram	900.00	800.00	700.00
18.	Meghalaya	700.00	600.00	900.00
19.	Nagaland	1000.00	800.00	900.00
20.	Orissa	2400.00	2300.00	2300.00
21.	Punjab	1600.00	1500.00	1500.00
22.	Rajasthan	6700.00	6700.00	6800.00
23.	Sikkim	500.00	500.00	600.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	4200.00	4200.00	4300.00
25.	Tripura	900.00	800.00	800.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6885.00	6800.00	7000.00
27.	Uttaranchal	1400.00	1400.00	1600.00
28.	West Bengal	2400.00	2400.00	2400.00
29.	Delhi	160.00	100.00	100.00
30.	Pondicherry	200.00	100.00	100.00
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	200.00	100.00	100.00
32.	Chandigarh	100.00	50.00	25.00
33.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	200.00	100.00	50.00

1	2	3	4	5
34.	Daman and Diu	100.00	50.00	25.00
35.	Lakshadweep	200.00	100.00	100.00
Total		70985.00	67000.00	69500.00

Protest Against GM Foods

*207. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a nation wide protest against field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) foods particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had ordered any enquiry into this;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There has been no reports of nation wide protest against field trials of the genetically modified food for field testing or for commercial use in the country. Thirteen GM food crops, however, are presently under contained trials under the supervision of Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) in the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). One NGO has raised some issues regarding the contained trials of one food crop namely Bt Okra in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. After giving a hearing to the NGO it was determined that the issues raised were without substance. Accordingly, there is no question of ordering an inquiry into the matter at this stage. It may be mentioned that only after the successful completion of these trials, the proposals would be referred to this Ministry for approval of large scale trials and subsequent commercial release.

(d) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Creation of Employment Opportunities

*208. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to tackle the problem of unemployment by creating about 5 crore employment opportunities during the Tenth Plan both in organized and unorganized sectors with special emphasis on labour intensive sectors;

(b) if so, the number of employment opportunities created after launching the Tenth Five Year Plan, till date, State-wise; and

(c) the further steps proposed to be taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. Tenth Plan document has identified the employment potential in various labour intensive sectors. Details are given in the

enclosed statement. Out of the total outlay of Rs.1525639.00 crore for the Tenth Plan in Central, State and Union Territory and amount of Rs.1084259.22 crore were allotted in various sectors like Agriculture, Transport, Irrigation, Small Scale Industries, Education, Health, Housing during 2002-03 to 2005-06. This has stimulated growth and employment generation.

(b) and (c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through the quinquennial labour force surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey for which the results have been published relates to the year 1999-2000. The field survey for the year 2004-05 has been completed and results are yet to be published. As such, no direct indicators are available to assess the employment creation till date during the Tenth Plan. However, as per the estimates made by the Planning Commission, while carrying out Mid Term Appraisal around 70 lakh employment opportunities per year on an average were created during the first three years of the Tenth Plan i.e. during 2002-03 to 2004-05. Reliable assessment of the actual employment generated can be made only after the results of the 2004-05 survey are published by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

Statement

Estimated Job Potential in Different Sectors

Sectors/Programmes	Total Additional job opportunities created over the 10th Plan (in lakhs)		Total (in lakhs)
	Growth based	Programme based	
1	2	3	4
Agriculture Including National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NSDRPA), Farm Management programme, Agro Clinics, Greening India Programme, Watershed and Wasteland Development, Medicinal Plant, Bamboo Development and Energy Plantation like Ethanol etc.	4.1	90.6	94.7
Mining & Minerals	-2.0		-2.1

1	2	3	4
Manufacturing (Excl. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) & Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)	14.2 (large manufacturer)		14.2 60.0
	60.0 (SSI)		
Electricity, Gas & Water	-2.1		-2.1
Construction	63.0		63.0
Trade, Hotels & Restaurants	112.3		112.3
Transport, Storage & Communications	55.1		55.1
Financial Sector	19.3		19.3
Community Sector	-27.1	32.0	4.9
Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) (SSI) & REGP (KVIC)		22.0	22.0
		20.0	20.0
Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)		12.9	12.9
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)		7.7	7.7
& Swarna jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)		8.0	8.0
Total	296.8	193.2	490.0

Note: Totals may not tally due to rounding off.

[English]

Periodic Research in Agriculture

*209. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any periodic research in agriculture has been conducted in increase production of wheat, rice etc. in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been undertaken to monitor the impact of these researches on agricultural production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting research to increase the production and productivity of wheat and rice in the country. All India Co-ordinated Crop Improvement Projects (AICRP) in rice and wheat started in 1965 to develop superior varieties and hybrids combining high yield and acceptable quality of grain, wider adaptability and resistance to major pests and diseases with presently 46 (Rice) and 30 (Wheat) funded Centres across the country located in the State Agricultural Universities/other Institutions.

Besides, research on wheat and rice are also being conducted at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and Vivekanand Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora. Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack and Directorate of Rice Research are engaged in Rice Research. Similarly, Directorate of Wheat Research at Karnal is engaged in Wheat Research in the country.

So far, more than 700 varieties and 23 hybrids have been developed in rice, while in wheat more than 300 varieties suitable for different agro-climatic ecologies have been evolved. Appropriate crop production and protection technologies have also been developed. Resource conservation technologies such as Zero till, Bed planning have also been developed and refined. The breeders seed of high yielding varieties of wheat & rice and parental line of hybrids have also been produced to made available the quality seeds to the farmers.

The varieties, hybrids and technologies have contributed immensely for enhancing the production and productivity of wheat and rice in the country.

Similar is the case for other crops where research is being conducted through AICRP programmes and also by concerned Institute/Directorates/National Research Centres and gains have been obtained to increase the production and productivity.

(c) and (d) Impact of agricultural research in India have been evaluated from time-to-time. These results have shown that agricultural research has been a major source of productivity growth and poverty reduction in India. The resource conservation technologies are spreading rapidly in the rice-wheat system. In case of rice, hybrids of rice are spreading rapidly covering more than 7.5 lakhs hectare with advantage of 1 to 1.5 tonnes per hectare in yield. Wheat variety such as PBW-343 alone occupies more than 5 million hectare of land contributing higher productivity. Frontline demonstration have also created great awareness about improved varieties and production technologies, facilitated availability of latest varieties to the farmers and also resulted in spread of high yielding varieties. Farmers adopting these technologies and improved seeds have been benefited by way of enhanced productivity and increased returns.

[Translation]

Centrally Sponsored Agricultural Schemes

*210. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has drastically reduced the number and curtailed the allocation for the Centrally Sponsored schemes in the Tenth Five Year Plan as compared to the previous Five Year Plans in respect of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Agriculture Research;

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

(c) the impact on marginal and small farmers and other weaker sections of the society; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (d) An exercise in zero based budgeting/convergence resulted in merger of a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented during Ninth Plan. These were restructured during the Tenth Five Year Plan by the Ministry of Agriculture for providing greater flexibility to States in use of funds, efficiency and focus towards small and marginal farmers. Accordingly, during the Tenth Five Year Plan, 9 Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) as compared to 38 schemes in Ninth Plan. These are (i) Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA); (ii) Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm, and Maize (ISOPOM); (iii) Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC); (iv) National Horticulture Mission; (v) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern Region including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal (vi) Micro Irrigation; (vii) Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms; (viii) Improvement of Agricultural Statistics; and (ix) Agricultural Census.

Similarly, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHD&F) is implementing 7 schemes during Tenth Plan vis-a-vis 17 schemes in Ninth

Plan. These are (i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breed; (ii) National Project for improvement of Poultry and Small Animals; (iii) Intensive Dairy Development Project & Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production; (iv) Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture; (v) Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure & Post Harvest Operation; (vi) Welfare Programme for Fishermen and Training and Extension including HRD; and (vii) Livestock Health.

No Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE). However, under the zero based budgeting exercise, approximately 200 Central Sector Plan Schemes under implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan have been merged/integrated into 71 major Central Sector Schemes in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

The Plan allocation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture during the Tenth Plan has increased as compared to the Ninth Five Year as given in the following Table.

Allocation of Plan Funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs)

Sl. No.	Name of Department	Rs. Crore		
		Ninth Plan Outlay	Tenth Plan Outlay	% age increase
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	3476.55	9847.33	183.25%
2.	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries	1596.12	1729.00	8.33%
3.	Department of Agriculture Research and Education	3376.95*	5368.00*	58.96%

Note : * This outlay is only for Central Sector Schemes as DARE is not implementing any Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

[English]

Exodus of Public Sector Undertakings Employees

*211. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether experienced employees/executives in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have resigned in large number to join Multi-National Companies (MNCs) and Private Companies for better remuneration;

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

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Personnel matters like recruitment, promotion, resignation, etc. of below Board level employees/executives of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) are decided by the management of the respective PSEs.

(c) Some PSEs in sectors like Petroleum, Power, Steel and Telecommunications have been given higher pay scales than model scales laid down by the Department of Public Enterprises. In addition, various perquisites and allowances are also allowed to employees of PSEs. Payments in the nature of performance linked incentives are also allowed.

Irrigation Projects Through Private Sector

*212. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of irrigation projects are running behind their original schedule as on date;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to invite private participation to complete such irrigation projects in the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes; Sir.

(b) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. There is no proposal under consideration of Ministry of Water Resources to invite private participation to complete irrigation projects in the States.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance for such approved irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in the next four financial years. An amount of Rs.18,378 crore has been released under AIBP as Central Loan Assistance/grant upto January, 2006 in respect of 191 major/medium irrigation projects and 4180 Surface Water Minor Irrigation Schemes. With the assistance provided under AIBP, 49 major/medium irrigation projects/project components and 3179 Surface Water Minor Irrigation Schemes have so far been reported as completed. The Central Water Commission is monitoring all the major/medium irrigation projects under AIBP and other selected major/medium irrigation projects on a regular basis.

Shortage of Essential Commodities

*213. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of essential commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to undertake a study/evaluation on the availability and equitable distribution of essential commodities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Revival of Sugar Mills

*214. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for the revival of sick co-operative sugar mills to make them economically viable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government on the proposals and the number of sick co-operative sugar mills proposed to be revived, State-wise; and

(d) the extent of financial assistance likely to be provided by the Union Government to the States for implementation of the said proposals?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) The Government has not received any applications duly recommended/concurred in by State Governments and Financial Institutions for revival of sick cooperative sugar mills.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Package for Sugarcane Farmers

*215. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level meeting was convened in the year 2003 in Delhi for providing a relief package to the sugarcane growers in view of their outstanding dues;

(b) if so, the decision taken therein;

(c) the follow-up action taken in this regard so far;

(d) whether the Government proposes to constitute any committee to look into the problems of the sugarcane growers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) A meeting was held by the then Price Minister in July, 2003 to discuss the issues relating to arrears due to sugarcane farmers. In the meeting it was decided that Government of India will provide one time package for the year 2002-03 on certain terms and conditions to mitigate the hardship of the sugarcane farmers who had not been paid the cane arrears by private mills arising out of difference between State Advised Prices (SAP) announced by the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttaranchal, Punjab and Haryana and Statutory Minimum Prices (SMP) announced by the Government of India. As per terms and conditions of the assistance, the Government of Uttaranchal and Bihar were provided with an amount of Rs.45.54 crores and Rs.18.8588 crores respectively as a one time package. The Government of Uttar Pradesh submitted the proposal for financial assistance of Rs.521.2275 crores. However, since the State had not accepted the terms and conditions of the package, funds were not released. The terms and conditions of the package were not acceptable to the Governments of Punjab and Haryana either. Therefore, these State Governments did not submit any proposal for availing of the assistance.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under the consideration of Government.

[English]

**Unclaimed Deposit in Employees
Provident Fund Organization**

*219. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of unclaimed deposit that has accumulated so far in the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO);

(b) the number of such cases, State-wise;

(c) the reasons attributed to such a huge undischarged accumulation;

(d) the period since when it remains as such;

(e) whether efforts are being made to trace out the bona-fide subscribers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO) : (a) and (b) The amount lying accumulated in the unclaimed Deposit account in the Employees Provident Fund Organization as on 31.03.2005 was Rs.877.76 crore. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The reasons responsible for Unclaimed Deposits are:—

- Non-availability of the latest address of the employees
- Non-submission of claims for transfer/final settlement
- Multiple accounts of a member
- Desire to earn higher returns as Provident Fund accumulations earn better interest compared to the market.
- Outstanding balance in the Provident Fund account cannot be attached by any authority or decree of court.
- The interest earned on it is exempt from the Income Tax.

(d) As some amount is transferred as well as debited each year to the Unclaimed Deposit Account in accordance with Para 72(6) of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 the specific period, since when it remains as such cannot be spelt out.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Advertisements were issued in major daily newspapers and all Regional Provident Fund Commissioners were directed to launch a drive for finding out the latest addresses of the claimants from their establishment and to settle their claims. Consequent upon the special drive an amount of Rs.86.60 crore has been paid out of the Unclaimed Deposit Account during the year 2004-05.

Statement

*State wise details of Unclaimed Deposits A/C
as on March 31st 2005*

(Amount in Lacs)		
Sl. No.	Name of the Region	Balance as on 31.03.2005
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26,236.85
2.	Bihar	6.40
3.	Chhattisgarh	—
4.	Delhi	666.09
5.	Goa	503.69
6.	Gujarat	240.54
7.	Haryana	324.46
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1,361.94
9.	Jharkhand	5.03
10.	Karnataka	322.98
11.	Kerala	17.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	30.30
13.	Maharashtra	3,631.53
14.	N.E. Region	42.81
15.	Orissa	11.42
16.	Punjab	1,267.33

1	2	3
17.	Rajasthan	116.35
18.	Tamilnadu	3,884.85
19.	Uttaranchal	267.90
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1,071.61
21.	West Bengal	47,767.08
Total		87,776.59

[Translation]

Rajiv Gandhi Jal Nigam Scheme

1541.KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rajiv Gandhi Jal Nigam Scheme launched in the Uttar Pradesh in 1984 has since been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to revive the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) As per Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply), there is no scheme named "Rajiv Gandhi Jal Nigam Scheme" launched in Uttar Pradesh in 1984.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Bt. Cotton

1542. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a consensus has emerged among top entomologists about the main cause of failure of Bt varieties of cotton in South India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government recently allowed then trials of varieties with two genes while those released in the southern States had just one gene; and

(d) if so, the details and the steps the Government proposes to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Entomologists of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) have conducted experiments with the Bt cotton viz. MECH-184 with check Bunny during 2004-05. The results revealed that against four insecticidal applications for the control of bollworms in the check (Bunny), one round of insecticide application was given based on ETI. The incidence of natural enemies was normal in both the varieties. Maturity was 20 days in advance in Bt. Cotton and in five pickings the harvest was over compared to check variety where 10-11 pickings were necessary, the yield increase was 18.3 per cent over check.

During the 2005-06, the monitoring team from TNAU surveyed the Bt. cotton in different districts of Tamil Nadu. The team has not come across failure of any Bt cotton variety in terms of bollworm damage.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The first set of hybrids were evaluated with single (Cry 1 Ac) gene only. Research efforts were under way simultaneously to find out more genes with resistance to bollworms. As more genes were identified, simultaneous efforts were also taken to put more than one gene in a genotype. Recently scientists have succeeded in putting 2 genes (Cry 1 AC and Cry 2 A) (b) in cotton genotypes. Such genotypes are already under cultivation in other countries. Hence, attempts are being made in India to introduce both the genes in Indian cotton hybrids. Such hybrids are being, evaluated in the ICAR trials in both Central and South Zone.

Wild Animals Hit by Trains

1543.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the

Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of elephants, chitals and other wild animals run over so far by trains on the rail line passing through Rajaji National Park;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Railways for prevention of death of wild animals, including elephants, due to the passing trains and also for their safety; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) As reported by the State Government of Uttaranchal 20 elephants, 26 sambhars, 19 chitals, 3 wild boards, 2 leopards, 1 goral and 2 pythons were killed due to railway accidents in Rajaji National Park between 1987 and 2002. However on death of elephants have occurred after 2002 in train accident.

(b) Yes Sir, the Ministry as well as the State Government have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Railways to resolve the issue.

(c) A Task Force consisting of the representatives of State Forest Department, Railways, Wildlife Institute of Indian and NGOs was constituted to suggest mitigation measures. The task force has identified fencing of 4kms of the railway track between Haridwar and Motichur Rau. The matter is under active consideration of the State Government and the Railways. During critical months night patrolling is carried out on the sensitive stretches. Signages has been erected at important points on the track to caution train drivers about the possible movement of elephants.

Deopahar Hillock as Reserve Forest

1544.SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Deopahar hillock on the NH-39 was declared as a "Reserve Forest" on August 19, 1999;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to maintain it as a Reserve Forest and promote it as a bio-diversity hotspot;

(c) whether a substantial portion of this reserve has been encroached upon; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to remove the encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Assam has issued notification under Section 4 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 on 16.8.1999 to initiate the process of declaration of Deopahar hillock as a Reserved Forest. The area has been identified as Elephant corridor in the management plan of Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary. The area also harbours other wild animal & birds.

(c) and (d) An area of 6.47 ha. out of a total area of 133.45 ha. is under encroachment. Appropriate action has been taken with a view to evicting the encroachments.

Environmental Clearance to Mining Units

1545. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some mining units in Rajasthan are pending for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) 112 mining proposals of major minerals each having lease area of more than 5.0 ha from Rajasthan involving mining of (i) limestone, (ii) silica sand, (iii) soapstone and dolomite, (iv) quartz, (v) clay and (vi) gypsum, selenite and manganese are pending for environmental clearance.

(c) The clearance for the above proposals would be based on the appraisal by the Expert Committee. The prescribed statutory period for completing the appraisal and conveying the decision is 120 days after the receipt of complete information

[Translation]

Integrated Forest Conservation Scheme

1546. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has forwarded a proposal under Integrated Forest Conservation Scheme for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Government of Rajasthan submitted the Annual Work Programme proposal under the scheme for current financial year 2005-06 for Rs.200 lakhs.

(c) The Annual Work Programme 2005-06 has been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.200 lakhs (central share Rs.150.00 lakhs & state share Rs.50.00 lakhs) and Rs.100.00 lakhs has been released on 22.12.2005 to the State Government as first installment of the central share.

[English]

Production of Fruits

1547. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of fruits recorded in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the per capita availability of fruits in the country vis-a-vis in other developing countries;

(c) the varieties of fruits exported during the said period alongwith the names of the countries and foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(d) the variety of fruits imported during the said period?

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

statement-I showing details of fruits production during last three years and current year is enclosed.

(b) A statement-II showing per capita availability of fruits in India and other developing countries is enclosed.

(c) A statement-III showing varieties of fruits exported during last three years enclosed.

(d) A statement-IV showing details of variety of fruits imported during last three years is enclosed.

Statement-I

Statewise area and Production under fruits

State/UT's	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.	Area	Prod.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andaman & Nicobar	3.70	16.70	3.9	22.1	3.9	22.1	3.9	22.1
Andhra Pradesh	609.54	7404.79	639.556	6871.7	652.042	7735.445	679.814	8410
Arunachal Pradesh	40.81	82.06	51.421	101.26	54.212	103.234	57.382	103.234
Assam	91.79	1126.46	94.295	1181.1	94.295	1181.104	94.295	1181.104
Bihar	294.78	3038.11	295.602	3294.91	291.239	2920.254	291.239	2920.254
Chandigarh	0.10	1.10	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.1	0.1	1.1
Chhattisgarh	16.00	382.00	16.8	401.1	13.62	325.3	14.43	344.47
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.70	7.10	0.7	7.1	0.7	7.1	0.7	7.1
Daman and Diu	0.40	3.40	0.017	0.023	0.017	0.023	0.017	0.023
Delhi	0.10	1.00	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.1	1
Goa	10.15	72.78	10.311	78.73	10.311	81.645	10.311	81.645
Gujarat	201.54	2957.46	194.296	3586.8	272.478	4019.096	294	4128
Haryana	31.86	237.27	31.611	257.2	24.071	232.22	27.297	210
Himachal Pradesh	165.12	480.40	201.982	588.098	186.903	692.011	191.2	692.2
Jammu and Kashmir	119.58	983.86	157.585	1180.51	1167.538	1217.604	171.018	1348
Jharkhand	32.67	321.15	32.667	321.15	32.667	321.15	32.667	321.15
Karnataka	254.92	4008.76	224.884	3027.26	250	3983	257.167	4142.835
Kerala	164.35	837.33	224	1401.8	224	1401.8	224	1401.8
Lakshadweep	0.30	1.10	0.3	1.1	0.3	1.1	0.3	1.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Madhya Pradesh	47.55	1112.57	63.351	1167.8	66.601	1395.017	68.596	1638.917
Maharashtra	586.01	8400.81	1315	9269.71	1340	10013	1370	10253
Manipur	26.68	137.80	53.067	353.257	53.067	353.257	53.067	353.257
Meghalaya	15.27	153.32	23.806	199.617	23.806	199.617	23.806	199.617
Mizoram	17.21	55.01	21.152	42.401	21.152	42.401	21.152	42.401
Nagaland	8.50	65.89	13.314	48.822	13.314	48.822	13.314	48.822
Orissa	234.58	1485.46	227.265	1352.57	230.445	1404.464	268.57	1427.7
Pondicherry	1.10	26.70	1	19.1	1	19.1	1	19.1
Punjab	40.49	578.46	43.711	628.17	47.087	679.546	50.68	1731.35
Rajasthan	22.51	184.78	23.295	220.891	23.835	238.598	24.95	248.745
Sikkim	9.95	8.10	0.007594	0.0115	8.24	12.21	9.55	13.46
Tamilnadu	223.48	4014.01	206.573	3460.17	38.722	3907.721	257.82	4230.889
Tripura	28.39	459.90	30.458	482.016	30.458	482.016	30.458	482.016
Uttar Pradesh	280.29	4313.79	292.51	3381.19	297.81	3525.86	302.97	3624.61
Uttranchal	55.58	458.10	78.899	644.633	175.6	667.04	180.8	640.56
West Bengal	152.23	1785.64	172.77	2111.48	166.288	2128.278	215	2780
Total	3787.9	45203.1	4746.3	45705.9	4815.918	49363.23	5241.67	52051.56

Area (In 000'HA)

Production (In 000'MT)

Figures of 2005-06 ar provisional

Figures in shades are of 2003-04

Source : NHB (National Horticulture Board)

Statement-II

Per Capita Availability of Fruits: India vis-a-vis Developing Countries

Countries	Per capita availability of fruits (in grams)
1	2
India	93.72

1	2
China	129
Bangladesh	27
Pakistan	93.15
Sri Lanka	114.52

Source : Regional Data Exchange System, FAO

Statement-III*Export Performance Year 2002-03 to 2004-05*

(Qty. In MTS Value in Rs. Crores)

Item	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Fruits and Vegetables						
Fresh Mangoes	38003.43	84.19	60551.32	110.52	52381.96	86.95
Fresh Grapes	25680.62	110.15	26783.83	105.89	35936.17	110.67
Other Fruits						
Apples	15332.408	15.72	9032.49	13.18	23210.21	26.30
Bananas	8655.52	12.72	10876.78	11.72	12571.887	12.94
Guava	45.245	0.086	217.97	0.51	224.906	0.55
Litchi	347.35	1.00	962.05	1.34	544.68	0.71
Oranges	27484.713	28.47	57427.00	52.28	31528.405	33.01
Pineapples	717.211	1.42	1623.77	2.02	1677.44	2.29
Pomegranates	6303.80	14.35	10315.97	21.09	12034.519	25.87
Sub Total	59186.532	73.77	90456.04	102.13	81792.046	101.67
Others	31421.928	47.97	58838.22	69.14	49749.444	62.33
Other Fresh Fruits	90608.46	121.74	149294.26	171.27	131541.49	164.00
Total Fresh Fruits	154292.51	316.08	236629.41	387.68	219859.62	361.62

Source DGCIS

Export Performance
Year 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Qty. : In Kg. Value in Rs.)

Mangees	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Netherland Anti	54720	2422111	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Australia	56400	178203	0	0	1495	63921
Austria	584	46691	3125	67229	67	4500
Algeria	0	0	38400	1504568	0	0
Belgium	44995	2084255	105880	4750020	31447	3279232
Bangladesh	13392850	138854302	23797131	226208796	32503224	297165820
Bulgaria	0	0	2050	56100	0	0
Bahrain	86687	23493478	635649	23294687	803691	20414309
Bahamas	4425	74916	0	0	0	0
Bosnia-Hrzgovin	750	23194	0	0	1168	17403
Brazil	526	37305	0	0	0	0
Brunei	16540	800390	12756	512124	9880	408762
Bhutan	0	0	28000	318100	0	0
Canada	163893	4822222	116799	4780568	28193	1368572
China	0	0	41856	875084	1088	49971
Chinese Taipei	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congo P Rep	0	0	0	0	1000	14945
Colombia	250	10000	0	0	0	0
Denmark	3	60	2850	136608	16	2000
Dominic Rep	0	0	1500	48075	0	0
Eritrea	0	0	0	0	40000	837804
Egypt	30000	3117095	0	0	0	0
Spain	32800	732390	17	629	551	27137
Ethiopia	3000	317688	0	0	10	787
Finland	17900	1138808	21000	705800	40	1600
France	910464	18662134	245051	2996523	41189	1310897

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Germany	136403	8575404	101145	3654049	82551	4333093
U.K.	1227568	53207383	1511634	72237121	1202362	71813725
Georgia	420	29251	0	0	11	480
Greece	0	0	0	0	2490	250679
Hong Kong	51392	2534585	79112	2359120	38499	2377832
Hungry	0	0	0	0	29	1200
Indonesia	21155	716635	0	0	0	0
Iran	119900	3800845	71200	3686331	17000	491800
Israel	0	0	1000	39974	0	0
Italy	17570	407117	400	31407	701	96560
Jordan	41000	1461148	22910	780630	88000	2711023
Japan	1535	74694	51600	2523076	237243	12335691
Kenya	0	0	0	0	2100	34781
Kiribati	3000	166600	1500	20000	0	0
Korea Republic	1000	26618	16000	541264	296	41796
Kuwait	807408	37363589	438304	17766165	267964	15044865
Lebanon	0	0	1000	63745	0	0
Sri Lanka	61000	427229	0	0	1000	129056
Myanmar	0	0	5000	558728	0	0
Maldives	12033	276448	12490	189751	4320	115220
Morocco	28100	433017	321	29220	0	0
Mauritius	46500	974048	0	0	300	50512
Malaysia	372633	8682669	294227	10297800	185002	4980449
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	1089127	32839071	855939	32287369	532001	21268456

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Norway	271	10774	9698	331837	117878	2830952
Nepal	426187	3629292	2930112	24386060	3400938	26963514
New Zealand	0	0	500	51160	4880	184590
Oman	512134	9940893	556731	15144824	143397	4273738
Philippines	0	0	37000	2617689	0	0
Korea Dem. Rep.	19000	368980	19013	399498	0	0
Pottugal	60550	2357259	81003	5852646	41150	2259645
Qatar	164991	6370322	232230	8313073	160291	4848812
Reunion	0	0	34000	480930	0	0
Russia	0	0	1930800	18892936	30	1600
South Africa	20020	4817525	14540	595575	400	36080
Saudi Arabia	2085023	68151442	3845716	92154976	2300527	74777504
Sudan	15468	386626	251000	5315076	105000	2407227
Singapore	292556	12224525	238838	10418190	159626	8446204
St Helena	0	0	1150	33977	0	0
Slovenia	828	16611	0	0	0	0
Sao Tome	0	0	0	0	4	2000
Sweden	340	10799	2010	40530	248	14000
Switzerland	57660	3584567	76912	3091744	39695	2371787
Swajiland	2900	188629	2955	233862	2160	224683
Syrian Arab Rep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thailand	300	10060	580	21399	5440	757548
Turkmenistan	0	0	40	701	0	0
Turkey	0	0	0	0	23364	1302543
Tanzania	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
U.A.E.	14033563	370331501	21056161	48854601	9480925	269999474
Uganda	2500	118365	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	18520	868380
U.S.A.	467912	10453529	632606	13327176	34858	1823644
Venezuela	98000	1755000	0	0	0	0
Yamen Arab Repu	107000	1293200	80300	1560047	208250	4065300
Other Country	14990	53812	1580	61000	0	0
Guinea	0	0	0	0	450	44059
Product Total	38003433	841943804	60551321	1105190168	52381959	869548162

Export Performance of Grapes

Year 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Qty. :.In Kg. Value in Rs.)

Grapes Fresh	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Netherland Anti	1722041	88592187	623728	33558945	12900	594677
Australia	27600	376309	0	0	0	0
Belgium	239034	10538083	780030	31418330	387000	20889302
Bangladesh	526660	4799733	2125548	2028824	14724373	83040536
Bahrain	172365	6322911	103804	3803043	55300	3587744
Barbados	0	0	18273	324900	0	0
Canada	104	13619	19410	1438951	0	0
China	16110	863367	16000	793577	0	0
Chinese Taipei	35640	1670403	189200	8035172	234900	11822076
Cameroon	21873	1303241	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Czech Rep.	64060	2326447	0	0	0	0
Denmark	0	0	25311	1254752	0	0
Spain	59799	2445277	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	724862	34246665	2381012	95701788	1082391	43711743
U.K.	58887827	445775582	6495328	331207106	5145945	286334409
Ghana	45636	2455499	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	14760	454608	157268	7724991	130800	6708092
Haiti	0	0	15300	688840	0	0
Ireland	28710	1181212	46400	18931264	15000	751488
Italy	0	0	60000	1857714	0	0
Kenya	0	0	23579	968474	0	0
Korea Republic	106400	1611529	0	0	0	0
Kuwait	40840	723669	32807	1730338	465	14090
Latvia	0	0	0	0	14634	874821
Sri Lanka	1105920	34838198	1091922	29556957	815000	18028209
Maldives	208	13198	0	0	15100	362415
Mauritius	0	0	9280	608000	19000	686158
Malaysia	68310	968021	137100	6094300	96100	4161510
Namibia	0	0	15592	702009	0	0
Netherlands	3646729	184131540	4260124	196940336	6723407	357733013
Norway	14535	741285	0	0	0	0
Nepal	385518	2767153	2409199	24314045	1440348	11501047
Oman	425176	14984123	199516	10184514	84750	5515460
Philippines	0	0	31000	1006322	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Korea Dem. Rep.	0	0	49373	1116630	0	0
Qatar	3990	85118	1700	50225	177	43111
Russia	0	0	127000	7312664	279550	14803459
South Africa	19000	858600	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	489223	15707034	239287	8844476	117481	6492748
Singapore	0	0	87200	3548786	45700	1683882
Slovak Rep	38680	1430720	25420	943059	0	0
Thailand	0	0	50000	1920794	1	100
U.A.E.	6617143	223453766	4591376	199601238	4084696	209135030
U.S.A.	17628	1015941	15748	747986	0	0
Vietnam Soc Rep	0	0	16000	618592	0	0
Other Country				0	0	
Product Total	25566381	1086695038	26469635	1036837942	35525018	1088475120

*Export Performance**Year 2002-03 to 2004-05*

(Qty. : In Kgs. Value in Rs.)

Other Fresh Fruits	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Netherland Anti	43173	1875576	0	0	0	0
Australia	400	16204	0	0	0	0
Austria	0	0	0	0	930	17809
Belgium	51730	987328	40500	621914	59900	1247846
Bangladesh	6665001	64489341	5618598	51739603	839327	6739996
Bulgaria	300	7945	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bahrain	173625	3740555	108535	2794209	52878	792637
Bahamas	1000	18769	0	0	0	0
Belize	0	0	0	0	4250	21950
Bosnia-Hrzgovin	0	0	300	3489	0	0
Brazil	0	0	0	0	3040	121764
Bhutan	0	0	20000	191160	0	0
Central African	98	1260	0	0	0	0
Canada	28960	818167	32303	986052	12800	440728
China P RP	0	0	0	0	92000	2816726
Cyprus	39900	523656	0	0	0	0
Dominic Rep	0	0	1211	11395	0	0
Spain	86400	1882160	0	0	0	0
France	582453	19116272	32024	923651	8519	424080
Germany	2099	58211	19803	1081010	24150	770919
U.K.	146846	5996146	194817	6020503	317504	8438117
Georgia	0	0	0	0	870	8756
Greece	28928	369466	490	14742	560	68700
Hong Kong	15685	995385	3472	111034	10870	235640
Hungary	0	0	450	14802	0	0
Indonesia	5370	147500	21680	794521	0	0
Iran	13940	331745	0	0	0	0
Isreal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	40148	730294	80	4892
Korea Republic	14000	225040	0	0	0	0
Kuwait	109178	2449603	87968	1711600	95562	1580371

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sri Lanka	0	0	8000	119168	0	0
Maldives	25261	244674	10947	21341	13186	147282
Malaysia	16750	228960	7904	205197	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	7000	77617
Netherlans	124636	1423467	71856	2572076	21600	426365
Norway	920	57414	0	0	50	655
Nepal	1190364	7928201	6369510	58000431	7574113	66981213
Newzealand	80	2864	0	0	0	0
Oman	134650	1920994	166614	2107404	6440	798080
Portugal	1494	42447	1300	31476	0	0
Qatar	69801	2018776	105313	2118555	44031	824548
Russia	36000	839682	0	0	0	0
South Africa	13052	197460	80	9546	610	6706
Saudi Arabia	480797	12497372	399137	8985270	140696	2170226
Sudan	0	0	77364	1117686	50000	429455
Senegal	500	7215	0	0	0	0
Singapore	87146	2203327	20993	559765	155234	4365648
Solomon is	0	0	0	0	1250	13345
Switzerland	11209	313999	16977	668213	13381	771185
Swajiland	1871	53849	2016	58539	1300	143268
U.A.E.	2162421	40624526	1655487	24042088	499492	7653006
U.A.A.	741861	16386043	221271	5289549	413162	5660886
Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0	10000	385539
Other Country	1938	58984	0	0	0	0
Product Total	13109837	191080583	15357068	173848283	10474785	114585955

Statement-iv*Import of Fruits: Commodity-wise all countries*

Commodity: 080022100 Hazelnuts in shell. fresh or dried
Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1.	Singapore	0.69		0.79	
Total		0.69			

Commodity: 08023100 Walnuts Fresh or Dried in Shell
Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1.	Uarab Emts	0.40		0.15	
Total		0.40			

Commodity: 080410 Dates Fresh or Dried Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Indonesia	39.83		688.08	
2.	Iran	9,939.14	1,712.73	174,955.49	29,463.34

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Israel		2.77		1.25
4.	Italy	0.13		0.14	
5.	Jordan		0.24		0.50
6.	Oman	353.18	62.75	2,356.80	469.19
7.	Pakistan IR	10,259.28	4,754.95	64,067.93	29,618.41
8.	Saudi Arab	128.77	116.42	929.20	795.52
9.	U Arab Emts	304.14	99.05	4,876.96	1,276.99
Total		21,024.48	6,748.92		

Source: DGFT

Commodity: 080420 Figs Fresh or Dried Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1.	Afghanistan Tis	1,893.58	249.95	2701.78	369.03
2.	Iran	155.21	9.58	411.64	29.28
3.	Pakistan IR	14.83		25.76	
4.	Syria	9.11		33.00	
5.	Turkey	35.31	4.45	31.20	4.37
6.	USA	37.99		35.94	
Total		2,146.03	263.98		

Commodity: 080430 Pineapples Fresh or Dried Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1.	Germany	2.00		4.00	
Total		2.00			

Commodity: 080440 AVOCADOS Fresh or Dried Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1.	Netherland	0.04		0.02	
2.	Sri Lanka DSR		0.16		0.43
Total		0.04	0.016		

Source: DGFT

Commodity: 080450 Guavas, Mangoes/Mangosteens Fresh or Dried Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1.	Bangladesh PR2.12			38.30	
2.	Saudi Arab	0.14	9.43	0.25	13.00
3.	Thailand	0.52	12.85	1.44	24.76
Total		2.78	22.28		

Commodity: 08051000 Oranges Fresh or Dried Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1.	Australia	51.47	126.98	259.15	571.48
2.	China PRP	11.77	25.16	71.34	132.79
3.	Singapore		6.76		21.39
4.	South Africa	71.29	39.06	288.85	167.21
5.	Thailand	8.59		35.00	
6.	USA	16.96	28.47	60.00	127.50
Total		160.99	226.44		

Commodity: 080550 Lemons (Citrus Limon Citrus Limonum) & Limes (Citrus Aurantifolia) Fresh or Dried Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1.	Thailand	0.07		0.04	
2.	UK	0.21		0.10	
Total		0.28			

Source: DGFT

Commodity: 080610 Grapes Fresh Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Afghanistan	7.07		13.47	

1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Australia	152.67	69.52	342.08	155.05	
3. Chile	34.56	39.04	84.35	84.00	
4. South Africa	4.96		20.00		
5. Ukraine		9.16		18.00	
6. USA	320.60	131.10	651.37	249.14	
Total	519.86	248.86			

Commodity: 08082000 Pears & Quinces Fresh or Dried
Unit: KGS

Sl. Country No.	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1. Australia	37.32	72.02	147.82	265.84
2. China PRP	232.71	95.19	1,313.70	590.42
3. Italy	10.72		21.91	
4. Singapore		0.11		0.80
5. South Africa	117.36	58.16	488.00	242.63
6. Thailand	0.13		0.79	
7. U Arab Emts	0.29		0.40	
8. USA	189.71	32.25	627.72	144.85
Total	588.24	257.72		

Commodity: 080910 Apricots Fresh Unit: KGS

Sl. Country No.	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1. Afghanistan Tis	5.93		9.00	
2. Pakistan IR	1.00		2.12	
3. Syria	0.45		0.80	
4. Turkey	20.99	54.28	44.54	119.00
5. U Arab Emts	0.15		0.16	
Total	28.52	54.28		

Commodity: 08121000 Cherries Provsly PRSVD Unit: KGS

Sl. Country No.	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1. Afghanistan Tis	2.66		4.30	
2. Australia	0.03		0.02	
3. China PRP	4.47		3.36	
4. Denmark	0.29		0.60	
5. Germany	0.02		0.01	
6. Netherland	1.26	0.05	0.33	0.11
7. U Aram Emts		0.01		0.01
Total	8.73	0.06		

Commodity: 080930 Peaches Incl Nectarines Fresh Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1.	Australia	3.32		2.57	
2.	Austria	2.28		1.87	
3.	Singapore		0.21		0.24
4.	South Africa	6.65		2.57	
5.	Spain	9.57		3.06	
6.	USA		5.10		
Total		21.82	5.32		

Source: DGFT

Commodity: 080940 Plums and Sloes, Fresh Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Afghanistan Tis	43.69		42.52	
2.	Australia	11.69		30.46	
3.	Austria	2.52		2.07	
4.	Chile		3.34		7.20
5.	Taiwan	8.48		8.58	

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Chyina P RP	6.70		3.14	
7.	Japan	0.11		0.20	
8.	Singapore		0.03		0.12
9.	South Africa	8.86		31.00	
10.	Thailand		0.38		
11.	USA	51.93	12.94	133.26	46.00
Total		133.99	16.68		

Commodity: 08109010 Pomegranates Fresh Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1.	Pakistan IR	3.12		19.61	
2.	Thailand	0.33	0.06	1.54	0.50
Total		3.45	0.06		

Source: DGFT

Commodity: 08109020 Tamarind Fresh Unit: KGS

Sl. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs		Quantity in thousands	
		2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)	2004-2005 (Apr-Sept)	2005-2006 (Apr-Sept)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	China P RP	0.43		1.60	
2.	Indonesia	13.00		146.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Myanmar		14.69		116.91	
4. Thailand		16.71	14.97	46.80	66.80
Total		44.83	14.97		

Source: DGFT

[Translation]

**PDS Benefits not Available
to APL Families**

1548. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

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

(a) whether the Above Poverty Line (APL) card holders are unable to avail the benefits of Public Distribution System (PDS) due to higher prices of foodgrains under the said scheme; and

(b) if so, the scheme being formulated by the Government to ensure PDS benefits to the APL card holders?

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 Above Poverty Line (APL) card holders are provided foodgrains under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at subsidized rates. Against the Economic Cost of Rs.12.86 per Kg. for Rice and Rs.9.83 per Kg. for Wheat, the Central Issue Price for APL is Rs.7.95 and Rs.6.10 respectively.

The offtake of foodgrains for the APL cardholders was 30.78 lakh tonnes in 2002-03, 42.24 lakh tonnes in 2003-04, 67.28 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 and 57.01 lakh tonnes in 2005-06 (upto December, 2005).

Free Sale of Levy Sugar

1549. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the enquiry into free sale of levy sugar by some sugar mills has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such sugar mills;

(c) whether the sale of levy sugar is covered by the Essential Commodities Act, 1955; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in taking action against such sugar mills?

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) to (d) As reported by the State Government of Maharashtra, one M/s Kisanveer SSK Ltd. Bhuj had sold 2728.6 M.Ts of levy sugar stock in the open market in contravention of Clause 2 of the Levy Sugar Supply (Control) Order, 1979 notified under Section 3(5) (1) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Accordingly, the Government has taken the following actions:

- (i) 2728.6 M.Ts of free sale sugar out of 2005-06 season's production has been apportioned towards levy sugar account;
- (ii) Show Cause Notice has been issued to the said mill for taking action against it under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[English]

Setting up of Kisan Vikas Parishad

1550. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for setting up of Kisan Vikas Parishad;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) As per the information available, there is no proposal for setting up of Kisan Vikas Parishad. However, to deal with the issues related to agriculture sector and farmers, Government has set up a National Commission on Farmers (NCF). The Terms of Reference assigned to the Commission were comprehensive in nature covering relevant aspects related to the policy and development of agriculture and allied sectors.

[Translation]

Reduction in Foodgrain Quota

1551.PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foodgrains released to Rajasthan for distribution to Above Poverty Line (APL) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) categories separately under Public Distribution System (PDS) during the last three years;

(b) whether any reduction has been made in the quota released to Rajasthan under the said scheme; 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 details of foodgrains allocated to Rajasthan for distribution to APL and BPL including Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) categories, under TPDS, during last three years, are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The ratio of Wheat and Rice in the allocation for BPL (excluding AAY) and APL families has been streamlined w.e.f. August, 2005 keeping in view the food habits of each State/UT. In the case of Rajasthan which is a Wheat eating State, the ratio of Wheat and Rice has been revised to 70:30 with effect from 1st August 2005. There has, however, been no change in the total allocation of foodgrains. The present monthly allocation of foodgrains to Rajasthan is as follows:

(in tonnes)

Foodgrain	AAY	BPL	APL	Total
Wheat	31145	37513	161219	229877
Rice	350	5512	69094	74956
Maize		10565		10565
Total	31495	53590	230313	315398

Statement

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	BPL (including AAY)		APL	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
2003-04	9.61	7.90	27.64	1.11
2004-05	9.61	8.82	27.64	3.02
2005-06 (upto Jan. 06)	8.00	6.22	23.03	1.62

Sale of Fake Goods

1552.SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of sale of fake/spurious consumer foods in the market have been reported recently;

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

(c) the loss of revenue suffered by the Government as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed the adequacy of the legal and administrative mechanism to check such incidents;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of the consumers?

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) Sale of goods with spurious ISI marking comes within the purview of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The Bureau has been getting information regarding such goods which are being manufactured without valid licence from BIS and being sold in the market.

(b) BIS have conducted search and seizures. Details for the last three years are given below:

Year	Number of search & seizures
2003-04	206
2004-05	217
2005-06 (upto Feb. 2006)	172

(c) There are no direct losses of revenue to BIS as a result of the above.

(d) BIS has a procedure laid down to deal with such cases and has a separate Enforcement Department with nodal enforcement officers in all its 33 branches.

(e) The enforcement and legal activity of the Bureau has been strengthened over the years.

(f) The above search and seizures are being conducted to safeguard the interest of the consumers.

Besides wide publicity is made to create awareness among consumers about fake ISI goods.

Further under the provisions of the consumer Protection Act, 1986 an aggrieved consumer has an option to file a complaint in the concerned consumer forum in case any adequately empowered the consumer fora to exercise powers which are compensatory, punitive and preventive in nature. In addition, a consumer can also seek legal remedy against fake/spurious goods under provisions of the India Penal Code etc.,

[English]

Credit Problem In FPI

1553. PROF. M. RAMADASS : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing credit problems experienced by the Agro or Food Processing Industries in the country;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government to overcome these problems;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide credit to these industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (d) No specific credit problem experienced by the agro or food processing industries has been reported to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. However in order to ensure easy availability of credit, the Government has announced in Budget 2006-07 to treat food processing industries as priority sector for bank credit. It has been announced that NABARD will create a separate window with a corpus of Rs.1000 crores for refinancing loan to the sector especially for agro-processing infrastructure and market development. The Government has also implemented a Plan scheme to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of the Food Processing units is 25% of the project cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs.50 lakh in general areas and 33.33% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs.75 lakh in difficult areas.

[Translation]

**Central Share for Construction
of Training Centre In M.P.**

1554. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought a Central Share of Rs.52.49 lakh for the construction of three training centres under a centrally sponsored training and extension scheme; 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) No, Sir. However, Rs.52.50 lakh has been released to the Governemnt of Madhya Pradesh under National Horticulture Mission Scheme in 2005-06 for Human Resource Development activities. It includes Rs.10.00 lakh each for strengthening of existing training centres/institutes at Indore, Bhopal and Hoshangabad.

[English]

Global Investment in Petrochemicals

1555. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to attract global investment in Petrochemicals;

(b) if so, the details there of; 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 CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (c) The Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals has framed the draft National Policy on Petrochemicals which suggests enabling mea-

asures to promote domestic as well as foreign investment in the sector. The draft Policy is now before the Cabinet for consideration. A Task Force on Petroleum, Chemicals & Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIRs) has also been constituted in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on 20.1.2006 to enable the development of such regions with the involvement of world class developers and investors. A definite time limit has not been fixed at this stage.

**Funds for Technical Upgradation
of SSP Units**

1556. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to create any funds for technical upgradation of Small Scale Pharma (SSP) units in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Fund (PTUF) for assisting the Small Scale and Medium Units relating to the pharmaceutical sector for setting up Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) facilities in their manufacturing plants as per amended Schedule 'M' of Drugs and Cosmetics (8th Amendment) Rules 2001 is proposed to be set up in the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals. A draft scheme for implementation of this fund by offering reimbursement of five percent point of interest on the loan availed by Small Scale and Medium Units upto Rs.1.00 crore has therefore been prepared. The scheme would be made operational on time bound basis which would provide a focal point for modernization efforts through technology upgradation in the industry and ensure the suitable quality of the drugs. The draft scheme has been sent to various concerned Departments i.e., Planning Commission, Finance, etc., and based on the feedback from these Departments a final shape would be given to the Scheme.

Computerised Marketing of Fertilizers

1557. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to computerize marketing of fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the shortage of fertilizers and proper utilization of subsidy by farmers will be made thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (c) The Department of Fertilizers has launched a web based online "Fertilizer Monitoring system" for monitoring production, distribution and sales of decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers i.e. DAP, MOP and 11 grades of NPK Complexes in the country with effect from 1.1.2006. This system aims to bring transparency in fertilizer distribution and provide up to date information to the public on despatches and receipts of P&K fertilizers to different destinations on day-to-day basis. This web-based online monitoring system is currently in a trial phase. Once this system is stabilized, it will also be used for calculation and release of payment of concession to the manufacturers/importers of the decontrolled P&K fertilizers based on despatches received in the States. The States will be able to know the availability/shortage of the fertilizers at any particular point of time by virtue of the above-computerized online system.

Jakhu Fishing Harbour

1558. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had accorded administrative approval for Jakhu fishing harbour at a cost of Rs.1143.60 lakh under Centrally Sponsored Scheme in May, 1993;

(b) if so, whether due to delayed environmental clearance the cost of project was increased;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the increase in cost;

(d) whether the Union Government has released said amount; and

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Union Government had in May 1993 accorded approval to the proposal of Government of Gujarat for construction of fishing harbour at Jakhu at a cost of Rs.1143.60 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100 percent grant assistance. The project was to be completed within the approved cost before May 1996. The Government of Gujarat could not achieve this target instead approached the Union Government initially for approval of Revised Cost Estimate with cost escalation from Rs.1143.60 lakhs to Rs.2455 lakhs, which has been further revised to Rs.5291 lakhs in May 2005. The State Government reported that delay in obtaining environmental clearance in one of the main factors among the others that attributed for cost escalation.

(d) and (e) Entire approved cost of the project amounting to Rs.1143.60 lakhs has been released to the State Government in six installments by December 1999. With regards revised cost estimate proposal, the Government of Gujarat is to submit a comprehensive revised project report with relevant techno-economic details for evaluating reasonability of the cost escalation.

Ship Breaking Industry

1559. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the major ship-breaking centres in the country as on date alongwith the global share of India in this industry;

(b) whether the ship-breaking industry in India is facing tremendous hardship due to Environmental limitations;

(c) if so, the steps the Government proposes to boost this sector which has huge labour potential;

(d) whether dry-docking facilities would be provided to ship-breaking industry to reduce sea-water pollution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) About 90% of ship-breaking activity in India is carried out at Alang in Gujarat and the remaining 10% is presently confined to Mumbai, Kolkatta and Sachana (Gujarat). There have been wide fluctuations in global share of India in this industry which has varied from 43% in 2003 to approx. 20% in 2005.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) At present Government has no plans to provide dry - docking facilities.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Agriculture Produce in World Market

1560. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is taking any steps to make the Indian agriculture produce viable for export in the world market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the

Government for providing proper guidance and making technology available so that Indian farmers may get adequate benefits in the world 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) to (c) Government of India promotes agro-exports directly and through Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Associations. In order to boost export of agro products, the Government, through the Commodity Boards, provides various incentives for infrastructure development, quality control, market development and promotion, packaging, publicity, information dissemination etc. besides providing assistance to exporters for conducting publicity campaigns, market surveys, sending delegations abroad, participating in international trade fairs, inviting potential buyers etc. Further, the Government has taken initiatives to make the farmers aware about the latest techniques of farming through mass media support to agriculture which uses Doordarshan infrastructure for providing agriculture related information and knowledge to the farming community. The Kisan Call Centre Scheme was launched on 21st January, 2004 to provide agricultural information to the farming community through toll free telephones lines. The Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms was launched on 29th March, 2005 which aims at making extension system farmer driven and farmer accountable by way of new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agricultural Technology Management Agency at district level to operationalize the extension reforms. The Agri-clinic and Agri-business Centres Scheme was launched on 09.04.2002 to provide extension services to farmers on payment basis through setting up of economically viable self-employment ventures. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Frontline Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

[English]

Amendments to Co-Operative Laws

1561. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to make the amendments to the Co-operative Laws for better functioning of co-operative institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the amendment is likely to be brought out for the betterment of the agriculturist?

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) It has been proposed to move for amendment to the Constitution addressing the key issues for the empowerment of the co-operatives through their voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management.

(c) The Bill for amendment to the constitution would be introduced in Parliament after completing the procedural requirements.

Remunerative Prices for Export

1562. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether globalization has adversely affected the farmers and has prevented them from getting remunerative prices for the export; and

(b) if so, the response 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) Agricultural imports as a percentage of GDP from agriculture in India is less than 4%. India also has a surplus of exports over imports in agriculture trade as is evident from the following table:

Year	Import (Rs. in crores)	Export	Surplus (Rs. in crores)
1999-00	16066	25313	9247
2000-01	12086	28657	16571
2001-02	16256	29728	13472
2002-03	17608	34653	17045
2003-04	21894	36893	14999

In such a scenario, it is difficult to conclude that globalization through imports has led to farmers not receiving remunerative prices for their exports.

Government's response to globalization in the agriculture sector has been two fold. On the one hand, tariffs have been appropriately adjusted to protect farmers from import surges. On the other steps have been taken to increase the competitiveness of India agriculture, so that our exports can increase and farmers can get remunerative prices. Towards this end, the Government has introduced a number of initiatives and interventions for enhancement of production and productivity of agricultural products, which inter alia, include Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Horticulture Mission and Integrated Cereal Development Programmes. Schemes such as the Transport Assistance Scheme and Vishesh Krishi Upay Yojna are being implemented to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices for their exports as well as increased access to the international market.

[Translation]

Unirrigated Land

1563. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total hectares of unirrigated and unarable land in the country as on date State-wise;

(b) the total hectares of land found deprived of such irrigation facility on the basis of survey conducted in each State, separately;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to provide means of irrigation in such areas; and

(d) the details of the proposals received from the State Governments during the last two years to undertake irrigation projects on such land?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) As per the Land Use Statistic for the year 2003-04 compiled by Ministry of Agriculture, the Net Sown Area has been estimated as 139.64 million hectare, out of which irrigation has been provided to 53.92 million hectare. State-wise details of unirrigated area are given in the statement enclosed.

Irrigation development is a continuous process and responsibility of planning, execution and funding of all types of irrigation projects primarily rests with the State Governemnts. However for early completion of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects, Governemnt of India provides Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Governemnts under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. CLA under AIBP is also provided for the minor irrigation schemes of the special category States comprising the North Eastern States & Sikkim, the hilly States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal as well as the drought prone Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa with effect from 1999-2000. AIBP has been modified with effect from April 2004 to provide central assistance in the form of 70% loan and 30% grant for non-special category States and 10% loan and 90% grant for special category States for projects under Fast Track Programme. So far, an amount of Rs.18378 crore has been released as CLA/grant under this programme.

Statement

State-wise details of Net Irrigated Area, Net Sown Area and Unirrigated area

(In thousand hectares)

Sl. No.	State	Provisional		
		Net Sown Area (NSA)	Net Irrg Area (NIA)	Unirrigated area
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10118	3634	6484
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	164	42	122
3.	Assam	2793	174	2619
4.	Bihar	5725	3462	2263
5.	Chhattisgarh	4779	1090	3689
6.	Goa	141	24	117
7.	Gujarat	9622	2994	6628
8.	Haryana	3534	2969	565
9.	Himachal Pradesh	545	124	421
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	747	307	440
11.	Jharkhand	1769	164	1605
12.	Karnataka	9847	2384	7463
13.	Kerala	2190	384	1806
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14518	4494	10024
15.	Maharashtra	17432	2944	14488
16.	Manipur	219	40	179
17.	Meghalaya	227	60	167
18.	Mizoram	98	16	82

1	2	3	4	5
19. Nagaland		333	65	268
20. Orissa		4889	1119	3770
21. Punjab		4254	4042	212
22. Rajasthan		17394	5420	11974
23. Sikkim		110	9	101
24. Tamil Nadu		4689	2148	2541
25. Tripura		280	40	240
26. Uttaranchal		793	347	446
27. Uttar Pradesh		16812	12391	4421
28. West Bengal		5522	2980	2542
Total States		139544	53867	85677
Andaman and Nicobar Island		17	0	17
Chandigarh		2	1	1
Daman and Diu		2	0	2
Dadra & Nagar Haveli		23	7	16
Delhi		27	25	2
Lakshadweep		3	1	2
Pondicherry		21	17	4
Total UTs		95	51	44
Grand Total		139639	53918	85721

[English]

Opening of New Veterinary Colleges

1564. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of veterinary colleges and doctors in the country;

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

(c) the number of veterinary colleges functioning in each State and the doctors pass out from there every year;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to open new veterinary colleges during 2006-07;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Union Government is not in receipt of any report regarding shortage of Veterinary Colleges and Doctors. At present, there are 35 Veterinary Colleges imparting Veterinary education leading to B.V.Sc. & A.H. degree awarded by various State Agricultural Universities, State Veterinary/Animal Sciences Universities and Central Universities in the country.

In addition, the State Government of Rajasthan has allowed opening of two private Veterinary Colleges in the State with affiliation from Rajasthan Agricultural university, Bikaner.

The number of Veterinary Colleges functioning in each State and the students admitted and passed out from these Colleges during 2005-2006 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. Veterinary education being a state subject, the proposals for opening of new Veterinary College are dealt in by the respective State Governments; and the proposal for recognition of degree qualification is referred to the Union Government as per the provisions of the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984.

Statement

The State-wise list of Veterinary Colleges along with number of students admitted and passed out during 2005-2006

Sl. No.	States	Name of the Veterinary College	No. of students admitted	No. of students admitted
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. College of Veterinary Science, Hyderabad	65	52
		2. College of Veterinary Science, Tirupati	65	52
		3. College of Veterinary Science, Gannavaram	40	24
2.	Assam	1. Faculty of Veterinary Science, Guwahati	100	53
3.	Bihar	1. Bihar Veterinary College, Patna	60	33
4.	Chhattisgarh	1. College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Durg	36	45
5.	Gujarat	1. College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Anand	60	30
		2. College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Sardarkrushinagar	64	35
6.	Haryana	1. College of Veterinary Science, Hissar	61	48
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1. College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Palampur	38	35
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1. Faculty of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Jammu	50	25
		2. Faculty of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Srinagar	81	33
9.	Jharkhand	1. Faculty of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Ranchi	33	23
10.	Karnataka	1. College of Veterinary Science, Bangalore	69	65
		2. College of Veterinary Science, Bidar	57	50
11.	Kerala	1. College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Thrissur	78	74

1	2	3	4	5
		2. College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookote	42	27
12. Madhya Pradesh		1. College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Jabalpur	77	33
		2. College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Mhow	76	39
13. Maharashtra		1. College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Udgir	31	12
		2. College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Parbhani	59	44
		3. K.N.P. College of Veterinary Sciences, Shirval	32	29
		4. Nagpur Veterinary College, Nagpur	67	64
		5. Bombay Veterinary College, Mumbai	68	70
14. Mizoram		1. College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Aizawl, Mizoram	39	19
15. Orissa		1. College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Bhubaneswar	80	71
16. Pondicherry		1. Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Pondicherry	45	23
17. Punjab		1. College of Veterinary Science, Ludhiana	51	51
18. Rajasthan		1. College of Veterinary Science, Bikaner	75	86
19. Tamil Nadu		1. Madras College Veterinary Chennai	134	174
		2. Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal	74	84
20. Uttar Pradesh		1. College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Mathura	60	48
		2. College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Faizabad	40	39
21. Uttaranchal		1. College of Veterinary and Animal Science, Pantnagar	62	63
22. West Bengal		1. College of Veterinary and Animal Science, Kolkata	72	82
Grand Total			2141	1735

*[Translation]***Research on Rains**

1565. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any research to remove the uncertainty of rains and its dependence on irrigation in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) There are frequent instances of late onset and early withdrawals of monsoon in India. Similarly, there are considerable periods of no rains during the monsoon. Uncertainty in the rainfall resulting from such natural phenomenon affect the agriculture and irrigation. May studies and research have been carried out for analysis of rainfall characteristics, precipitation forecasting, inflow forecasting and development of models of optimum utilisation of the available resources including decision support systems by various academic and research institutions in the country including India Meteorological Department, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and National Institute of Hydrology.

The research/studies in this area have helped in Agricultural Advisories Services and Long Range Forecast by India Meteorological Department and Inflow Forecast to some of the reservoirs during monsoon period by Central Water Commission. A number of National agencies like Department of Agricultural Research & Education, India Meteorological Department, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCRMWF) Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad; Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) etc. are also associated with development of Extended Range Forecast System for Climate Risk Management in Agriculture. A study titled "Development of Drought Vulnerability Indices for Preparedness and Mitigation" has also been taken by National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee and Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.

*[English]***Shifting of Marine Research Centre**

1566. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the objectives on the basis of which the Marine Research Centre (MRC) and Marine Aquarium were set up at Vizhinjam (Trivandrum);

(b) whether the Government has decided to shift the MRC and Marine Aquarium from Vizhinjam (Trivandrum);

(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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The Vizhinjam Research Centre of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) at Vizhinjam (Trivandrum) was started as a Fisheries Resources Survey Centre in 1951 and it became a Research Centre of CMFRI in 1965. The major objectives the Centre were to assess the impact of marine capture fisheries exploitation on fish stock and resource potential in Southern Kerala and West Coast of Tamil Nadu and to develop, test and transfer mariculture technologies. The Centre has also set up a Marine Aquarium facility.

The Expenditure Finance Committee while considering the X Five Year Plan proposal of the Institute, in its meeting held on 20.6.2003 at ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi, decided to shift/merge the Vizhinjam Research Centre of CMFRI to Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI with a view to consolidate the on-going programmes more effectively, since Mandapam Regional Centre is proposed to be developed as a major Mariculture and Marine biodiversity Centre. The other reasons for such decision of shifting/merger of the Centre are present research relevance, proper utilization of scientists and associated manpower, avoidance of duplication of research efforts and strengthening of identified centers for strategic and applied research.

(b) and (c) While it is proposed to shift the Research Centre, the present Marine Aquarium facilities at Vizhinjam are being handed over to the Government of Kerala. While considering the X Five Year Plan proposal of the Plan scheme of the Central marine Fisheries Research Institute on 20th June, 2003, the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) decided to relocate/merge six Research Centres with other existing Regional/Research Centres under CMFRI, including the Research Centre at Vizhinjam to be merged with shifted to Mandapam Regional Centre.

The reasons behind this decision were, *inter-alia* achievement of the research objectives of the Centre established in 1951 with regard to marine fish resources and stock assessment, molluscan and lobster culture and ornamental fish breeding; the present need for diversification of research activities needing upgraded facilities and critical scientific mass at Centres for achieving competitive edge at global level; proposal of establishing a national facility for upstream research in mariculture at Mandapam; constraints of operations with rented building and inadequate seawater pumping facilities at Vizhinjam; presence of the Headquarters of CMFRI at Kochi as well as the Research Centre of the Institute at Kozhikode in the State of Kerala, thus adequately addressing the research needs of marine fisheries in the State.

Death of Birds

1567. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA" :
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV :

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

(a) whether a number of birds in the Okhla Bird Sanctuary have died recently;

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

(c) the remedial action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) As reported by Government of Uttar Pradesh, fifty three birds were found dead in February,

2006 in Okhla Bird Sanctuary. Samples sent to the High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal have tested negative for avian influenza.

Three persons were caught fishing in the area using poisonous baits and have been arrested under the relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The death of the birds is attributed to these poisonous baits since dead fishes were also found along with the dead birds.

(c) Vigil has been stepped up in the area and all visitors are being checked to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects of Bihar

1568. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals relating to irrigation projects from the Government of Bihar during the last three months for approval;

(b) if so, the details of the projects sanctioned alongwith funds allocated therefor, project-wise; and

(c) the details of projects that have not been sanctioned alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) No Sir. The Union Government has not received any proposal during the last three months relating to appraisal/approval of irrigation projects from Government of Bihar.

[English]

Financial Aid for Abolition of Child Labour

1569. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL :
SHRI UDAY SINGH :

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

(a) whether the basic facilities and infrastructure required to eliminate child labour in the country is still lagging behind;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received financial aid from World Bank, International Labour Organisation and UNICEF for abolition of child labour;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which these financial aid are found to be helpful in achieving the goal by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The ILO has supported child labour elimination efforts in the country through the IPEC (International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour). However, the contribution of the ILO in terms of financial aid is not very high in comparison to Government of India allocation. The UNICEF also similarly contributes a very small amount for specific programme of elimination of child labour. While these financial inputs have been helpful it is the Government of India funding which is the primary source for combating child labour in the country.

[Translation]

Wheat Import

1570. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI ILYAS AZMI :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA :

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

(a) whether the Government has allowed the State Trading Corporation (STC) to import 5 lakh MTs of wheat; and

(b) if so, the countries from which it is proposed to be imported and the proposed rates 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per tender finalised by the STC, the contract for supply of 5.00 lakh tonnes of wheat has been awarded to the lowest bidder, M/s Australian Wheat Board, at a price of US \$ 178.75 PMT, C&F (F.O).

Construction of Canal From Jhalera Bridge to Santokhgarh Bridge

1571. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh had forwarded a proposal for the construction of 16.67 Km long canal at a cost of Rs.123.93 crore from Jhalera Bridge to Santokhgarh Bridge on river Suan after obtaining approval from the Planning Commission for seeking financial assistance from the Government;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon alongwith reasons for delay keeping it pending, till date; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) No proposal for the construction of 16.67 kilo metre long canal at a cost of Rs.123.93 crore from Jhalera bridge to Santokhgarh Bridge on river Suan has been received by Government of India from the Government of Himachal Pradesh till date.

Konar Irrigation Project

1572. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had sanctioned way

back funds for completion of Konar Irrigation Project in Hazaribagh in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of amount already spent on this project, till date and the amount allocated during the current year; and

(c) the time by which this project is likely to be completed and become operational?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Irrigation being a State subject, the projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Government as per their own requirements and priority.

An Amount of Rs.139.89 crore has spent by the State Government on Konar Irrigation Project till January, 2006 and for the year 2005-06, an amount of Rs.12.00 crore has been allocated by the Government of Jharkhand. The project is scheduled for completion beyond 2010.

[English]

Turnover of FPI

1573. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the turnover of food processing industries in the country during the last three years and the expected turnover during the current year;

(b) whether the Government has asked Tata Economic and Consultancy Services (TECS) to study the structure of taxation in the Food Processing Industries;

(c) if so, whether the TECS has submitted its report to the Government; and

(d) the steps by the Government to promote the food processing industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) Food Processing industries are both in

organized and unorganized sectors. Therefore, the information regarding their turnover is not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government have implemented Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of the food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries. Fruit and vegetable processing units are exempted from payment of excise duty. For giving boost to the FPI sector Government 2004-05 has allowed under Income Tax Act a deduction of 100% of profit for five year and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs.1.00 per kg on refined edible oil and Rs.1.25 per kg on vanaspati was abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%. With a view to giving fillip to the food processing industries, recently in the Union Budget of 2006-07, the Government has decided to exempt condensed milk, ice cream preparation of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast from excise duty. Excise duty on Aerated drinks reduced to 16%. Excise duty on ready-to-eat packaged foods and instant food mixes, like dosa and idli mixes, reduced from 16 per cent to 8 per cent. Excise duty on packaging paper reduced from 16 per cent to 12 per cent. Customs duty on packaging machines reduced from 15 per cent to 5 per cent.

Disease Affected Arecanut Trees

1574. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI :

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN :

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA :

SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether arecanut trees have been affected with disease in Karnataka and Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any Research Institute has been entrusted to know the cause of the disease; and
- (d) if so, the results thereof and the action 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) Arecanut trees in parts of Karnataka and Kerala have been affected with Koleroga or Mahali, Bud rot, Crown rot, Inflorescence dieback, leaf spot, button shedding, Anabe roga or foot rot, Yellow Led disease, etc.

(c) Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargod is conducting research on the management of these diseases.

(d) Measures recommended by Central Plantation Crops Research Institute for the control of these disease are:

- (i) Koleroga or Mahali : Spray of Bordeaux mixture 1%, 2 times at 45 days interval;
- (ii) Bud rot and Crown rot: Spray of 1% Bordeaux mixture and application of Bordeaux paste to the crown. Drenching of base of palms with 0.3% tridemorph or 0.3% phosphoric acid (3 ml/ 1) against crown rot;
- (iii) Inflorescence dieback and Button Shedding: Spray of Indofil M 45 @ 3 gm/1 or Dithane Z 78 @ 4 g/l;
- (iv) Leaf Spot: Spray of 0.3% Dithane M 45 (3g/1 of water);
- (v) Anabe roga or Foot rot : Basin of palms may be given 0.3% Callixin (3ml/1) 5 1/palm plus root feeding of 1.5% Callixin (15 ml/1) @ 125

ml/palm at quarterly intervals. Apply 2 kg neem cake/palm/year and green leaf & FYM 15-20 kg/ palm/year.

- (vi) Yellow Leaf disease : Application of NPK fertilizers and additional does of super phosphate in combination with lime.

Viruses Affected Pepper Production

1575. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the produce of pepper is being affected by some kind of viruses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being 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) Black pepper plants are affected by two viruses, namely Cucumber Mosaic Virus and Pepper Yellow Mottle Virus. These disease spread through use of infected stem cuttings and through vector insects such as aphids and mealy bugs. Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut has developed sensitive diagnostics for virus indexing and only virus free planting materials are recommended for planting. Spray of insecticides such as dimethoate @ 0.05% is recommended wherever vector insects such as aphids and mealy bugs are noticed.

[Translation]

Sea Erosion

1576. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent erosion caused by sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Planning and implementation of anti erosion works primarily rest with the State Governments concerned. However, considering the severity of sea-erosion problems in certain reaches, Government of India has taken up a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for anti-sea erosion works in critical areas in March 2004 on pilot basis. The scheme has been transferred to the State Sector with effect from April 2005. Under the scheme, Central Government has provided assistance to the State Governments in the form of grant as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2003-04	1.50
2004-05	3.40
2005-06 (Till date)	3.62

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Skilled Labour

1577. SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

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

(a) whether the skilled labour in India breeds inequities according to a study conducted by International Monitoring Fund as reported in 'The Statesman' dated February 10, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to remove such inequities between the skilled labour in various States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) The income generated by the skilled workers in various States depends upon the economic development of the State. Therefore, a marginal difference or inequity in the income of the skilled labourers in various sectors of the economy in various States is expected.

(b) and (c) Attempts through various Five Years Plans are made to improve the economic conditions of the States. The States, within their capacities, strive to achieve the target fixed by them. Whenever necessary, special incentives are given and schemes implemented for the development of specific States/area.

Central Advisory Contract Labour Board

1578. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Advisory Contract Labour Board (CACLB) is conducting a sector and region-wise study on contract labour-related issues in the country;

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

(c) whether infor-tech segment also comes under the purview of the CACLB;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps proposed to be taken to bring the same under CACLB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) The Central Advisory Contract Labour Board (CACLB) considers and makes recommendations to the Central Government on abolition of contract labour system in various establishments, as referred to it, either on the basis of representations made by the workers/their union or on the directions of the courts. The CACLB has constituted eight region-wise committees to study contract

labour system in various depots of Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation and one committee for Indian Railways in the country. These committees' reports are awaited except one, which has recommended abolition of contract labour in certain depots of Food Corporation of India to the CACLB.

(c) to (e) Both the Central and State Governments are 'appropriate Government' in respect of establishments coming within their respective spheres of jurisdiction as specified in the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. The info-tech segment comes under the jurisdiction of the concerned State Government in which State the establishment is located and comes under the purview of the respective State Advisory Contract Labour Boards.

Shortage of Procurement Centres in Uttar Pradesh

1579. SHRI D.P. SAROJ : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of procurement centres of Food Corporation of India presently operating in Uttar Pradesh

(b) whether most of these procurement centres have remained non-operational and are not purchasing grains from the farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Food Corporation of India (FCI) operated 184 procurement centres in Uttar Pradesh during Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2005-06. In the ensuing RMS 2006-07 FCI propose to open approximately 350 centres in U.P.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Agricultural Contribution in Export

1580. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of agricultural contribution in the total export of the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to bring about any policy changes to make agriculture export oriented and to ensure more capital investment in the agriculture sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the procedure to be followed by 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 contribution of agricultural exports to total exports of the country during 2004-05 was 11.2%

(b) to (d) Steps have been taken to increase the competitiveness of Indian agriculture, so that exports can increase. Towards this end, the Government has introduced a number of initiatives and interventions for enhancement of production and productivity of agricultural products, which inter-alia, include Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), National Horticulture Mission and Integrated Cereal Development Programmes. Schemes such as the Transport Assistance Scheme and Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojna are being implemented to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices for their exports as well as increased access to the international market.

In the last five years, the public sector investment in agriculture has increased significantly from Rs.7754 crore in the year 1999-2000 (at 1999-00 price) to Rs.12591 crore in the year 2004-05 (at 1999-00 price).

Major measures taken for agricultural development through enhanced capital formation, inter alia, include agricultural diversification; agriculture marketing infrastructure; repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies; and micro irrigation, micro finance micro-insurance and rural credit.

[Translation]

Steel Regulatory Commission

1581. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Steel Regulatory Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

Medicines under Drugs Price Control Regime

1582. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to bring a number of medicines under drug price control regime;

(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 CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (c) As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, 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. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modification in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994.

The Government, based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission the Government have drafted a National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A), which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

[English]

Fish Landing Centres

1583. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fish landing centres sanctioned in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals pending during 2005-06, State-wise;

(c) the time by which these are likely to be cleared;

(d) the funds released for the purpose during the said period, State-wise;

(e) whether the sanctioned amount have since been released to the States;

(f) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(g) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) State-wise details of fish landing centres sanctioned in the country during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) and current year (2005-06) are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) No proposal confirming techno-economic viability together with availability of land and statutory

clearance for construction of new fish landing centres are pending.

(d) to (g) Central funds has been provided to the coastal State Governments for construction of the fish landing centres in instalments, based on the progress of implementation of the projects. A Statement-II showing the State-wise details of the funds released to the coastal State Governments for construction of fish landing centres during last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) and current year (2005-06) is enclosed.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Baruva 2. Perupalem 3. Gondisamudram 4. Isakapalli-Pattapupalem 5. Thatichettlapalem 6. Navvalarevu 7. Bandaruvanipeta 8. Chintapalli 9. Pudimadaka 10. Mukkam 11. Mypadu	1. Etimoga 2. Mynavanilanka 3. Vodarevu 4. Kothapatnam	Nil	Nil
2.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	1. Soliakudi 2. Mandapam 3. Arcottuthuria	Nil	Nil
3.	Orissa	1. Balugaon	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	5
4.	Andaman & Nicobar	1. Dairy Farm (Junglighat)	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil	1. Mayagoalini-Ghat
		13 Nos.	7 Nos.	Nil	1 No.

Statement-II

Sl. No.	States	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Kerala	71.485	—	—	—
2.	Tamil Nadu	93.48	—	—	—
3.	Andhra Pradesh	254.425	30.57	123.175	106.13
4.	Goa	14.60	—	—	—
5.	Karnataka	—	7.50	—	—
6.	Orissa	67.75	4.43	—	—
7.	West Bengal	—	—	—	100.00
8.	Gujarat	—	7.50	—	—
9.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	168.00	100.00	—	100.00
	Total	669.74	150.00	123.175	306.13

Crops Affected due to Increasing Temperature in Winter

1584. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the increasing temperature during winter this year is likely to affect the rabi crops and apples;
- (b) if so, the assessment made thereon; and

(c) the contingency plan made 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 higher temperature during February, 2006 has been reported to affect the productivity of some crops especially wheat in some Northern and Eastern States of the country. The actual loss can be assessed after harvesting. To minimize the effect of rising temperature on crops, the farmers have been advised to undertake frequent light irrigation.

[Translation]

Agreement with Foreign Companies for Steel Units

1585. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has made agreements with foreign companies to establish steel units in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of companies likely to be established in collaboration with foreign companies during 2005-06 and 2006-07;
- (c) whether the collaboration with foreign companies has been instrumental in the growth of steel sector in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) The Union Government has not made agreements with foreign companies to establish steel units in the country. As per the policy in vogue, 100% foreign direct investment is allowed under the automatic route in steel sector.

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

[English]

Agricultural Production

1586. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of agricultural production received during each of the last three years and thereafter;

(b) the reasons attributed to reported slowdown in agricultural growth;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the agriculture policy to ensure increase in agricultural growth; 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) The Production of foodgrains, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, jute & mesta during 2002-03 to 2004-05 and during the current year is given in the table below:

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2002-03	2003-04	2005-05*	2005-06 \$
1	2	3	4	5
Foodgrains	174.77	213.46	204.61	209.32

	1	2	3	4	5
Oilseeds		14.84	25.29	26.10	26.37
Cotton**		8.62	13.87	17.00	16.45
Sugarcane		287.38	237.31	232.32	266.88
Jute & Mesta \$\$		11.28	11.23	10.49	10.65

* 4th Advance Estimates of 2004-05

\$ 2nd Advance Estimates of 2005-06

** Million Bales of 170 kgs. each

\$\$ Million Bales of 180 kgs. each

(b) The agricultural production declined in 2002-03 because several regions/states were affected by drought. In 2003-04 good rainfall was received during the south-west monsoon and consequently there was a sharp increase in the agricultural production. During 2004-05, monsoon rainfall was deficient by 13% causing decrease in foodgrain production. In 2005-06 reasonably good agricultural production is expected because of normal monsoon rainfall.

(c) and (d) For a sustainable growth in agriculture sector, a number of policies have been formulated. Major thrust of these policies is to broad base capital investment in agriculture and allied sectors. A series of policy initiatives have been taken in vital areas like credit, irrigation facilities, crop diversification, marketing infrastructure, horticulture and extension services. This process is being further strengthened through farm mechanization, agri-clinics and agri-business centers and extension services. Other areas for higher investment include micro-irrigation comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission having end-to-end approach with backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing, under the umbrella, in an integrated manner.

Rural Agri-Warehouse

1587. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has increased the number of rural agri-warehouses; 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)

Yes, Sir. A Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme titled 'Gramin Bhandaran Yojana' has been implemented in the country with effect from 01.04.2001, to create scientific storage capacity in rural areas to meet requirements of farmers for storing farm produce. Under the Scheme 11025 storage projects have been sanctioned upto 31st January, 2006. The Statewise details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

*Progress of Rural Godown Scheme
(Position as on 31/01/2006)*

(Physical)

		Sanctioned by NABARD		Sanctioned by (New)		Total new Construction		Sanctioned by (Renovation)		Total	
1	2	3		4		5 (3+4)		6		7 (5+6)	
Sl. No.	State	No. of projects	Capacity in tonnes	No. of projects	Capacity in tonnes	No. of projects	Capacity in tonnes	No. of projects	Capacity in tonnes	No. of projects	Capacity in tonnes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	546	2382469	56	4300	602	2386769	51	4750	653	2391519
2.	Assam	70	92902	1	650	71	93552	0	0	71	93552
3.	Bihar	2	11000	157	16150	159	27150	2	500	161	27650
4.	Chhattisgarh	147	455756	73	357000	220	812756	0	0	220	812756
5.	Gujarat	516	248026	16	48550	532	296576	19	19000	551	315576
6.	Haryana	175	1248805	66	10500	241	1259305	103	230817	344	1490122
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	31	3600	31	3600	0	0	31	3600
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	100	1	1950	2	2050	0	0	2	2050
9.	Karnataka	872	724439	41	14825	913	739264	1	100	914	739364
10.	Kerala	8	4917	27	8950	35	13867	8	1570	43	15437

1	2	3	4	5 (3+4)	6	7 (5+6)				
11. Madhya Pradesh	751	1439893	165	93050	916	1532943	120	72616	1036	1605559
12. Maharashtra	1052	1193059	31	18100	1083	1374059	129	261300	1212	1635359
13. Meghalaya	2	9600	34	3450	36	13050	3	300	39	13350
14. Nagaland	1	4000	0	0	1	4000	0	0	1	4000
15. Orissa	136	319341	0	0	136	319341	0	0	136	319341
16. Punjab	2973	3165049	14	1790	2987	3166839	213	771950	3200	3938789
17. Rajasthan	38	94038	90	48850	128	142888	156	12100	284	154988
18. Tamilnadu	28	97666	23	27500	51	125166	2	600	53	125766
19. Uttar Pradesh	97	789921	85	143600	182	933521	693	955468	875	1888989
20. Uttaranchal	20	43452	21	13950	41	57402	0	0	41	5740
21. West Bengal	1048	350088	91	9100	1139	359188	15	1500	1154	360688
22. UTs	0	0	02	1400	2	1400	0	0	2	1400
23. NAFED	0	0	02	20000	2	20000	0	0	2	20000
Total	8483	12674521	1027	1010165	9510	13684686	1515	2332571	11025	16017257

Patent of Rice

1588. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No.2669 on December 12, 2005 and state the progress made so far to safeguard the interest of the rice 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) : Members of a Committee constituted for the purpose by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have studied Syngenta Company's Patents on rice gene(s) sequences. Thirteen patents were selected through internet search, and patent

claims have been examined by the experts. The claims are very generic in nature and are based on demonstrating the functions of naturally occurring genes in rice germplasm. Considering such trends, the Government of India has already enacted the following legal instruments;—

- (i) the amended Patent Act (as amended last in 2005),
- (ii) the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001,
- (iii) the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, and
- (iv) the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

These laws shall go a long way in safeguarding the interest of farmers of the nation.

[Translation]

**Use of Chemical Fertilizers
and Pesticides**

1589. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides is proving very harmful for environment and soil; and

(b) if so, the alternative methods to be adopted by the Government to curb the indiscriminate use of pesticides and others harmful chemicals and also to save the crops from the catastrophe of pests and insects?

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 average per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizer nutrients and pesticides (technical grade) are 96.59 kg. / ha. and 0.22 kg / ha. respectively. This level of consumption is not considered as harmful for environment and soil health. However, studies under All India Coordinated Research Project on "Long Term Fertilizer Experiments" over few decades have revealed that imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers without organic manures affect soil health and crop productivity by inducing deficiencies of secondary and micronutrients. Further, if the chemical pesticides are not used judiciously, they may have ill effects such as development of pest resistance to pesticides, pest resurgence, outbreak of secondary pests, pesticide residues in agricultural products, environmental pollution and ecological imbalances.

(b) Government of India has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the cardinal principle of plant protection in order to minimize the indiscriminate and injudicious use of chemical pesticides.

[English]

**Regional Disparities in Agricultural
Productivity**

1590. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the northern and western regions have performed remarkably well whereas the eastern and north-eastern regions lagged behind in agricultural development in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to tackle regional disparities in agricultural productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Following table shows the normal (Average of 5 years from 1999-2000 to 2003-04) productivity and production of foodgrains and oilseeds in major states of northern, western, eastern and north-eastern regions:

State	Productivity (kg./hectare)	Production ('000 Tonnes)
1	2	3
Foodgrains		
Norther Region		
Punjab	3972	24726.7
Uttar pradesh	2135	42642.0
Western Region		
Maharashtra	861	11157.5
Rajasthan	1045	12050.1

1	2	3
Eastern Region		
Bihar	1650	11633.0
West Bengal	2326	15346.7
North-Eastern		
Assam	1443	4032.3
Tripura	2183	554.9
Oilseeds		
Northern Region		
Haryana	1369	737.3
Uttar Pradesh	818	1050.5
Western Region		
Gujarat	1016	2875.7
Rajasthan	951	2863.5
Eastern Region		
Orissa	440	133.4
West Bengal	880	519.9
North-Eastern		
Assam	501	154.0
Nagaland	1082	53.4

As may be seen from the above table, in case of foodgrains, the productivities of eastern and north-eastern region states are not lagging behind than that of the northern and western region states. However, in case of oilseeds the trend is mixed one.

(c) The development of appropriate production and protection technology for the farmers for enhancing their productivity, production and income has been the major

thrust of the Government. For this, high priority is accorded in all the crop improvement programmes to develop indigenous technology looking into the need and specific problems faced by the farmers in different agro-climatic areas of the country. Besides low cost technology developed for optimum period of planting, seed rate, appropriate plant population, weed control, integrated pest management and inter culturing have been standardized and made available to farmers for adoption.

Wilt Problem in Red Gram

1591. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether wilt problem to the red gram has emerged in Karnataka and other States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Red gram wilt disease is reported to cause the following average plant mortality in Karnataka and other States:

Karnataka	1.1%
Bihar	18.3%
Gujarat	5.4%
Andhra Pradesh	5.3%
M.P.	5.4%
Maharashtra	22.6%
U.P.	8.2%
West Bengal	6.12%
Tamil Nadu	1.4%
Other States	Below 1%

(c) wilt resistant/tolerant varieties such as Maruthi, Asha, BSMR 736 BSMR 853, ICPL 87051, ICPL 87, JA 4, MA, 3, MA 6, NDA 98-2, BDN2, Narendra Arhar 1, Amar, Azad and DA 11 have been developed and released. Seed treatment with carbendazim+Thiram or bio-agents (*Trichoderma* spp.) has been recommended. Intercropping and crop rotation with sorghum has also been advocated. All these components have been integrated into a Package of Practice under Integrated Pest Management which is demonstrated and implemented in Karnataka and other parts of the country through Farmers Field Schools.

Rivers-Linking Policy

1592. SHRI TAPIR GAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any rivers-linking policy on river Brahmaputra has been formulated by the Government with the China and Myanmar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Directives by NCDEX

1593. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge losses have been suffered by the business community due to the directives issued by the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd. (NCDEX) on January 20, 2006;

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

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

(d) whether the objectives of the said move have been achieved;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to check the recurrence of such incidents?

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) Members operate in the futures market depending upon their individual trading strategies based on their perception of a rise or fall in the prices. The losses suffered by the operators in the futures market are, therefore, a function of their trading strategies and are only presumptive in nature and cannot be quantified.

(c) The directives of the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchanges Ltd.(NCDEX) amounted to change of the terms of contract during the currency of the contract which was in violation of the Bye-laws, Regulations of the Exchange and the instructions issued by the Forward Markets Commission (FMC). The Exchange was accordingly directed to withdraw the decision immediately and widely disseminate the same and report compliance.

(d) and (e) The Exchange reversed its earlier decision before commencement of trading in urad and chana on 20th January 2006.

(f) The FMC has taken the following steps to check the recurrence of such incidents:

(i) The fixation of settlement price is being monitored more vigorously by the FMC. An officer of the Commission has been deputed to the Exchange to supervise the Final Settlement Price of the contract;

(ii) The Exchanges have been directed not to change any term of the contract without the prior permission of the FMC;

(iii) Member registration has been introduced w.e.f. 1st January 2006 with a view to have greater oversight on their trade pattern in the Exchange;

- (iv) Price band of 6% has been fixed after which there has to be cooling off for 15 minutes. An additional 3% is allowed after the cooling period of 15 minutes. If the price bands are hit again the trade cannot take place beyond 6% + 3% = 9% price band;
- (v) Compulsory delivery is being introduced in some of the commodities in respect of contracts to be launched in future months;
- (vi) Trading details including members and client position at the Exchanges are monitored on a daily basis and every week a meeting of the officers and the Commission is held to review the price trends. Regular meetings with the senior officers responsible for monitoring and surveillance at the National Exchanges are held with the Directors of the FMC.
- (vii) Penalties of 5% have been imposed on default of buyer or seller on their delivery obligations on the net outstanding position at the expiry of the contract. Sellers are required to give their intentions at least five days before the delivery period (in case of sellers options) and the operators giving the intentions shall not be allowed to square off the positions.

Food Processing Training Centres

1594. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Food Processing Training Centres at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the financial assistance provided to each State during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) the quantum of funds released to each centre during the above period;
- (d) whether utilization certificates are being submitted in time by these training centres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) 373 food processing training centres have been assisted since the inception of the scheme upto 31st January, 2006 is shown in the enclosed statement-I

(b) State-wise financial assistance provided during the last three years and upto 31st January, 2006 is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) The quantum of funds released to each centre during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-III.

(d) and (e) Most of the training centres have submitted the utilization certificates and in a few remaining cases the matter is being pursued with the State Government concerned.

Statement-I

Statewise Details of Food Processing & Training Centres Assisted during the Period 1992-93 to 2004-2005 (upto 31st January, 2006)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	8th Plan	9th Plan	10th Plan (upto 31st January, 2006)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	01	—	01
2.	Andhra Pradesh	01	04	—	05
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	—	—	01
4.	Assam	23	02	—	25
5.	Bihar	19	09	01	29

1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Delhi	04	03	—	07	
7. Gujarat	03	—	01	04	
8. Haryana	08	01	02	11	
9. Himachal Pradesh	07	—	01	08	
10. Jammu and Kashmir	06	02	—	08	
11. Karnataka	11	—	—	11	
12. Jharkhand	—	—	2	2	
13. Kerala	06	—	1	07	
14. Maharashtra	05	12	01	18	
15. Madhya Pradesh	05	—	—	05	
16. Manipur	03	—	01	04	
17. Mizoram	06	—	—	06	
18. Meghalaya	01	—	—	01	
19. Nagaland	02	—	—	02	
20. Orissa	40	22	3	65	
21. Punjab	02	—	—	02	
22. Rajasthan	03	—	01	04	
23. Tamil Nadu	16	18	06	40	
24. Tripura	01	—	—	01	
25. Uttar Pradesh	47	27	12	86	
26. West Bengal	11	02	03	16	
27. Uttaranchal	—	01	03	04	
Total	231	104	38	373	

Statement-II

State-wise releases made for setting up
FPTCs for the last three years.

Rs: Lakhs

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-06 (upto 31st January, 2006)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	—	—		
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—		
3.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—		
4.	Bihar	—	—		
5.	Delhi	—	—		
6.	Gujarat	—	2.00		
7.	Haryana	—	4.00	1.00	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	1.986
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.90	—		
10.	Jharkhand	2.00	—	—	4.00
11.	Karnataka	—	—		
12.	Kerala	—	—	—	2.00
13.	Maharashtra	2.00	—		
14.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—		
15.	Manipur	2.00	—		

1	2	3	4	5	6
16. Orissa	—	1.82	1.985	4.511	
17. Punjab	—	—			
18. Rajasthan	—	—	2.00		
19. Tamil Nadu	2.097	2.00	4.00	9.466	
20. Tripura	—	—			
21. Uttar Pradesh	4.00	7.50	14.438	9.0565	
22. Uttaranchal	—	—		3.63	
23. West Bengal	4.00	—	2.00		
Total Amount	17,997	17.32	25.424	34.65	
Total FPTCs sanctioned	7	6	9	15	

Statement-III*Sanctions relating to FPTC issued during 2002-03*

Sl. No.	Name of the Party and date of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Organisation for Social & Economic Development, Moirangkhom, Lokalaobung, Iboyama Press Building, Imphal-795001, Manipur	Rs.2.00 Lakh Dt. 25.3.2003
2.	M/s. Sumati Gramoutthan & Training Institute, B-6, Industrial Area, Balbhadrapur, Kotdwara, Puri Garhwal-264149.	Rs.2.00 Lakh Dt. 13.11.2002
3.	M/s. 24 Parganas Rural Development Industrial Cultural & Food Producer's Society W.B.	Rs.2.00 Lakhs Dt.13.11.2002

1	2	3
4.	Integrated Women Development Institute, 14/57, Thirunagar, Villivakkam, Chennai-6000049	Rs.9770 Thousand (Reimbursement of Trainees) Dt.20.11.2002
5.	M/s. Vivekananda Seva Sansthan, AT. & P.O.- Basia, Distt. Gurnal, Jharkhand-835229.	Rs.2.00 Lakhs Dt.16.12.2002
6.	M/s. Ujwal Rural Development society, Newade, Tal. Sindkheda, Distt. Dhule Maharashtra	Rs.2.00 Lakhs Dt. 1.1.2003
7.	M/s. Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, P.O. Nimpith Ashram-743338, South 24-Parganas (Sundarbans), W.B.	Rs.2.00 Lakhs Dt.28.1.2003
8.	M/s. Dwaba Kalyan Samiti, Distt. Allahabad, U.P.	Rs.2.00 Lakhs (Seed Capital) dt.21.2.2003
9.	M/s. Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science & Technology, (SKUAST), Jammu.	Rs.1.90 Lakhs (Seed Capital) dt.27.3.2003
10.	M/s. Thassim Beevi Abdul Kader College for Women, Kilakarai, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu.	Rs.2.00 Lakhs Dt.31.3.2003
Total		17,99,770/-

Sanctions relating to FPTC issued during 2003-04

Sl. No.	Name of the Party and date of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Surakhya, District Dhenkanal, Orissa	Rs.1,82,000/- Dt.9.6.2003

1	2	3
2.	M/s. Mani Amman Services Society, Trichy Tamil Nadu	Rs.2,00,000/- Dt.21.7.2003
3.	M/s. Jay Kisan Agriculture Dev. & Res. Centre, Ahmedabad	Rs.2,00,000/- Dt.19.11.2003
4.	M/s. Rampur Samaj Seva Samiti, Rampur (Kundal) Distt. Sonapat, Haryana	Rs.2,00,000/- Dt.15.1.2004
5.	M/s. Purvanchal Gramodyog Eavam Gramya Vikas Sansthan, Fairzabad, U.P.	Rs.5,50,000/- Dt.12.2.2004
6.	M/s. Ex-Army Mean social Welfare Society	Rs.2,00,000/- Dt.17.3.2004
7.	M/s. Poonam Seva Sansthan, Allahabad,	Rs.2,00,000/- Dt.18.3.2004
Total		Rs.17,32,000/-

Sanctions relating to FPTC issued during 2004-05

Sl. No.	Name of the Party and date of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Abhinav, J-20, Industrial Area, Begrajpur, Muzzafarnagar, U.P.	Rs.1,00,000 (Seed Capital) Dt.25.5.2004
2.	M/s. Hedgewar Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Kasganj	Rs.1,93,890/- Dt.16.6.2004
3.	M/s. Ratanakar Rural Urban Bikash Institution, Orissa	Rs.1,98,534/- 16.6.2004
4.	Krishi Viyan Kendra, Dholpur, Rajasthan Sl.No.4-56/2003-FPTC dt.2.8.2004	Rs.2,00,000/- Dt.2.8.2004

1	2	3
5.	Sri Aurobindo Anusilan Society, Suri, West Bengal	Rs.2,00,000/-
6.	Social Welfare Centre, Tamil Nadu	Rs.2,00,000/- 31.8.2004
7.	M/s. Rampur Samaj Seva Samiti, Rampur, (Kundal), Distt. Sonapat, Haryana	Rs.1,00,000/- as seed capital Dt.9.9.2004
8.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	Rs.2,00,000/- Dt.24.11.2004
9.	M/s. Akkai Polycraft Association, Indira Nagar, Lucknow, U.P.	Rs.2,00,000/- Dt.30.11.2004
10.	Lokoudyog Sewa Sansthan, Sikraura, Azamgarh, U.P.	Rs.2,00,000/- Dt.4.1.2005
11.	Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial Trust Health Care and Rural Development Society, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi	Rs.7,50,000/- Dt.10.3.2005
Total		Rs.25,42,424

Grant-in-aid released for setting up of FPTCs during the year 2005-06 (upto 31st January, 2006)

Sl. No.	Name of the Orgn.	Amount sanctioned	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Pawan Shiksha Avam Jan Utthan Samiti, Kheti, Distt. Chamoli, Uttranchal	2.00 lakhs	21.4.2005
2.	Sayma Educational & Welfare Society, Vill, Mahipura, Dehradun Road, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, UP	1.73 lakhs	18.5.2005

1	2	3	4
3.	Himalto Gramodyog Sansthan, Mini Industrial Area Bhatwari Sain, Rudraprayag, Uttranchal	1.63 lakhs	14.6.2005
4.	Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences, Karunya Nagar, Coimbatore	7.50 lakhs	30.6.2005
5.	Janta Gram Vikas Sansthan, Sarai Chawat, Nagra-Ballia, UP	1,73,250/-	4.7.2005
6.	Judicial Education and Social Uplift Society, Distt. Dindigul, Tamil Nadu	1,96,600/-	12.7.2005
7.	Orissa Media Centre, Nayapalli, Bhubaneshwar	1,82,750/-	27.7.2005
8.	Fairdeal Gramodyog Sewa Samiti, Village & PO Bishnupur, Distt. Barabanki, UP	1,78,400/-	27.7.2005
9.	Nirmal Gramodyog Sewa Niketan, Etah, UP	1,81,000/-	8.8.2005
10.	Better Institute for Rural Development and Action, Kanehipur, Distt. Ganjam, Orissa	1,68,404/-	17.10.2005
11.	People's Association for Total Help & Youth Applause, Mahendra Park, New Delhi for FPTC at Bishaha Khatanga, Mander, Ranchi, Jharkhand	2,00,000/-	24.10.2005
12.	Jagrati Gramodyog Seva Sansthan, Aliganj, Lucknow, UP	2,00,000/-	29.11.2005

1	2	3	4
13.	Vikas Bharti Bishunpur, Gumla, Jharkahd	2,00,000/-	14.12.2005
14.	Ambota Gram Udyog Vikas Sansthan, Vill. PO Ambota, Himachal Pradesh	1,98,680/-	29.12.2005
15.	Neyyattinkara Taluk Traditional Oil Workers Cooperative Society Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	2,00,000/-	10.1.2006
16.	Orissa Media Centre, Nayapalli, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	1,00,000/- assistance	18.1.2005
Total		34,65,084/-	

**Foreign Direct Investment in
Agri-Business**

1595. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recommended for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 51 per cent in Agri-Business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) As per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is allowed under the automatic route in food processing sector. FDI is not allowed in Agricultural

Plantations except in Tea Plantations where FDI up to 100% is allowed with prior Government approval and subject to conditions specified in Press Note 6 (2002 series). FDI is allowed up to 100% on the automatic route for floriculture, horticulture, development of seeds, animal husbandry, Pisciculture, aquaculture, cultivation, of vegetables mushrooms under controlled conditions and services related to agro and allied sectors.

Institutional Support to Farmers

1596. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers are facing hardships in many States due to the failure of institutionalized financial support including the co-operative institutions to provide relief;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan proposed by the Government to create a mechanism to help the farmers to combat the problems along with 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) Government is of the view that the full potential of agriculture as a profitable activity must be realized at the earliest to benefit the farmers. Among the factors that will help in realizing this full potential are access to institutional credit to more farmers and appropriate quality of agriculture credit. In order to improve the flow of credit and mitigate the distressing situation of farmers due to the problem of indebtedness, the Government of India on 18.6.2004 announced a special farm credit package. The package envisages that credit to agriculture sector will double in next three years. Following are the highlights of this announcement:—

- Credit flow to agriculture sector to increase @ 30% per year
- The branches of Commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks to be energized to enhance the flow of agricultural credit.

- Under special agricultural credit plan, at least 100 new farmers should be financed at each rural and semi urban branches during the current year, resulting in enrolling about 50 lakh new borrowers.
- Financing at least 2 to 3 new investment projects in Plantation & Horticulture, Fisheries, Organic farming etc.
- Finance at least 10 Agro Clinics in each district during the current year.
- Public sector banks to lend more to small and marginal farmers and progress in this behalf will be monitored.
- Provide credit to tenant farmers and oral lessees.
- Debt restructuring as opposed to debt write off.
- Debt relief measures for
 - Farmers in distress
 - Farmers in arrears
 - OTS for small and marginal farmers
 - Loans to farmers for Redemption of past debts from non-institutional lenders.
- Refinements in Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme and revisiting of Scales of Finance and realign the same to meet the realistic needs of the farmers especially capital-intensive agricultural operations.
- Special package to promote technological upgradation in agriculture, agro-processing and agri-biotech.
- Facilitate formation and financing of self-help groups of tenant farmers and oral lessees to provide credit to this category of farmers.

In August, 2004, Government of India constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan

for suggesting measures for revival of Cooperative Credit Structure. The Task Force submitted its report in February, 2005 in respect of Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure. Based on the recommendations made by the Task Force and further consultations with the State Governments and other stakeholders on these recommendations, a package for revival of Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure involving, inter-alia provision of financial assistance, has been approved by the Government in December, 2005. All the State Government/UTs have been requested to take necessary action for implementation of the package for revival of Cooperative Credit Structure.

[Translation]

Withdrawal of FCI from Procurement

1597. SHRI SITARAM SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to withdraw the work related to the procurement of foodgrains from the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the alternative arrangements made for the procurement and distribution of foodgrains;

(c) the likely impact thereof on the supply of the foodgrains for distribution under the Public Distribution System in the inaccessible and food deficient States like Bihar; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure foodgrain availability in such States?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Scheme for Crop Agricultural Production

1598. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to increase the crop agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated to implement the said scheme during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) The Government of India is contemplating a new scheme on Enhancing Sustainability of Dryland Farming Systems to address the issues of dryland areas in the country. Further, a number of schemes to increase the crop production are being implemented. The main thrust of all the schemes is to increase crop production by promoting quality inputs and improved production technologies.

Cotton Production

1599. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to global cotton production boom during the last one year and current year, the prices of cotton have crashed substantially, registering a decline of at least 33% over the last year's prices;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to take care of the interests of cotton growers of the country to save them from distress sale of cotton;

(c) whether the traders are taking undue advantage of the position prevailing in the open market of cotton; and

(d) if so, the measures 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) Cotton prices during 2004-05 had declined the world over and in the domestic market also price decline ranged between 7% to 35% for different varieties. World cotton production for 2005-06 season has been estimated at 25.15 million metric tonnes as against 26.30 million metric tonnes during 2004-05, a decline of about 5% from the previous year. The domestic cotton production in the current cotton season i.e. 2005-06 is estimated at 242.50 lakh bales by the Cotton Advisory Board as against 243.00 lakh bales in 2004-05. During the current cotton season i.e. 2005-06, though the cotton prices in the beginning of the season were comparatively lower as compared to previous year i.e. 2004-05, but due to continuous demand from mill sector and market behaviour, the prices have firmed up.

(b) to (d) In order to ensure that the cotton farmers get remunerative prices for their kapas produce, Government of India fixes the Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year for two basic varieties of kapas viz. F-414/H-777/J-34 and H-4 of FAQ. Thereafter, based on the Support Prices for these two basic varieties and taking into account the quality differential, normal price differential and other relevant factors, the support prices for other varieties of kapas of FAQ are fixed. In order to avoid distress sale by farmers, the Government undertakes Price Support Operations of cotton through Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), if prices of cotton tend to fall below the MSP level. To help the farmers, the CCI has been purchasing kapas of FAQ and below FAQ grade upto three stages. All purchases of kapas by CCI are made in the presence of Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) officials from the notified market yards only.

A quantity of 27.51 lakh bales (170 kg. each) were purchased by CCI under MSP during 2004-05. During 2005-06, CCI has procured 10.40 lakh bales of kapas upto 28th February, 2006. NAFED procured a quantity of 0.395 lakh bales during 2004-05 and 7497 bales in 2005-06 till 8-2-2006.

Research on Post Tsunami changes in Inland Fishery

1600. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details and locations of Inland fishery research units of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the Inland water areas covered by each unit, State-wise;

(c) whether Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) of ICAR has conducted any research on ecological environmental and Inland fishery changes caused by Tsunami;

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

(e) the action being taken thereon;

(f) whether there is any proposal to shift CIFRI unit in Kerala to Bangalore; and

(g) 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 (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, Kolkata, West Bengal, a constituent of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is mandated to undertake research work in Inland Fisheries, with its Regional Centres at Allahabad (U.P.) Bangalore (Karnataka), Guwahati (Assam) and Vadodara (Gujarat) and field centres at Karnal (Haryana), Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and Alappuzha (Kerala).

(b) The Institute covers the inland water areas comprising rivers, estuaries, reservoirs and lakes. The Headquarters and the Regional Centres cover the inland fisheries of the states in which they are located as well as the adjacent states.

(c) While there was no significant impact of Tsunami on inland fisheries of the State of Kerala, the CIFRI made some observations on the water quality of Kayamkulam lake.

(d) Except for marginal increments in salinity and conductivity of water in Kayamkulam lake in the early 2005, no other major changes in the ecology or fishery were observed.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The research work on Vembanad and Kayamkulam lake assigned to Alappuzha centre has been completed. While considering the Tenth Plan proposals of the CIFRI, Barrackpore on 20.06.2003, the Expenditure Finance Committee decided to merge and shift the Alappuzha Research Centre of CIFRI with Bangalore Research Centre of CIFRI with a view to consolidate the R&D efforts. The other reasons for such decision of shifting/merger of the Centre are present research relevance, proper utilization of scientists and associated manpower, avoidance of duplication of research efforts and strengthening of identified Centres for strategic and applied research.

Scheme for Rain Water Harvesting

1601. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to implement and making rain water harvesting scheme compulsory in farm sector for every land holding farmer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance would be provided by the Union Government for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation

1602. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the benefits of drip and sprinkler irrigation over other methods of irrigation;

(b) the total area of land under the said system of irrigation as on date, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to extend the said system to other 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) The benefits of drip and sprinkler irrigations are mainly on water savings and increase in crop productivity. The details of benefit over conventional method is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The total area of land covered under the said system is 2.3 million hectare State-wise details is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Micro-Irrigation" during Tenth Plan and providing assistance to farmers of potential States towards implementation of drip and sprinkler system alongwith demonstration and training of farmers.

Statement-I**Comparison of benefits of Drip/Sprinkler over Conventional Irrigation**

Performance Indicator	Conventional Irrigation Methods (Flood, Furrow, Basin, Border)	Sprinkler Irrigation	Drip Irrigation
1	2	3	4
Water Saving	Waste lot of water, Losses occur due to percolation, runoff and evaporation	30-50% of water can be saved over conventional irrigation methods. Runoff and deep percolation losses are nil or negligible.	40-80% of water can be saved over conventional irrigation methods. Runoff and deep percolation losses are nil or negligible
Water use efficiency	25-30% because losses are very high	50-65%	80-95%
Saving in labour	Labour engaged for irrigation is higher	Labour required only for operation and periodic maintenance of the system	Labour required only for operation and periodic maintenance of the system
Reduced weed Intensity	Weed infestation is very high	Weed infestation is there	Weed infestation is almost nil
Use of saline water	Concentration of salts increases and adversely affects the plant growth. Saline water can not be used for Irrigation	Frequent irrigation keeps the salt concentration within root zone soil below harmful level	Brackish water may be used
Diseases and pest problems	High	Relatively less because of less atmospheric humidity	Relatively less because of less atmospheric humidity
Suitability in different soil types	Deep percolation is more in light soil and with limited soil depths. Runoff loss is more in heavy soils.	Suitable for all soil types as flow rate can be controlled	Suitable for hilly and undulating areas.
Water Control	Inadequate	Better than flood	Optimum

1	2	3	4
Efficiency of fertilizer use	Efficiency is low because of heavy losses due to leaching and runoff	Better due to reduced loss of nutrients through leaching and runoff water	Very high due to reduced loss of nutrients and runoff water
Soil erosion	Soil erosion is high because of large stream sizes used for irrigation	Slow application rates eliminate any possibility of soil erosion	Partial wetting of soil surface and slow application rates eliminate any possibility of soil erosion
Increase in crop yield	Non-uniformity in available moisture reducing the crop yield	7	Frequent watering eliminates moisture stress and yield can be increased upto 20 - 100% as compared to conventional methods of Irrigation.

Statement-II

The State-wise Area covered under Drip & Sprinkler Irrigation As on 31.3.2005

S.No.	State	Drip Irrigation	Sprinkler	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Haryana	4219	503862	508081
2.	Rajasthan	10025	460529	470554
3.	Maharashtra	219696	117320	337016
4.	Karnataka	114304	157028	271332
5.	Andhra Pradesh	111407	84490	195897
6.	West Bengal	110	150020	150130
7.	Tamil Nadu	116665	26332	142997
8.	Madhya Pradesh	6483	100000	106483
9.	Gujarat	16686	36333	53019
10.	Orissa	2036	20220	22256

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Uttar Pradesh	4609	10000	14609
12.	Punjab	4262	10000	14262
13.	Kerala	10559	1529	12088
14.	Sikkim	80	10030	10110
15.	Chhattisgarh	1979	3765	5744
16.	Nagaland	0	3962	3962
17.	Goa	741	296	1037
18.	Himachal Pradesh	116	581	697
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	613	0	613
20.	Assam	58	129	187
21.	Mizoram	72	106	178
22.	Uttaranchal	38	6	44
23.	Manipur	30	0	30
Total		624786	1696538	2321326

Production/Profit of VSP

1603. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the actual production sales and profits of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) during the last three years;

(b) whether any proposal for expansion of VSP is under consideration of the Government;

(c) the amount of investment proposed for the expansion of VSP; and

(d) the time by which the expansion programme will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) The production, sales and profits of Visakhapatnam Steel plant during the last three years are as under:-

Item	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Hot Metal (in '000 tonnes)	3942	4055	3920
Liquid Steel (in '000 tonnes)	3357	3508	3560
Saleable Steel (in '000 tonnes)	3056	3169	3173
Sales/turnover (Rs. in crores)	5059	6169	8181
Net profit (Rs. in crores)	521	1547	2008

(b) to (d) The Government on 28th October, 2005 as approved the expansion plan of Rāshtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) at an estimated revised cost of Rs. 8692 crores (base June 2005 prices) for increasing its liquid Steel capacity from 3 million tonnes to 6.3 million tonnes per annum. The entire expansion plan is likely to be completed by October, 2009.

[Translation]

Construction of Dams/Irrigation Projects

1604. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposal for irrigation projects and construction of dams on forest areas of Madhya Pradesh under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) the time by which the Government is likely to take decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Three proposals for irrigation projects and construction of dams on forest areas of Madhya Pradesh are under process at present. Two proposals are pending with the State Government for want of additional information and one proposal is under various stages of examination in the Ministry.

(b) Since, development process is a continuous process, and many of the projects contributing to the development of the country involve forest land, the Ministry of Environment and Forests continuously keeps on receiving proposals, from State/Union Territory Governments for consideration under provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Thus, at any point of time, some projects, always remain at different stages of consideration. However, Central Government has prescribed a time limit

of 60 days for itself for examination, consideration and decision in respect of proposals for diversion of forest land.

[English]

Amendment in Minimum Wages Act, 1948

1605. PROF. M. RAMADASS : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a comprehensive legislation to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Iron Ore Companies

1606. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of plants/iron ore companies in the country involved in extraction of minerals, State-wise; and

(b) the share of Public Sector Undertakings units therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) According to Indian Bureau of Mines, during 2004-05, 270 mines reported production of iron ore. The list of principal producers of iron ore in India during 2004-05 along with location of mines (State/District) is give in the enclosed statement.

(b) As per Indian Bureau of Mines, out of the 270 mines of iron ore reporting production during 2004-05, 43 mines were in public sector.

Statement*Principal producers of Iron Ore in India, 2004-05*

Name and Address of Producers	Location of mines	
	State	District
1	2	3
National Minerals Development Corpn. Ltd. Chanji Bhawan, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-28	Karnataka Chhattisgarh	Bellary Dantewada
Steel Authority of India Ltd. Spat Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi	Jharkhand Karnatak Chhattisgarh Orissa	Singbhum (West) Chickmaglur Durg Keonjhar
Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. 24, Homy Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai-400002	Jharkhand Orissa	Singbhum (West) Keonjhar
W/s. Essel Mining & Industries Ltd. 10, Canac Street, Kolkata-700017	Orissa	Keonjhar Sundergarh
Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd. I Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-34	Karnataka	Chickmaglur
W/s. Sunderlal Sarda & Mohanlal Sarda P.B. No. 85, P.O. Bachil Keonjhar, Orissa	Orissa	Keonjhar
W/s. Rungta Mines Pvt. Ltd. 206, AC Bose Road, Kolkata-17	Jharkhand Orissa	Singbhum (West) Keonjhar
The Orissa Mining Corporation Ltd. P.B. No.34 Bhubaneswar	Orissa	Keonjhar Sundergarh
W/s. Sesa Goa Ltd. Panjim, Goa	Goa	North Goa South Goa
W/s. Mysore Minerals Ltd. M.G. Road, Bangalore-1	Karnataka	Bellary

1	2	3
M/s. Dempo Mining Corporation Ltd. Dempo House, Panjim, Goa-1	Goa	North Goa
M/s. V.M. Salgaocar & Bro. Pvt. Ltd. P.B. No. 14, Vasco-da-gama, Goa-3	Goa	North Goa South Goa
M/s. Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. FD. 350 Salt Lake City Kolkata-16	Orissa	Keonjhar
M/s. Lakshmi Narayan Mining Co. No. 33, Sannidhi Road, Basavangadi, Bangalore-4 Karnataka	Karnataka	Bellary
M/s. Chowgule & Co. Ltd. Chowgule House, Marmagoa Harbor, Goa-403 803 Vasco-da-gama, Goa-3	Goa	North Goa South Goa Bellary
Indina Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. IISCO House, 50, Chowranghee Road, Kolkata West Bengal	West Jharkhand	Singhbhum
M/s. Minerals Sales Pvt. Ltd. Welcome Co-operative Colony, Hospet, P.O. Bellary-583203	Karnataka	Bellary
M/s V.S. Lad & Sons, Prasanth Niva, Krishna Nagar, Sandur, Karnataka	Karnataka	Bellary
Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. P.B. No. 6, Delhi Road, Hissar-P-125005 Distt. Hissar, Haryana	Orissa	Sundergarh
Obulapuram Mining Co. (P) Ltd., Ennoble House, Raghavachari Road, Bellary, P.O. Bellary-583 101, Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur

1	2	3
<p>M/s. Cosme Costa & Sons. Hothur Trader Mine Owner & Exporters, KHB Colony Sandur P-583119, Bellary, Karnataka</p>	<p>Goa Karnataka</p>	<p>North Goa Bellary</p>
<p>Hothur Traders Mine Owner & Exporters, K.H.B. Colony, Sandur, P-583 119, Bellary, Karnataka</p>	<p>Karnataka</p>	<p>Bellary</p>
<p>R.S. Shetye & Bros, Trinora Appts. 14, 1st Floor, At Municipal Market Post Panaji-403001</p>	<p>Goa</p>	<p>North Goa</p>
<p>M/s. Orissa Mineral Development Co. Ltd. FD-350, Sector III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-6</p>	<p>Orissa</p>	<p>Keonjhar</p>
<p>V.D. Chowgule, Chowgule House, Marumgoa, Harbour, Post-Marumgao-403 003</p>	<p>Goa</p>	<p>South Goa North Goa</p>
<p>Serajuddin & Co.. P-16, Bentinck Street, Calcutta-700069, West Bengal</p>	<p>Orissa</p>	<p>Keonjhar</p>
<p>Shri Kumaraswamy minerals Exporters No. 54 III Main Behind Shaku Nursing Home Parvasta Nagar, P. Bellary-583 103, Karnataka</p>	<p>Karnataka</p>	<p>Bellary</p>
<p>Doddanavar Bros. Near Fort P.B. Road, P. Belgaum-590016 Karnataka</p>	<p>Karnataka</p>	<p>Bellary</p>
<p>Sander Manganese & Iron Ore Ltd. Deogiri, Sandur Deogiri-583112 Bellary, Karnataka</p>	<p>Karnataka</p>	<p>Bellary</p>
<p>S.B. Minerals P.B. No. 56, K.R. Road, Hospet</p>	<p>Karnataka</p>	<p>Bellary</p>

1	2	3
M/s. Kaypee Enterprises P.B. No. 3, P.O. Barbil-758035 Keonjhar (Orissa)	Orissa	Keonjhar
Sacledade Timblo Inmaos Ltd. P.B. No. 34, Kadar Manzil, Margoa Margao-403 601	Goa	North Goa South Goa
Karigaaur Mineral Mining Industries Embita Complex, Bellary Road, P. Hospet-583201, Bellary, Karnataka	Karnataka	Bellary
Veerbhadrapa Sangappa & Co. Mine Owner No. 138 II Ward. P. Sandur-583119 Bellary, Karnataka	Karnataka	Bellary

**Criterion for Defining APL and
BPL Categories**

1607. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFIARS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the criterion adopted by Government for defining the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) categories;

(b) whether the Government has since decided not to provide subsidized ration and sugar to APL families; 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The guidelines issued by the Government for identification of

Below Poverty Line (BPL) families provide for inclusion of the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society such as landless agricultural laboureres, marginal farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen such as potters, tappers weavers, blacksmith, carpenters etc. in the rural areas and slum dwellers and persons earning their livelihood on daily basis in the informal sector like potters, rickshaw-pullers, cart-pullers, fruit and flower sellers on the pavement etc. in urban areas. The Gram panchayats and Gram-Sabhas should also be involved in the indentification of eligible families. The families other than BPL are termed as Above Poverty Line (APL) families.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, The Above Poverty Lines (APL) families are provided foodgrains under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) at subsidized rates. However, the levy sugar is not made available to them under TPDS except in North-Eastern, Hill States and Island Territories with a view to better targeting the subsidy towards the poor.

[Translation]

Hospital for Beedi Workers

1608. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned 30 bed hospital for beedi workers in Sagar District of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of the above hospital?

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

(b) The civil work of the hospital is almost completed and the electrical work is in progress. The hospital when made functional will cater for general health care of beedi workers and their families in the area.

[English]

Cultivable Land

1609. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether only 181 million hectare of land is cultivable of the total geographical area of 320 million hectare;

(b) if so, the reasons for cultivating less land; and

(c) the quantum of uncultivated land that has been converted into cultivable land during the last five years and how much money has been incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) Out of total geographical area of 328.73 million ha. in the country, 182.92 million ha. is cultivable in 2002-03. The cultivable land consists of net sown area 132.86 million

ha., current fallows 21.53 million ha. fallow land other than current fallows 11.68 million ha., culturable waste 13.49 million ha. and land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves 3.36 million ha.

There is marginal decline in agricultural land in the last 5 years from 183.63 million ha. in 1998-99 to 182 million ha. in 2002-03. During the same period, land under non-agricultural use has increased from 22.80 million ha. to 24.25 million ha. indicating that much of the increase in non agricultural land appears to have been achieved by developing uncultivable land/degraded land.

Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes for development of degraded lands for increasing the productive potential. Under these programmes, an area of 1.81 million ha. has been developed with expenditure of Rs.4952.26 crore in last five years (2000-01 to 2004-05) as per details given below:-

(Physical in lakh ha. & Financial in Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Programme	Achievements	
		Physical	Financial
1	2	3	4
1.	National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)	19.69	883.25
2.	Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS)	0.95	69.44
3.	Soil Conservation Scheme in River Valley Project & Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)	9.84	587.57
4.	Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation areas (WDPSA)	3.11	93.47

1	2	3	4
5.	Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP)	43.61	1164.00
6.	Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)	64.93	1244.72
7.	Desert Development Programme (DDP)	38.91	899.81
Total		181.04	4952.26

Forward Marketing Commission

1610. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Forward Market Commission (FMC) has effected changes in regulatory measures for certain commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the commodities for which changes have been made;

(d) whether the commission has also set up Investors Protection Fund from the penalties collected from the defaulting participants;

(e) if so, the objectives and benefits thereof; and

(f) the extent to which these steps are likely to provide security to investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has directed the following changes in the regulatory measures/contract design in the National Exchanges i.e. National Commodity and Derivative Exchange Ltd. Mumbai, the Multi Commod-

ity Exchange Ltd. Mumbai and the National Multi Commodity Exchange Ltd., Ahmedabad:

- (i) Reduction in limit on open position of sensitive commodities viz. Chana, Tur, Urad, Guarseed, Guargum, Mentha Oil and Sugar during near month contract.
- (ii) Stipulating that delivery notices should be issued at least five days prior to maturity of the contract.
- (iii) Disallowing acquisition of fresh open position during five days prior to maturity of contracts, which provide for option to the sellers to give delivery.
- (iv) Giving wide publicity to the information relating to deliverable stocks lying in the accredited warehouses of the exchanges on a daily basis at least for last 15 days of the contract.
- (v) No adding additional delivery centres outside the radius of 300 kms. from the main delivery centre.
- (vi) To eliminate conflict of interest and to enable exchanges to arrive at representative spot rate, the exchanges to review on a monthly basis the prices polled by the participants to identify the participants who are habitually polling unrealistic prices. The exchanges have been advised to delete such polling participants from their panel if the instances of polling unrealistic prices recur despite suitable communications by exchange/agencies.
- (vii) To improve the representativeness and authenticity of spot price fixed by exchanges, the exchanges have been directed to double the sample size presently used for fixing daily spot price during the last 15 days of the contract. Dissemination of such representative spot price would facilitate participants in the futures market to make bids and offers at realistic prices.

(viii) The exchanges to specify formula or procedure for fixing spot prices based on prices at different delivery centre and the normal variations in the spot prices among the different delivery centres. These formulae/procedures will have to be passed on by exchanges to the external agencies wherever such agencies are outsourced by the exchanges to fix spot prices.

(c) The commodities for which the above measures will apply are Chana, Tur, Urad, Guarseed, Guargum, Mentha Oil and Sugar.

(d) and (e) The FMC has directed the National Exchanges to set up Investor Protection Fund. Penalties collected from defaulting participants must be credited to this Fund. The FMC has asked the exchanges to pre-specify the liability which can be met through Investors Protection Fund. The objective of setting up of Investors Protection Fund is to protect the clients from defaults of their members.

(f) The above steps taken by the Forward Markets Commission are adequate to provide security to investors and to ensure market integrity.

[Translation]

Accidents in Industrial Units

1611. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of major accidents occurred in the industrial units in the country during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of workers killed or injured therein;

(c) whether the Union Government has any role to play in checking such accidents in the industrial units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) State-wise details of the fatal and non-fatal injuries occurred in the factories covered under the Factories Act, 1948 for the last three years is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) The safety, health and welfare of workers employed in factories are regulated by the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948. The enforcement of the Act is entrusted to the respective state Governments/Union Territory Administration through their Factory Inspectorates who are empowered to carry out inspection of factories. The Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) is an advisory body and, therefore they do not carry out any inspection of factories. It, however, organizes training courses on various aspects of industrial security for the inspectors of the State Governments and for the supervisors/management of the industries.

Statement

State-wise Fatal and Non-fatal Injuries Factories (P)

State/UT	2003		2004		2005	
	Fatal Injuries	Non-Fatal Injuries	Fatal Injuries	Non-Fatal Injuries	Fatal Injuries	Non-Fatal Injuries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	21	0	0	0	23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	98	1801	90	2258	134	1626
Assam	6	153	12	66	5	49
Bihar	6	244	6	258	4	130
Chandigarh	0	11	0	0	1	1
Chhattisgarh	35	1607	48	575	73	582
Daman & Diu & Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	25	2	28	5	15
Goa	3	142	12	154	15	187
Gujarat	229	7664	230	7300	200	5574
Haryana	25	156	64	134	38	234
Himachal Pradesh	1	16	3	13	3	12
Jammu & Kashmir	0	50	1	121	1	125
Jharkhand	14	183	21	197		..
Karnataka	50	1960	48	1403	34	1259
Kerala	18	393	10	254	18	377
Madhya Pradesh	29	1508	34	1338	36	1281
Maharashtra	156	5913	153	5276	173	4137
Manipur			0	0		
Meghalaya			0	1		
National Capital of Delhi	6	1	5	14	17	33
Nagaland			0	0		
Orissa	49	651	40	654	37	534
Pondicherry	5	539	6	352		
Punjab	7	397	7	698	61	148
Rajasthan	58	1690	52	1234	46	1258

1	2	3	4	5	6.	7
Tamil Nadu	43	1908	53	1846	57	1565
Tripura	1	3	0	3	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	67	329	59	277	77	259
Uttaranchal	8	48	12	38	10	55
West Bengal	57	30649	63	31675	64	28288
Total	977	58062	1031	56167	1111	47755

Note : For Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Mizoram and Sikkim Factories Act, 1948 not yet introduced/No registered factories.

P : Provisional, .. Not Available.

Production of Cow Milk

1612. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of cow milk has been declining every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The cow milk production has been increasing over the years. The production estimates of cow milk in the country during the past five years are given below:

Year	Cow Milk Production ('000 tonnes)
1	2
2000-01	32957

1	2
2001-02	34516
2002-03	34612
2003-04	34973
2004-05	36169

(c) However, the Government is implementing the following schemes for further improving the production and quality of milk in the country;

- (i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding
- (ii) Integrated Dairy Development Project
- (iii) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases
- (iv) Strengthening of infrastructure for quality and clean milk production
- (v) Assistance to Cooperatives
- (vi) Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund

*[English]***Committee on Upkeep of Animals**

1613.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up a Committee to look into the issue of upkeep of animals used in scientific laboratories;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee; and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) A Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) has been set up as per Section 15 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960.

(b) The Committee functions within the ambit of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960 and Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control & Supervision) Rules, 1998, as amended in 2001.

(c) The decisions of the Committee on specific proposals are recorded in the form of minutes of meetings, and are conveyed to the concerned institutions. No specific report is required to be submitted by CPCSEA.

*[Translation]***Proposals for Afforestation**

1614.SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh relating to afforestation through the Joint Forest Management Committees alongwith details of each such proposal;

(b) the action taken by the Government on these proposals; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be accorded sanction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) All 47 Forest Development Agency (FDA) project proposals received from the State of Madhya Pradesh relating to afforestation through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) upto 6.2.2006 have been approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests at a total cost of Rs.110.83 Crores for treating an area of 75,500 hectares through 1,472 JFMCs. A sum of Rs.66.59 Crores has been released till 6.2.2006. The FDA-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of FDA	Total approved cost of FDA Project (Rs. In lakh)	Total Physical Target (Area in ha.)	No. of JFMCs	Amount Released upto 6.2.2006 (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Madhya Pradesh					
1.	Guna	856.50	6500	64	537.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Hoshangabad	423.64	2000	93	278.35
3.	South Seoni	514.47	4000	66	454.01
4.	West Sidhi	261.59	2000	50	224.45
5.	North Seoni	261.42	2000	55	234.38
6.	Sehore	236.51	2000	19	178.96
7.	South Chhindwara	220.00	1800	11	173.83
8.	West Mandla	480.18	3000	25	213.00
9.	Damoh	248.00	2000	66	171.41
10.	South Panna	388.73	2000	19	304.00
11.	North Betul	251.00	1700	30	207.26
12.	Jhabua	360.26	2000	30	233.31
13.	Satna	351.00	2200	31	211.29
14.	Barwani	315.16	2000	24	184.28
15.	Shivpuri	389.70	2000	35	244.00
16.	Khargone	153.47	1000	19	121.00
17.	Raisen	337.08	2000	30	164.85
18.	South Sagar	187.90	1700	18	113.00
19.	South Betul	219.77	1500	22	172.12
20.	Vidisha	249.10	1600	16	110.28
21.	Harda	230.30	1600	18	187.00
22.	Rewa	263.73	1700	31	103.00
23.	Indore	241.58	1600	30	141.50
24.	East Mandla	233.56	1600	24	159.00
25.	North Panna	248.61	1450	30	138.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Dindori	154.30	1000	17	106.00
27.	Jabalpur	229.81	1200	44	164.00
28.	Umaria	175.00	1000	23	125.00
29.	Katni	122.44	1000	19	85.00
30.	West Betul	193.02	1500	30	153.00
31.	North Balaghat	206.05	1000	26	56.00
32.	Chhindwara West	125.83	1000	25	35.00
33.	Sheopur	107.60	1000	20	68.00
34.	Dhar	164.76	1200	24	47.00
35.	Bhind	95.80	800	15	24.00
36.	Ujjain	94.50	600	12	26.00
37.	Dewas	115.19	1000	23	59.00
38.	North Sagar	108.52	1000	24	26.50
39.	East Sidhi	132.67	1100	33	25.00
40.	Rajgarh	149.94	900	21	20.00
41.	Tikamgarh	218.04	1500	60	81.00
42.	South Shadol	228.56	1500	70	57.00
43.	North Shadol	129.09	900	22	71.00
44.	Chhatarpur	157.80	1200	38	63.00
45.	Burhanpur	102.06	850	28	45.00
46.	Datia	63.00	600	20	25.00
47.	Chhindwara East	83.35	700	22	38.00
Sub Total :		11082.59	75500	1472	6658.78

[English]

**Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940
And Produce Cess Act, 1966**

1615. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had decided to repeal the Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940 and Produce Cess Act, 1966 so as to remove the cess on export of agricultural products and make them more competitive in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farm incomes have augmented with these decisions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) Increase in exports of agricultural products helps augment farm incomes. Imposition of cess on exports reduces the competitiveness of agricultural exports. Thus, the Government has decided to repeal. The Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1940 and Produce Cess Act, 1966.

"Dholera Port Project"

1616. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

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

(a) Whether the Union Government has received a request for environmental clearance to Dholera Port Project;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) After examination of the documents, the Ministry has sought additional clarifications on issues relating to Environment Impact Assessment of the project from M/s Dholera Port Limited, which is still awaited.

[Translation]

Production of Spices

1617. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of each spice recorded in the country during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to promote the production of spices and create awareness for the said production among 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) Production of spices in the country as per available information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) For increasing production of spices, several development programme are being implemented under the National Horticulture Mission such as, area expansion, integrated pest management, organic farming, transfer of technology programmes, production of nucleus planting materials of high yielding and export oriented varieties of spices specific to different agro climatic conditions and their further multiplication and distribution through State Department nurseries. For enhancing the awareness among farmers, dissemination of information through seminars, workshops and training programmes is being undertaken.

Statement

(Production: '000 tonnes)

Spices	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Pepper	62.44	72.47	73.35
Ginger	317.90	277.00	297.74
Chillies	1069.00	894.60	1239.25
Turmeric	562.80	522.20	521.90
Cardamom	17.80	15.50	14.65
Garlic	366.30	468.31	694.32
Coriander	319.40	174.31	376.05
Cumin	206.42	134.76	134.76
Fennel	38.53	27.78	27.78
Fenugreek	136.64	64.22	64.22
Other Seeds	22.84	9.62	9.62
Clove	1.05	1.37	1.81
Nutmeg	1.99	2.18	2.53
Tamarind	184.40	182.34	179.31
Tejpat/Cinnamon	16.29	16.27	16.28
Others	0.06	0.10	0.14
Total	3343.80	2863.04	3653.70

*[English]***Cheating by Jewellers**

1618. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has recently revealed that jewellers in the country are cheating

the general public to the tune of Rs.6000/- crores per year by selling impure ornaments;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring some stringent regulations to check such cheating; and

(d) 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 TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) During the year 2001-2002, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) had conducted surveys in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Kolkata associating a consumer activist of repute in respective cities to find out the actual purity of gold jewellery available in the market as against the claims made by jewellers. About 11% of the samples tested were found conforming to the purity claimed. The survey revealed the average shortage of purity of 11%. India consumes around 880 tonnes of gold every year, of which 80% goes into jewellery manufacturing. Based on average 11% shortage in purity, as revealed in the survey, actual loss to consumers could be estimated at around Rs.6000 crores annually.

(c) and (d) In order to protect the interests of the common consumers in the purchase of gold jewellery, BIS have launched the Hallmarking Scheme for Gold Jewellery.

Production of Foodgrains

1619. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of various crops including foodgrains and oilseeds is likely to be higher during the ensuing rabi season as compared to the previous year;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the targets fixed for the production of the said crops are likely to be achieved;
- (d) if so, the details regarding the targets fixed and steps initiated to achieve the same during the ensuing rabi season, item-wise;
- (e) whether there has been an increase in the area covered under various crops; 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) and (b) As per the 2nd advance estimates production for 2005-06, the production of foodgrains during the ensuing rabi seasons is 101.17 million tonnes as compared to 101.29 million tonnes produced during the rabi season of 2004-05.

Regarding oilseeds the estimated production in rabi season of 2005-06 is 10.39 million tonnes which is marginally lower than 11.17 million tonnes of oilseeds production achieved in the rabi season of 2004-05. However, the overall production of foodgrains and oilseeds during 2005-06 is expected to be higher than last year, if weather remains favourable.

(c) and (d) The expected production of foodgrains and oilseeds during ensuing rabi season is likely to be lower than the target due to adverse weather conditions in some of the regions in the country. The crop-wise details of target fixed for rabi season of 2005-06 are shown in the enclosed statement.

The programmes aimed at boosting production and productivity of foodgrains include the following:

The Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based, Wheat Based and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals) have been subsumed under Macro Management Programme from October 2000 with a

view to provide flexibility according to the regionally differentiated needs of the States. To boost agriculture sector and enhancing yields, improved crop production technologies are popularized. Under this scheme assistance is provided for various inputs and training of farmers/ extension workers as well as supply of critical inputs like seeds, sprayers and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip systems.

In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and 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, foundation seed and certified seeds, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and minikits, infrastructure development, integrated pest management.

A new scheme 'Enhancing Sustainability of Dry land/ Rain-fed Farming Systems' aims at addressing issues like rainwater harvesting and its efficient utilization in situ soil moisture conservation; use of organics/organic manures; alternate land use; and adoption of improved dry land farming technologies. This scheme is proposed to be implemented in the arid and semi arid regions of the country.

(e) and (f) As per the latest reports available, the total area under foodgrains and oilseeds in the current rabi season is 621.52 lakh hectares as compared to 601.51 lakh hectares covered last year thus showing an increasing of 20 lakh hectares. The crop-wise details are shown below:

*Area under different crops in rabi season**

(in lakh hectares)

Crops	2005-06 (As on 27.02.06)	2004-05 (Corresponding period)
1	2	3
Wheat	267.01	264.87

1	2	3
Rice	40.57	34.68
Coarse Cereals	68.52	66.98
Pulses	136.14	128.8
Oilseeds	109.28	106.18
Total	621.52	601.51

*As reported in the meeting of Crop Weather Watch Group held on 27.02.2006

Statement

Production targets of rabi season during 2005-06 of foodgrain and oilseeds

Foodgrains

(Million Tonnes)

Crops	2005-06 Targets
Rice	12.35
Wheat	75.53
Jowar	3.33
Maize	2.85
Barley	1.65
Gram	6.17
Other Rabi Pulses	3.20
Total Foodgrains	105.08

Oilseeds

(Lakh Tonnes)

Crops	2005-06 Targets
1	2
Groundnut	19.00

1	2
Rapeseed & Mustard	71.30
Linseed	2.34
Safflower	2.40
Sunflower	9.30
Total Nine Oilseeds	104.34

[Translation]

Wetland Conservation Plan

1620.SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Union Government under wetland conservation plan;

(b) the action taken/being taken by the Union Government on these proposals; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Proposals on wetlands namely Barna, Yashwant Sagar, wetlands of Ken River Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Ghatigaon, Ratapani, Denwa Tawa Tiger Reserve, Kanha Tiger Reserve, Pench Tiger Reserve, Dihaila Tiger Reserve and sakhyasagar have been received for financial assistance from Government of Madhya under National Wetland Conservation Programme during the year 2005.

(b) and (c) All these proposals were considered in the meeting of Expert Group on Wetlands (EGoW) held on 01.07.05, Out of these, assistance of Rs.11.00 lakhs was released for Sakhyasagar wetland during 2005-06. The clarifications sought from the State Govt. in respect of other proposals are still awaited. It will be possible to take a

decision on the said proposals on receipt of requisite clarifications.

Legislation for Marketing

1621. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has prepared an ideal legislation in regard to agricultural marketing;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue to the farmers in marketing from the contract farming under the said legislation;
- (d) whether such contract farming is already being experimented in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and 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) Yes, sir. A Model Act namely, the State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 has been drafted by this Ministry and circulated to all States for reforms in the APMC Act to promote direct marketing, contract farming and setting up of competitive markets in private and cooperative sectors.

- (b) Salient features of the Model Act are as under:
 - i. Legal persons, growers and local authorities enabled to establish new markets in any area.

- ii. No compulsion on growers to sell their produce through existing regulated markets.
- iii. Establishment of Direct purchase centres, Consumers/ Farmers Markets for direct sale.
- iv. Separate provision for special markets for commodities like Onions, Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers etc.
- v. A separate chapter to provide institutional support to contract-farming arrangements

(c) and (d) Contract farming has been prevalent in various parts of the country for commercial crops like sugarcane, cotton, tea, coffee, etc. The concept has, however, gained importance in recent times in the wake of economic liberalization. The main feature of contract farming is that farmers grow selected crops under a buy back agreement with an agency engaged in trading or processing. In our country contract farming has considerable potential where small and marginal farmers can no longer be competitive without access to modern technologies and support. The contractual agreement with the farmer provides access to production services and credit as well as knowledge of new technology and an assured market. In order to equitably protect the interest of both the farmers as well as the industry, the Model Act inter-alia provides for an institutional arrangement for registration of sponsoring companies, recording of Contract Farming Agreement, indemnity to farmers' land and lays down a time bound dispute resolution mechanism.

- (e) A Statement indicating the area covered under contract farming in different States is enclosed

Statement

Contract Farming Status in different States:

State	Crop	Area (ha)
1	2	3
Karnataka	Ashwagandha Dhavana; Marigold & Caprica chilli; Coleus; Gherkins Medicinal Plants	8.350

1	2	3
Maharashtra	Soyabean; Several fruits, vegetables, cereals, spices and pulses; Potato; Sugarcane, Orange	134,800
Madhya Pradesh	Wheat, Maize, Several fruits, vegetables, cereals, spices, pulses, Soyabean, Garlic and White onion	1,200
Punjab	Tomato and Chilly; Barley, Basmati, Maize; Basmati, Groundnut, Potato and Tomato; Green vegetables and exotic vegetables	100000
Tamil Nadu	Cotton, Maize, Paddy, Cotton, Marundu Koorkan (Medicinal Plant) (Coleus Forskholii), Maize, Gherkins	1,830
Chhattisgarh	Safed Musli; Tomato	NA
Uttaranchal	Guar Gum	NA
Haryana	Turmeric, Mentha, Sunflower, White Musli	NA
Andhra Pradesh	White Viagra, Fruits, Vegetables and flowers, Gherkins, Cocoa, Oil palm	23,000
Gujarat	Processing of Medicinal Plants and Alovera	NA
Orissa	Seeds (paddy, Ragi, Green gram, arhar, ground nuts etc.), Sugar, Eucalyptus	7,200
Rajasthan	Exotic Vegetables	8
West Bengal	Chip Quality Potato	20

[English]

Adverse Impact of POP Chemicals

1622. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the highly toxic chemicals listed in the category of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP);

(b) whether some more harmful chemicals are proposed to be added to this category;

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

(d) whether the Union Government has ratified/ proposes to ratify Stockholm Convention of United Nations on Environment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are chemicals which persist in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissues of living organisms and are toxic to humans and wildlife. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants covers 12 POPs viz. 8

pesticides (aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene); 2 industrial chemicals (poly chlorinated biphenyls or PCBs and hexachlorobenzene) and 2 unintended by products (dioxins and furans). The Convention was adopted in May, 2001 and came into force on 17th May, 2004.

(b) and (c) Five new chemicals namely - Pentabromodiphenyl ether, chlordecone, Hexabromobiphenyl, Lindane, and Perfluorooctane sulfonate are under consideration of the POPs Review committee of the Stockholm Convention, for inclusion. The proposed chemicals are suspected to exhibit POP characteristics.

(d) and (e) India has deposited its instrument of Ratification on 13th January, 2006. The Convention shall enter into force for India on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification.

Irrigation Projects of Tamil Nadu

1623. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals for irrigation projects sent by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Union Government for approval during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of projects sanctioned and funds allocated and also rejected alongwith reasons for rejection; and

(c) the details of projects which have not yet taken up for decision alongwith reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The Union Government has not received proposals for major/medium irrigation projects for approval during the last three years from the Government of Tamil Nadu. However, under the Pilot Scheme "National Project for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies directly linked to Agriculture", two district projects namely Sivganga and Villupuram were approved in 2004-05 and Central share of Rs.3.97 crore has been released during 2005-06 to the Government of Tamil Nadu

Joint Venture Project for Deep Sea Tuna Fishery

1624. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought approval of the Union Government for joint venture project for deep sea tuna fishery with a New York, U based company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the permission for the same has been accorded;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore and the time by which permission is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed to establish a Joint Venture Project with World Tuna Development International Inc. (WTDI), USA for exploitation of Deep Sea Tuna Fishery. The proposal involves import of 12 Tuna Long Line Fishing Vessels by Indian Joint Venture Company for operation in Indian Exclusive Economic zone (EEZ).

(c) to (e) As per the Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy announced by the Government in October, 2004, Indian entrepreneurs are eligible to apply for Joint Venture with atleast 51% Indian equity and shore based processing capacity. The Government has conveyed 'Objection' to Government of Andhra Pradesh for floating a joint venture company.

Take-Over of Zoos by Central Zoo Authority

1625. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Zoo Authority proposes to take over the management of large and small zoos in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal of the Central Zoo Authority to take over the mangement of large and small zoos in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Clubbing of Sub Schemes In Agriculture

1626. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
 SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
 SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has clubbed together the sub-schemes of agriculture allotted under the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number of schemes clubbed together in one Mega Scheme during Tenth Plan period, till date;

(c) the total number of schemes through which money has been spent on farmers during the year 2004-05, till date;

(d) whether many sub-schemes have been carved out of the major scheme worth Rs.100 crores;

(e) if so, the details of such schemes; and

(f) the total amount spent on such schemes and the total number of farmers benefitted therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme which was started by integrating 27 erstwhile schemes in 2000-01, continues to be implemented during the Tenth Plan.

(b) The list of 27 erstwhile schemes which were clubbed together under the aforesaid scheme, is given in the enclosed statement-I. With the launch of new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the current year, 10 schemes of these 27 schemes pertaining to Horticultural development have been subsumed under NHM by taking them out of the MMA. The list of the remaining 17 schemes which continued to remain under MMA is given in the enclosed statement-I

(c) During 2004-05, the Central assistance to the States/UTs and other implementing agencies was released through the 27 schemes clubbed together.

(d) to (f) No sub scheme has been carved out of the MMA scheme.

Statement-I

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Assistance to Coop. Weaker Section
2. Assistance to Women Cooperatives
3. Non-overdue Cover Scheme
4. Agri. Credit Stabilization Fund
5. Special Scheme for SC/ST
6. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System Areas,
7. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas,
8. Integrated Cereal Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas,

9. Special Jute Development Programme
10. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System
11. Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilizer
12. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization among Small Farmers.
13. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid & Temperate Zones Fruits
14. Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds
15. Development of Commercial Floriculture
16. Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
17. Development of Roots and Tuber Crops
18. Development of Cocoa and Cashew
19. Integrated Programmed for Development of Spices
20. Development of Mushroom
21. Use of Plastics in Agriculture
22. Bee-keeping
23. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
24. Scheme for Foundation & Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops
25. Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Vally Projects & Flood Prone Rivers
26. Reclamation & Development of Alkali Soils
27. State Land Use Boards
2. Assistance to Women Cooperatives
3. Non-overdue Cover Scheme
4. Agri. Credit Stabilization Fund
5. Special Scheme for SC/ST
6. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice Based Cropping System Areas,
7. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas,
8. Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas,
9. Special Jute Development Programme
10. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System
11. Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizer
12. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization among Small Farmers.
13. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
14. Scheme for Foundation & Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops
15. Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers
16. Reclamation & Development of Alkali Soils
17. State Land Use Boards.

[English]

Domestic Workers

1627. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the domestic workers in homes in the country is increasing day by day;

Statement-II

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1. Assistance to Coop. Weaker Section

(b) if so, whether there is any specific guidelines to regulate their working being a part of the unorganized labour;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to come out with the Domestic Workers Bill to bring them under the legal cover; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) to (e) The occupation of 'domestic work' falls in the State Sector and therefore number of domestic workers working in homes in the country is not maintained at the Central level. The Central Government have neither formulated any specific guidelines to regulate their working nor there is a proposal for a Domestic Workers, Bill, as such at present. However, as per information available, the Government of Kamataka has notified minimum wages, hours of work etc. for domestic workers working in the State Concerned.

Increase in Agricultural Production

1628. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding India's current and projected agricultural production for the coming year, commodity-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase agricultural production in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) which of the agri-sectors need special attention to augment their production levels; and

(e) the steps initiated in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILÁL BHURIA) : (a) As per the

2nd advance estimates of production for 2005-06, the production of various crops is shown below:

Year	Production (Million Tonnes)
Rice	87.86
Wheat	73.06
Coarse Cereals	34.00
Pulses	14.40
Total Foodgrains	209.32
Oilseeds	26.37
Sugarcane	266.88
Cotton*	16.45
Jute & Mesta \$	10.65

* Production in Million Bales of 170 kgs. each

\$ Production in Million Bales of 180 kgs. each

The commodity-wise production targets for the coming years will be set at the beginning of the agricultural year (July-June).

(b) to (e) Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of the Agriculture, Horticulture and Livestock sectors. The strategies formulated by the Government for making the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic so as to increase its production and productivity with resultant increase in the income of farmers include (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; (ii) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-

land/ rainfed farming system; (vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

A number of capital-intensive schemes in agriculture including allied sectors of forestry, logging and fishing are implemented with public-private partnership. Some of the major schemes/ policy initiatives are as under:

- Gramin Bhandaran Yojna
- Development/strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization.
- 'Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post-Harvest Operations'.
- National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.

The other steps initiated by ICAR are as under:

1. Development of high yielding varieties and hybrids of crops.
2. Plant protection through seed treatment, insect biosystematics.
3. Breeder seed production, molecular breeding.

Sponge Iron Ore

1629.SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sponge iron plants in the country, location wise;

(b) the details of installation capacity and actual production of sponge iron during each of the last three years in these plants; and

(c) the quantity of sponge iron exported by each of these plants during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) to (c) As per the survey

conducted by Joint Plant Committee, the total number of sponge iron units in operation is 150 with an installed capacity of 16.15 million tonnes per annum. Location-wise details of these units are given in the enclosed statement.

Details of production and export of sponge iron during last three years are as under:—

(in '000 tonnes)

Item	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Production	6908.4	8085.0	10296.0
Export	nil	8.905	29.800

Source: Joint Plant Committee and Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association

Statement

Location-wise details of sponge iron units in the country

(in '000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of operating untis	Capacity of the operating sponge iron untis
1	2	3	4
1.	Jharkhand	14	660.6
2.	Orissa	33	2193.0
3.	West Bengal	27	1545.0
4.	Andhra Pradesh	12	684.5
5.	Karnataka	13	477.0
6.	Tamilnadu	2	130.0
7.	Chhattisgarh	38	3783.5
8.	Goa	4	166.0

1	2	3	4
9. Gujarat		1	3600.0
10. Maharashtra		6	2920.0
Total		150	16151.6

[Translation]

Review of Irrigation Projects

1630. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to review the pending/ongoing irrigation projects in the States including Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The Central Government reviews the status of pending/ongoing irrigation projects from time to time. The statewise number of approved/ongoing major/medium irrigation projects in the Tenth Five Year Plan is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Ongoing approved Major/Medium Irrigation Projects (As on February, 2006)

Sl. No.	State	Approved Projects		
		Major	Medium	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	5	12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	4	5	9
4.	Bihar	5	3	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	2	5

1	2	3	4	5
6. Goa		1	0	1
7. Gujarat		2	9	11
8. Haryana		3	0	3
9. Himachal Pradesh		1	2	3
10. Jammu and Kashmir		0	7	7
11. Jharkhand		1	13	14
12. Karnataka		6	7	13
13. Kerala		1	2	3
14. Madhya Pradesh		13	4	17
15. Maharashtra		21	30	51
16. Manipur		2	1	3
17. Meghalaya		0	1	1
18. Mizoram		0	0	0
19. Nagaland		0	0	0
20. Orissa		8	7	15
21. Punjab		1	0	1
22. Rajasthan		4	2	6
23. Sikkim		0	0	0
24. Tamil Nadu		0	0	0
25. Tripura		0	3	3
26. Uttaranchal		2	0	2
27. Uttar Pradesh		7	0	7
28. West Bengal		2	8	10
Total		94	111	205

[English]

Women Labour Force

1631. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to create more employment opportunities for women labour force; and

(b) if so, the strategies adopted by the Government for successfully achieving the stated objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) Around 5 crore employment opportunities are targeted to be created during the Tenth Five Year Plan. This will help both men and women labour force. Various schemes of training and employment targeting women are being implemented by various Ministries to improve the employment and living conditions of women. In the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, priorities are to be given in such a way that a least 1/3rd of the beneficiaries are women.

Policy for Per Hectare Yield of foodgrains

1632. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has proposed/worked out measures/methods to increase the per hectare yield of various foodgrains in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring awareness among the farmers to use such methods?

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

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For increasing per hectare yield of cereals under specific crop based systems, the Central Government has been implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems areas (ICDP-Wheat), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals) under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) along with other schemes subsumed under MMA. Another Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) which is being implemented for increasing per hectare yield of these crops.

The Central Government supports various schemes for creating awareness among farmers on modern crop management methods. Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres provide extension services to farmers. Scheme on Mass Media Support to Agriculture and Kisan Call Centres is also implemented by Central Government. Kisan Call Centres operate through toll free lines throughout country to provide expert advise to farmers. Mass Media Support to Agriculture is focusing on use of Doordarshan infrastructure for providing related information and knowledge to farming community.

Latest Techniques for Farming

1633. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made different provisions through different mediums to make the farmers of the country aware about the latest techniques of farming;

(b) if so, the details of these mediums and provisions;

(c) whether inspite of the above efforts, 60 per cent farmers of the country are unaware about the latest techniques;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the Government have decided to make current measures more effective; 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.

(b) Provisions have been made through different mediums to make the farmers of the country aware about the latest techniques of farming, inter-alia, under the following schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture:

- Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension (2004);
- Kisan Call Centres (2004);
- Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (2005);
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)

The figures in brackets indicate the year in which these schemes were started.

(c) and (d) As per National Sample Survey Organization Report No.499 based on survey conducted in the year 2003, 40% of farmers household are accessing modern agricultural technologies. Progressive farmers, Input dealers, Radio and Television were found to be some of the major information sources.

(e) and (f) Most of the schemes mentioned in part (b) of the reply above are recent schemes started to make information dissemination on the latest techniques more effective. New KVKs are also making contribution in this regard.

Social Security Scheme for Unorganised Sector

1634.SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of GDP spent on Social Security Schemes for unorganised sector in the country;

(b) the names of schemes in force and the target set for beneficiaries, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the expenditure on such Schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) to (d) At present, there is no Social Security Scheme for general application for the unorganized sector workers in the country. However, some of the State Governments and Ministry of Labour & Employment in the Central Government run few schemes targeting specific sections of the unorganized sector workers.

Setting up of Mega Chemical Industrial Estate

1635.SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.3500 dated April 18, 2005 regarding setting up of Mega Petrochemical Complex in Mangalore and state :

(a) whether the Government has taken a final decision for setting up of a Mega Chemical Industrial Estate (MCIE);

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

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (c) The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, assisted by consultants is studying the feasibility of setting up Mega Chemical Industrial Estates at different locations in the country. A Task Force on Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals

Investment Regions (PCPIR) has also been constituted in the Prime Minister's Office on 20.1.2006, in order to enable quick and coordinated decision making and to provide an appropriate policy framework for the development of investment regions of requisite scale and level of facilities, with the involvement of world class developers and investors, in the field of petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals. This Task Force will also finalize the number and location of PCPIRs. A definite time limit has not been fixed at this stage.

Declining of Cultivable Land

1636. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a steep decline in average farm land holding has been noticed during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;
- (c) whether the cultivable land has also declined during the above period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any proposal is under consideration to fix minimum quantum of agriculture land and to make it a viable earning through the mode of legislation; 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.

(b) As per Agriculture Censuses 1985-86, 1990-91 and 1995-96, the average size of operational holding was 1.69 ha., 1.55 ha. and 1.41 ha respectively.

(c) and (d) As per the above Agriculture Censuses, the cultivable land in the country was 161188 thousand hectares, 152659 thousand hectares and 153132 thousand hectares respectively.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Afforestation in Madhya Pradesh

1637. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE :

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

- (a) the hectares of land brought under plantation in Madhya Pradesh under National Afforestation Programme during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent proposals to the Union Government for increasing its forest cover.
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be sanctioned and the required funds released to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Forest Development Agency projects for treatment of total project area of 53,050 hectares have been approved during 2002-03 to 2004-05. The year wise details are as follows:-

Year	No. of FDA projects approved	Project Area (Ha.)
2002-03	18	32,650
2003-04	5	5,700
2004-05	14	14,700
Total	37	53,050

(b) to (d) All 47 Forest Development Agency (FDA) project proposals received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh under National Afforestation Programme upto 6.2.2006 have been sanctioned at a total cost of

Rs.110.83 Crores for treating an area of 75,500 hectares through 1,472 Joint Forest Management Committees during Tenth Five Year Plan, and a sum of Rs.66.59 Crores has been released till 6.2.2006.

Investment of EPF Money

1638.SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has urged the various Companies/Public Sector Undertakings to return the EPF money invested in these companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Companies/Public Sector Undertakings thereto;

(c) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has invested on a large scale in the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) which has defaulted in the payment of interest;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) to (e) The Central Board of Trustees; Employees' Provident Fund has invested in the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) in accordance with the prescribed 'Pattern of Investment'. However, due to its precarious financial situation, IFCI faced difficulties in meeting its contractual liabilities. Therefore, keeping in mind the ground realities and other relevant factors, the investments for value of Rs.1,006.85 crore were restructured at revised terms. Thereafter, IFCI has been discharging its liabilities in terms of timely payment of interest to the EPFO.

[English]

Programme for Minor Irrigation

1639.SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by the Government so far to launch a comprehensive national programme for minor irrigation of all lands owned by dalits and adivasis;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to give land to the landless families through implementation of land ceiling;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to introduce land redistribution legislation; 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) The Government is implementing 'Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme' (AIBP) in special category States comprising North Eastern States and Hill States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttranchal) and Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa since 1999-2000. Preference is given to tribal areas and drought prone areas which benefits Dalits and Adivasis. A pilot scheme 'National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies Directly Linked to Agriculture' has also been approved in January, 2005. Under the Scheme, priority is accorded to backward and tribal dominated districts. A special programme to provide 100% financial assistance to States for taking up Minor Irrigation Scheme for Scheduled Tribes' land has also been initiated during 2005-06. Besides, minor irrigation activities are also being promoted under the schemes of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India.

(b) to (d) Land and its management falls within the legislative and administrative Jurisdiction of the States as

provided under Entry No.18 of State list (II) of Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India. States have enacted ceiling laws pertaining to agricultural land holdings. Redistribution of available surplus land is done in accordance with the legal provisions made by the respective States.

Land of Coastal Area

1640.DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether land of coastal areas of the country is non-fertile for agricultural purposes;

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

(c) the specific steps by the Government proposes to make this land useful for agricultural purposes?

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. As per Indian Council of Agricultural Research an area of 2.515 million ha. is affected by coastal salinity in the country which have low productivity. State-wise extent of such areas are:—

(Area in million ha.)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Coastal Saline land
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.276
2.	Gujarat	0.710
3.	Karnataka	0.086
4.	Kerala	0.026
5.	Maharashtra	0.063
6.	Orissa	0.400

1	2	3
7.	Tamil Nadu	0.100
8.	West Bengal	0.820
9.	Goa	0.018
10.	Pondicherry	0.001
11.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	0.015
Total		2.515

(c) The Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana, and its Regional Centre at Canning – West Bengal has developed technology for reclamation of salt affected coastal and alluvial soils and to check the spread of coastal salinity. These technologies have been transferred to State Governments for adoption.

Funds for Development of Animal Husbandry

1641.SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from Government of Karnataka to release funds for the development of animal husbandry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) The Union Government is implementing number of schemes for development of animal husbandry in Karnataka and the details of funds released under these schemes during the current financial year (till February, 2006) are given in the enclosed statement. Two project proposals for an amount of Rs.85.00 lakhs each for strengthening of the (i) State Poultry and Training Centre, Hesserghatta and (ii) Regional

Poultry Farm, Gangavati, District Koppal submitted by the Government of Karnataka could not be considered during the current financial year due to paucity of funds. The consideration of these proposals in the next financial year i.e., 2006-07 will depend on their feasibility and availability of funds.

Statement

Schemewise Release of funds to the State of Karnataka during 2005-06 (till February, 2006)

(Rs. in Lakh)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	2005-06 (till February 2006)
1.	National Project on Cattle & Buffalo Breeding	907.20
2.	Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme	100.00
3.	Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms*	0.00
4.	Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease	338.11
5.	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication	38.00
Total		1383.31

*Rs.55.00 lakh released in 2004-05 has been revalidated for utilisation during 2005-06.

Conversion of Marine Algae into Bio-Fertilizers for Commercial Sale

1642.SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has developed an eco-friendly technology to convert marine algae into bio-fertilizers for commercial sale to boost the food production.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to transfer this technology to industries interested in manufacturing the bio-fertilizers in liquid form of seaweeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) The Central Salt & Marine Chemical Research Institute, Bhavnagar has developed a protocol for the production of marine bio-fertilizers (liquid) in collaboration with Division of Microbiology, Indian Agricultural Reserach Institute under All India Project of Algae.

(c) The product is still under testing stage at field.

Excess Use of Fertilizers and Insecticides

1643.SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers are using fertilizers and insecticides in excess than required;

(b) if so, whether any organized efforts are being made to educate the farmers about the hazards caused by excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides and also about the optimum utilization of ground water and other production enhancing resources; 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 average per hectare consumption of Chemical Fertilizer Nutrients and insecticides (technical grade) are 96.59 Kg./ha. and 0.22 Kg./ha. respectively. This level of consumption is not considered as excessive and should not have any ill effect on agriculture. However, inequitable or excess use of fertilizer in certain crops and areas, may cause falling organic carbon contents and deficiencies of certain major,

secondary and micro nutrients in soils in some parts of the country especially, rice-wheat belt of Indo-Gangetic plains due to continuous imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers without organic manures.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken by the Government:—

- (i) Promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) based on soil test for balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizer in conjunction with organic fertilizers like Farm and Yard Manure, Green manure, compost vermicompost and biofertilizers etc. through State Governments under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilizers"
- (ii) Has launched "National Project on Organic Farming" as corrective measure for balanced fertilization.
- (iii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also advocating Integrated Plant Nutrients Supply System (IPNS) for different crops/cropping system under various agro ecological region of the country.
- (iv) Promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach through Farmers' Field Schools in order to minimise the indiscriminate and injudicious use of chemical pesticides.

Wages for Beedi Workers

1644. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the minimum rate of wages for beedi workers differ from state to state;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether many States/Union Territories are not paying the National Floor Level Wage to the beedi workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that beedi workers throughout the country get at least common National Floor Level Wage?

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

(b) Minimum rate of wages for Beedi Workers differ from state to state due to differences in socio-economic & agro-climatic conditions, prices of essential commodities, paying capacity, productivity, local conditions influencing the wage rate etc.

(c) and (d) States in which minimum wages for beedi workers are less than the National Floor Level Minimum Wage of Rs.66/- per day are as under:—

Name of State	Minimum wage (in Rs.) per day
1. Andhra Pradesh	65.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	55.00 Area-I 57.00 Area-II
3. Maharashtra	60.00 Zone-I (per 1000 beedi) 58.00 Zone-II (per 1000 beedi)
4. Rajasthan	47.00 (per 1000 beedi)
5. Orissa	52.50
6. Tripura	51.00 (per 1000 beedi)

(e) The States/UTs are advised from time to time to ensure that the minimum wages in their scheduled employments, including beedi making, are fixed/revised to be at least at par with the national floor level minimum wage.

Development of Plantation Projects

1645. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for development and promotion of plantation projects in rural areas of the country particularly in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total outlays allocated for the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The scheme is being implemented through Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. As on 6.2.2006, 680 FDA projects have been approved in the country at a total cost of Rs.1489.42 crores for treating an area of 9.04 lakh hectares through 22,878 JFMCs. In Karnataka, 43 FDA projects have been approved at a total cost of Rs.110.42 crores. State-wise details of FDA project proposals received and approved with total cost thereof are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(As on 6.2.2006)

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of FDA Project proposals received	No. of FDA Project proposals approved	Total Project Cost (Rs.in Crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	32	82.35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19	13	24.45

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	29	29	36.56
4.	Bihar	9	7	13.57
5.	Chhattisgarh	32	31	72.87
6.	Goa	3	3	2.39
7.	Gujarat	22	21	60.87
8.	Haryana	17	16	52.24
9.	Himachal Pradesh	29	27	52.53
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	31	31	74.61
11.	Jharkhand	27	27	55.04
12.	Karnataka	45	43	110.42
13.	Kerala	24	23	47.44
14.	Madhya Pradesh	47	47	110.83
15.	Maharashtra	45	45	98.62
16.	Manipur	14	13	26.58
17.	Meghalaya	7	7	12
18.	Mizoram	30	19	60.12
19.	Nagaland	18	16	37.71
20.	Orissa	40	34	65.17
21.	Punjab	15	7	14.16
22.	Rajasthan	31	30	38.19
23.	Sikkim	7	7	27.72
24.	Tamil Nadu	32	32	93.23
25.	Tripura	13	12	25.57
26.	Uttar Pradesh	61	58	103.88

1	2	3	4	5
27. Uttaranchal		36	34	51.58
28. West Bengal		20	16	38.72
Total		735	680	1489.42

**Education to Farmers for Harnessing
of Rain Water**

1646. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has initiated any steps to educate the farmers regarding harnessing of rain water for cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is providing any financial assistance/subsidy/incentive to the farmers for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) Rainwater harvesting and its utilization in agriculture is an age old practice. Now peoples' participation in rainwater harvesting and its optimal utilization is advocated and practised in the relevant Government schemes. Accordingly, farmers are motivated and educated to harness rainwater for cultivation through training programmes. The following schemes implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development during X Five Year Plan emphasize the above aspect.

Ministry of Agriculture

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA)
2. River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)

3. Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation areas (WDPSA)

Ministry of Rural Development

1. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
2. Integrated Wasteland Development Project (WDP)
3. Desert Development Project (DDP)

Various soil and water conservation measures for treatment and development of the area on watershed development approach are taken up under above programmes. Rainwater harvesting is an integral part of water conservation programmes, which is taken up as per technical needs of the watershed development. The area treated under the above schemes / programmes since inception till the end of 2004-05 is furnished in the enclosed statement-I. For the farmers, all the above schemes are of grant based ones.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through Central Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad; Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur; Central Soil and Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Dehradun; and Centers for All India Coordinated Research Projects on Dryland Agriculture located at various State Agricultural Universities are imparting training, organizing goshtis and field demonstrations to educate farmers for optimizing crop productivity of rainfed agriculture through moisture conservation and rain water harvesting to provide supplementary irrigations. ICAR is also providing requisite technology support to farmers for developing efficient rain water harvesting structures such as farm ponds, nalla bunds, check dams, percolation tanks, khadin, tanka, nadi, dugout and embankment type ponds etc. The rainwater harvesting structures recommended for different agro-climatic zones are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Central Ground Water Board is also undertaking many measures to educate public at large, including farmers on various aspects governing ground water resources such as development, utilization, conservation and augmentation of resources.

Statement-I

Area developed and amount invested under various Watershed Development Programmes, since Inception upto March, 2005

(Area : in lakh hectare; Expenditure : Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Ministry/Scheme and year of start	Area treated and Expenditure since inception up to IX Plan		Area treated and Expenditure in first 3 years of X Plan (2002-05)		Total area treated and Expenditure since inception upto March 2005	
		Area	Expenditure	Area	Expenditure	Area	Expenditure
(A) Ministry of Agri., Department of Agri. Coopn.							
1.	NWDPR (1990-91)	69.79	1877.74	9.55	519.82	79.34	2397.56
2.	RVP & FPR (1962 & 81)	54.88	1516.26	5.99	377.91	60.87	1894.17
3.	WDPSA (1974-75)	2.58	166.27	0.6	60.16	3.18	226.43
	Sub Total (A)	127.25	3560.27	16.14	957.89	143.39	4518.16
(B) Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources)							
1.	DPAP (1973-74)	13.79	897.2	12.5	844.99	26.29	1742.79
2.	DDP (1977-78)	6.7	686.04	8	614.78	14.7	1300.82
3.	IWDP (1988-89)	37.36	598.12	24.6	849.9	61.96	1448.02
	Sub Total (B)	57.85	2181.36	45.1	2309.67	102.95	4491.63
Total (A+B)		185.1	5741.63	61.27	3267.56	246.34	9009.79

Details of abbreviations:

NWDPR	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas
RVP & FPR	River Valley Project & Flood Prone River
WDPSA	Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas
DPAP	Drought Prone Area Programme
DDP	Desert Development Programme
IWDP	Integrated Wasteland Development Project.

Statement-II**Rain Water Harvesting Structures in different Agro-Climatic Zones**

Sl.No.	Agro-Climatic Zone	Water Harvesting Structure
1	2	3
1.	Humid north-western Himalayas	(i) Roof water harvesting (ii) Diversion of perennial springs & streams in storage structures (iii) Village pond (iv) Collection from hill slope
2.	Himalayan foot hills	(i) Collections from hill slope (ii) Village ponds (iii) Roof water harvesting (iv) Interflow harvesting
3.	Humid high rainfall north eastern zone	(i) Roof water harvesting (ii) Diversion of perennial springs & streams in storage structures (tank)
4.	Humid Assam Bengal plains	(i) Tank (ii) Anicut/check dam (iii) Gully plugging (iv) Contour bunding
5.	Sub-humid & humid Sattuj Ganga Alluvial Zone	(i) Pond (ii) Check dam (iii) Gully plugging (iv) Contour bunding
6.	North-western semi-arid & arid Zone	(i) Nadi (ii) Tanka

1	2	3
		(iii) Khadin
		(iv) Percolation tank
		(v) Anicut
		(vi) Gully plugging
		(vii) Contour bunding
		(viii) Roof harvesting
7.	Central semi-arid Vindhyan Zone	(i) Pond
		(ii) Check dam
		(iii) Contour bunding
		(iv) Gully plugging
		(v) Sub-surface dykes
8.	High rainfall high runoff Chhotanagpur plateau	Same as at Sr.No. 4 above
9.	Assured rainfall deep black soil malwa plateau & Narmada basin	(i) Ponds
		(ii) Check dams
		(iii) Sub-surface dams
10.	Variable rainfall south central plateau zone	(i) Pond
		(ii) Check dam
		(iii) Percolation tank
		(iv) Bandhara
		(v) Gully plugging
		(vi) Sub-surface dam
		(vii) Contour bunding
11.	Chhattisgarh plateau zone	Same as 10
12.	South-eastern brown/red soil zone	Ponds/Tanks

1	2	3
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Percolation tank

Sub-surface dam

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 13. Southern variable rainfall, mixed soil zone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Pond / tanks / kunta (ii) Nadi (iii) Check Dam (iv) Percolation tank (v) Sub-surface dam (vi) Gully plugging | |
| 14. Southern bi-modal rainfall zone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ponds / tanks (ii) Percolation tank (iii) Gully plugging (iv) Contour bunding (v) Check dams | |
| 15. Eastern Coromandal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Pond / tank / kunta (ii) Nadi (iii) Check dam (iv) Percolation tank (v) Sub-surface dam (vi) Gully plugging | |
| 16. Western Malabar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Pond / tank / kunta (ii) Check dam (iii) Percolation tank (iv) Contour bunding (v) Bandhara (vi) Kolhapur type weirs (vii) Sub-surface dam | |

**Incentives for Development and Expansion in
Agriculture Sector**

1647. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme for providing economic incentive to private sector has been implemented by the Government for speedy development and expansion in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the institutes in private sector which have been benefited under this scheme, till date; and

(c) the amount of incentive that has been sanctioned to these institutes till now?

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 Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) has emphasized on public private partnership in the development of agriculture, and the need to encourage private investment in agriculture to supplement the public investment. Areas in which the private sector plays an important role include horticulture development, development of agricultural marketing infrastructure, development of storage facilities, seed production and distribution, provision of extension services. Need based economic incentive in the form of back-ended subsidy or otherwise is being provided to the private sector in some of these areas which include horticulture development, provision of extension services through the scheme of agr-clinic and agri-business, setting up of marketing infrastructure, post harvest infrastructure like rural godowns, cold storage units and processing units.

[Translation]

**Production of Oilseeds and Pulses in
Madhya Pradesh**

1648. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal of Rs. 108.15 crore to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses in the Bundelkhand area of Madhya Pradesh with Japanese assistance has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 09 June, 2005;

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

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

(d) whether a proposal for setting up of two centres for research on spices has also been sent to the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) by the State on 16 June, 2004;

(e) if so, the action taken on this proposal so far; and

(f) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be sanctioned?

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 proposed project is for funding by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and has been sent to Department of Economic Affairs for posing to the donor agencies.

(d) to (f) The Vice Chancellor Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya Jabalpur had requested ICAR for opening new centres of research on Garlic, Coriander and Fenugreek at Mandasaur and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh. The proposals were examined in the Council and it is reported that there are 20 Centres under All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices (AICRPS), distributed all over the Country, including centres at Jobner, Ajmer and Raigarh, which fall in similar agri-ecological conditions as prevailing in Mandasaur and Gwalior. ICAR authorities accordingly feel that the proposed new centres are not justified.

Industrial Workers Under EPF

1649. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether only 10% of the industrial workers of Madhya Pradesh are getting the benefit of Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the policy of the Government for providing cent per cent benefit of the labour laws to the workers;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the activities of the unscrupulous elements in the EPFO offices; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb the activities of the agents to prevent the exploitation of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, subject to provisions of Section 16 of the Act, is applicable to every establishment which is a factory engaged in any industry specified in Schedule I of the Act or any other establishment notified by the Government and employing 20 or more persons.

As on 31.03.2005, there were 14,42,911 members of the Fund in Madhya Pradesh region.

(c) The Act is being enforced in accordance with the provisions contained therein.

(d) Yes, Sir. Two cases pertaining to closed establishments at Sub-Regional Office, Gwalior were detected.

During 2003 a fraud involving an amount of Rs. 27.98 lakh in respect of M/s. Sound Zweirdad Union India (P) Ltd. was found to have been committed by certain outsiders with the help of officials of the Organization.

In another case detected during the year 2004, an amount of Rs. 1.98 lakh was found to have been fraudulently withdrawn in respect of M/s. Bharat Foundry Works.

(e) Both the cases were referred to the CBI for detailed investigations as certain outsiders were involved.

The project, 'Re-inventing EPF India' is designed to bring more transparency, audit trail, etc. to curb such unscrupulous activities.

[English]

Dangerous Chemicals used in manufacturing of Pesticides

1650. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the dangerous chemicals being used in the manufacturing of pesticides in the country; and

(b) the name of such pesticides produced in which persistent organic pollutants are being used as base in the manufacturing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) The registration Committee constituted under the Insecticide Act, 1968, in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, which is the administrative Department for this Act, grants registration for import/manufacture of pesticides after satisfying itself with their efficacy and safety to human beings and animals. While scrutinizing the applications for grant of registration, the process of manufacture is also examined for its safety from the angle of use of kind and quantity of reactants. The pesticides, which are not found safe to human beings and animals are refused registration.

(b) Out of 8 pesticides listed as Persistent Organic Pollutants under the Stockholm Convention, use and manufacture of 7 pesticides has already been banned by the Government. The eighth pesticide viz; DDT has also been banned by the Government for use in agriculture. However, it is being used only for public health purposes and for manufacture of dicofol.

Milk and Milk Product Order

1651. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to change in Milk and Milk Products Order (M&MPO), imported milk and milk products have adversely affected the indigenous production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to save the interests of domestic co-operatives and milk producers?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India is implementing the following Dairy Development schemes in the country to save the interests of domestic co-operatives and milk producers;

1. Intensive Dairy Development Programme.
2. Assistance to Cooperatives.
3. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production.
4. Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund.

Construction Workers

1652 SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the

Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cess on construction sector has been proposed for the benefit of construction workers:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of construction workers are unskilled;

(d) if so, whether there is any scheme to train these workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) to (e) Under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996, there is a provision for collection of cess @ 1% on all construction Projects costing more than Rs. 10.00 lakhs and employing more than 10 workers towards financing various welfare activities for the benefit of construction workers. The responsibility for enforcement of the Act entirely rests with the State Governments/Union Territories. With a view to evolving a credible system of skill testing and certification of construction workers and to identify the institutions/NGOs who will be engaged for testing and certification, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has recently been started by the Government. The Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) has also developed several different trades/areas for skill development of construction workers.

[Translation]

Proposals from Madhya Pradesh for Forest Training

1653. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for advancement of Forest Training Institute and Forest Research Institute; Jabalpur

under the Indo-German Bilateral Programme, submitted by Madhya Pradesh Government is pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared and the funds released to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA : (a) and (b) A concept note for "Development of Forestry Training and Research in Madhya Pradesh" has been received from the State Government for grant under Indo-German Bilateral Programme. Such projects are posed to external donors after clearance from Ministry of Home, Ministry of External Affairs and Planning Commission. A time frame for approval of such Projects can not be indicated as the donors may or may not agree to fund the same.

[English]

Achievement of Second Green Revolution

1654. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the growth rate of agriculture recorder in the country during the first three years of the Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether this is sufficient to achieve the second green revolution;

(c) if so, the details there about;

(d) the total arable and barren lands as on date;

(e) the area of such lands under cultivation in the country;

(f) whether the Government has any plan to bring the barren lands under cultivation;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the total number of idle agricultural labourers in the country as on date?

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 Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) with revised base year (i.e. 1999-2000 prices), the growth rate in the agriculture and allied sectors in the first three years of Tenth Plan Period is given below:

Year	Growth rate % in agriculture and allied sectors at 1999-2000 Prices
2002-03	-6.9
2003-04	10.0
2004-05	0.7

(b) and (c) A series of initiatives through various schemes have been taken by the Government in the areas of increased credit coverage, irrigation expansion, crop diversification, marketing infrastructure, dryland farming, horticulture, extension services and storage facilities to enhance production and productivity in the agricultural sector. This process is being strengthened through farm mechanization, agri-clinics and agri-business centres. The areas for high investment include micro-irrigation comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horticulture Mission, having end-to-end approach. These initiatives are expected to generate employment and income in the sector apart from accelerating growth and productivity.

(d) and (e) The total arable land in the country is 182.7 million hectares and the total barren land is 18.0 million hectares. The land under cultivation is 154.3 million hectares constituting 76.9 percent of the total of both arable and barren lands.

(f) and (g) The Government is implementing various programmes for the development of waste land/degraded land through watershed development approach. These are: (i) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP);

(ii) Desert Development Programme (DDP); (iii) Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP); (iv) Technology Development, Extension & Training (TDET); (v) Investment Promotion Scheme (IPS); (vi) Support to NGOs; and (vii) The Wastelands Development Task Force (WDTF).

(h) According to the quinquennial Survey of 55th Round conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1999-2000, the total number of persons employed in agriculture on Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) is 238 million and on Current Daily Status (CDS) is 191 million. This indicates disguised unemployment in agriculture.

Use of CWC Godowns by FCI

1655. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the storage space belonging to Central Warehousing Corporation which is currently being used by FCI for storage of foodgrains; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the utilization of storage space belonging to CWC by FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The storage space belonging to Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), which is being used by Food Corporation of India (FCI) for storage of foodgrains, is 13.6 lakh MTs.

(b) To increase the utilization of storage space belonging to CWC by FCI, Government has instructed FCI to de-hire private godowns (Covered and CAP) having less than 25% utilization. FCI has also been advised to give priority to hire CWC's godowns for storage of foodgrains.

Environmental clearance to PMGSY

1656. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) The details of the proposals pending for environmental clearance with the Union Government under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, State-wise;

(b) Whether a number of proposals from the State of Karnataka for construction of roads under the said scheme are also pending with the Government;

(c) If so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a long pendency;

(d) Whether the norms for approval of proposals under the said scheme are proposed to be relaxed; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any proposal under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for environment clearance.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Afforestation

1657. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH :
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

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

(a) whether the Government has undertaken afforestation activities in the country in the current Plan;

(b) if so, the details of targets set and achieved so far, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and utilized so far, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for non-utilization of allocated funds in time under various projects; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve the targets of current Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The scheme is being implemented through Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. As on 6.2.2006, 680 FDA projects have been approved in the country at a total cost of Rs. 1489.42 Crores for treating an are of 9.04 lakh hectares through 22,878 JFMCs. A sum of Rs. 846.21 Crores has already been released till 6.2.2006. The State-wise number if FDA projects approved with project area, total project cost, and funds released thereof are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Funds are utilized by FDAs and JFMCs as per activities identified in the approved project, and contained in the microplan at the village level. Next instalment for the project is released only when satisfactory utilization of the previous release has been achieved. The FDA projects are monitored, inter-alia, for expeditious implementation and utilization of funds, and for timely achievement of targets by the National-level Steering Committee at the Central Government level, and the State-level Coordination Committee at the State-level. Besides, officers of the State Forest Department and the

Ministry of Environment and Forests undertake field visits with a view to facilitating efficient implementation of the FDA projects.

Statement

(as on 6.2.2006)

S. No.	Name of States/ Union Territory	No. of FDA Project proposal approved	Total Project Area (in Ha.)	Total Project Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Amount Relea- sed (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32	47400	82.35	39.98
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	19476	24.45	11.69
3.	Assam	29	26955	36.56	19.07
4.	Bihar	7	10150	13.57	6.44
5.	Chhattisgarh	31	41814	72.87	49.22
6.	Goa	3	1250	2.39	0.64
7.	Gujarat	21	30445	60.87	27.14
8.	Haryana	16	21055	52.24	37.25
9.	Himachal Pradesh	27	32378	52.53	25.64
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	31	47839	74.61	21.75
11.	Jharkhand	27	38600	55.04	25.93
12.	Karnataka	43	57880	110.42	73.74
13.	Kerala	23	15840	47.44	10.29
14.	Madhya Pradesh	47	75500	110.83	66.59
15.	Maharashtra	45	65738	98.62	42.47
16.	Manipur	13	18374	26.58	19.21
17.	Meghalaya	7	7400	12	7.63

1	2	3	4	5	6
18. Mizoram		19	26770	60.12	45.97
19. Nagaland		16	25528	37.71	30.39
20. Orissa		34	50727	65.17	38.4
21. Punjab		7	6515	14.16	5.6
22. Rajasthan		30	27340	38.19	20.93
23. Sikkim		7	15280	27.72	20.42
24. Tamil Nadu		32	52253	93.23	55.6
25. Tripura		12	19405	25.57	16.31
26. Uttar Pradesh		58	63004	103.88	82.06
27. Uttaranchal		34	37050	51.58	26.54
28. West Bengal		16	22656	38.72	19.31
Total		680	904622	1489.42	846.21

Minimum Wages

1658. SHRI BHUBNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

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

(a) whether different rates of wages prevail for different types of work in the country;

(b) if so, the rate of minimum wages during 2004-05 in the country indicating the areas and nature of work for which the minimum wages are paid, State-wise;

(c) whether major chunk of the wages paid to the labourers is appropriated by the middlemen; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure full benefit of minimum wages to these labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) to (d) On the basis of available information a Statement giving the range of minimum wages for unskilled workers in different States/UTs, is enclosed. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 the enforcement of the minimum wages is secured both at the Central and State level through the office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) and State enforcement Machinery respectively. They conduct regular inspections and advise the employers to make payment of shortfall of wages whenever they come across any case of non-payment or less payment of wages. In case of non-adherence of their advice, Employers may be subjected to legal and penal actions.

Statement

Range of Minimum Wages for Unskilled workers in Different States/UTs

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Range of Minimum Wages per day (in rupees)
1	2	3
	Central	61-115
	States/Union Territories	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45-110
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	55-57
3.	Assam	48-97
4.	Bihar	66-71
5.	Chhattisgarh	53-79
6.	Goa	56-94
7.	Gujarat	50-99
8.	Haryana	87-88

1	2	3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	65
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	66
11.	Jharkhand	68
12.	Karnataka	56-99
13.	Kerala	72-174
14.	Madhya Pradesh	57-87
15.	Maharashtra	44-149
16.	Manipur	70-72
17.	Meghalaya	70
18.	Mizoram	91
19.	Nagaland	66-70
20.	Orissa	53
21.	Punjab	91
22.	Rajasthan	73-76
23.	Sikkim	85
24.	Tamil Nadu	54-150
25.	Tripura	50.66
26.	Uttar Pradesh	57-110
27.	Uttaranchal	62-95
28.	West Bengal	44-123
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	100-107
30.	Chandigarh	114
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	89
32.	Daman & Diu	75

1	2	3
33.	Delhi	122
34.	Lakshadweep	70
35.	Pondicherry	45-100

[English]

Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project

1659. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sought any assistance from the Union Government to implement the Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project (RWSRP) in the State;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of this project;

(c) the amount of central assistance proposed to be sanctioned therefor; and

(d) the steps initiated in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project (RWSRP) is an externally funded on-going project. The project is being implemented with assistance from World Bank. Project has started in March, 2002. The estimated cost of the project is US \$ 180.22 million.

[Translation]

Verdict on Ground Water Table

1660. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given any verdict with regard to ground water table;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Taking cognizance of a news-item brought to the notice by Advocate Sh. M.C. Mehta through Interlocutory Application No.32, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 20th March, 1996, took up the matter of falling ground water levels. On 10th December, 1996, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed its order directing the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment & Forests to constitute the Central Ground Water Board as an Authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986). The Hon'ble Court further directed that the Authority so constituted shall exercise all the powers under the Act necessary for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(c) Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, issued a Notification on 14th January, 1997 and constituted Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) as Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for the purposes of regulation and control of ground water management and development. The CGWA so constituted has taken steps to regulate development of ground water, which includes notification of 20 severely critical/over-exploited areas in which installation of new ground water abstraction structures is subject to prior approval by the Authority. In addition, 32 critical areas which showed a very steep decline in ground water levels and required action for regulation have been notified for registration of existing water abstraction structures. The Authority has also issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi where ground water table is below 8 metres from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system. It is also regulates ground water withdrawal by

industries in over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas in the country. It has organized mass awareness and training programmes in various parts of the country which have helped in educating the people about prevailing situation of ground water and need for rain water harvesting and have helped in generating resource persons for designing rain water harvesting structures to augment ground water in different terrains and diverse hydrogeological conditions.

[English]

An Expert Body for Agricultural Zones

1661. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP :

SHRI M. RAJA MONAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an expert body to extensively study and map agricultural zones to identify the right kind of areas of growing specific crop varieties; 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) Pursuant to the decision taken in the 51st meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on 27-28 June, 2005, a Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Related Issues was set up under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution for drawing up implementable Action Plans for Agriculture and Related Issues. In its First meeting held on 4th October, 2005, the Sub-Committee decided to constitute Six Working groups including the Working Group on Region/Crop Specific Productivity Analysis & Agro-Climatic Zones under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister of Orissa.

Social Forestry

1662. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total area covered by social forestry scheme so far in the State of Madhya Pradesh and the total expenses incurred thereon so far;

(b) the percentage of trees planted and still surviving;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any initiative to ensure better survival of trees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The scheme is being implemented through Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. 47 FDA projects have been approved in Madhya Pradesh State to treat a total project area of 75,500 hectares at a total of Rs. 110.83 crores, and an amount of Rs. 66.59 crores has been released till 6.2.2006.

(b) to (d) As per First Concurrent Evaluation of 5 FDA projects of Madhya Pradesh by independent evaluators commissioned by the Ministry during 2004-05, the survival percentage of planted seedlings varied between 72 and 85 percent. The evaluation reports are shared with the State Forest Department for appropriate follow-up action by the FDAs. Follow-up action, inter-alia, includes measures for improving the overall quality of project implementation focusing among other things on better survival and improved productivity. In addition, regional interactive workshops are also organized to facilitate interaction between evaluators, State Forest Departments

and FDAs to expedite the follow-up action on the evaluation reports.

Conference on Ground Water

1663. SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Second International Conference on 'Ground Water for Sustainable Development Problems, Perspectives and Challenges' was held recently in Delhi;

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

(c) whether the quality of ground water is deteriorating in the country; and

(d) if so, the strategies formulated to check such contamination in ground water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions during the conference were centered around the following subjects:-

- Sustainable water resource assessment
- Recharge processes and artificial recharge
- Water and environment
- Modeling and its application in soft and hard rock aquifer systems
- Arsenic and fluoride in ground water
- Management aspects of ground water

Deliberations of this conference brought out the need to provide safe drinking water to rural areas based on the recent developments, to involve International Society to

address common problems in developing countries in ground water pollution and seek viable solutions to provide safe drinking water, to develop sustainable strategy to protect contamination of ground water in rural areas and urgent need for conservation, augmentation and regulation of precious ground water resource, to evolve holistic approach to address the increasingly complex ground water pollution problems, to provide safe drinking water and ensure its sustainable development. It also brought out the need of continuance of such event including the expansion in new inter-disciplinary areas such as health aspects, engineering and geochemical solutions, novel approaches and social dimensions.

(c) As per available information, ground water in major parts of the country is by and large potable. There are, however, areas which have poor quality of ground water mainly due to contamination from ground water bearing rocks, excessive use of fertilizers, industrial and domestic effluents, mining wastes, saline water ingress etc.

(d) "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to check contamination of ground water. However, the Union Government have also taken following measures in this regard :-

- (i) The Central Government has set-up Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to regulate and control ground water management and development.
- (ii) Mass awareness and education programme have been launched on the significance of water economy, efficient utilization, health, hygiene and sanitation.
- (iii) The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, under the Ministry of Rural Development, has also been assisting and guiding the State in the provision of safe

drinking water to the rural population under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). In quality affected areas, where ground water is unfit for drinking, the safe drinking water is supplied either through alternative sources, tapping surface water or by other means by undertaking remedial measures like de-fluoridation, iron removal and arsenic removal.

- (iv) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), under the Ministry of Environment & Forests, has adopted several measures like directing the industries through State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluent within the stipulated standards, initiation of scheme to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants and taking up of quality scheme of monitoring in critically polluted areas.

Fisheries Training and Extension Units

1664. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of fisheries training and extension units sanctioned by the Union Government since 2004;
- (b) the total amount released for the purpose during the last two years;
- (c) whether proposals from certain States particularly, Karnataka for sanction of such unit are pending with the Union Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) Five (5) Fish

Farmers' Training Centres have been sanctioned to the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Tripura & Uttar Pradesh under the Centrally sponsored Scheme on Fisheries Training and Extension since 2004-05.

(b) An amount of Rs. 79.13 lakh has been released to these States for the purpose since 2004-05 till date.

(c) and (d) No proposal from the State of Karnataka for sanction of fisheries training and extension units is pending with the Government.

Road Map and Strategy Plan for Public Private Partnership

1665. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set road map and strategy plan for public private partnership in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether blue print has been prepared to identify areas that could be complimented, plan joint research programmes and solicit investment in areas of common interest;

(c) whether policy include key areas of global market access and capacity building with focus on validation and testing of products and processes; and

(d) if so, the other details of same and by the time 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) to (d) The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) has emphasized on public private partnership (PPP) in the

development of agriculture. The areas in which private sector could plan an important role have been indicated as horticulture development, development of agricultural marketing infrastructure, development of storage facilities, seed production and distribution, provision of extension services.

The issue of PPP has been deliberated at various fora in the recent past several areas in this regard have been focused, such as redefining Government intervention to make Indian agriculture demand driven, propagation of the success stories of the private sector in their initiatives to raise incomes of farmers and partnering with farmers, achieving higher levels of public investment in agriculture infrastructure, food safety, cold chain, research and development, and agricultural extension services.

Leasing out of Bhilangana River

1666. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttaranchal had leased out the Bhilangana river in Tehri Garhwal to a private company M/s Swasti Power Engineering Limited for 30 years for installing a 22.5 MW Bhilangana Hydel Power Project;

(b) if so, the details there about;

(c) whether the project was given environment clearance; and

(d) if so, details thereof and the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) No Sir. The Bhilangana river has not been leased out to any company. However M/s Swasti Power Engineering Limited has been allotted by the Government of Uttaranchal, a specific site for 40 (Forty) years for harnessing 22.5 MW hydel power.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The project is presently under construction. It is expected to be commissioned by December, 2007.

Second Green Revolution

1667. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has stressed the need of second green revolution in the country in recently held Science Congress at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scientists of ICAR have chalked out any strategy to bridge the gap of urban and rural divide and focused on developing technology for modern agrarian service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister pointed out that the technologies and the strategies unleashed by the first Green Revolution have run their course and therefore, a Second Green Revolution in non-food crops, in horticulture, in new plant varieties is required. He stressed the need for a renewed thrust on research that can enhance farm productivity and increase the efficiency of utilization of inputs; that can improve farm management practices; that can reduce post harvest losses through better post-harvest management technologies in storage, transportation and processing; that can, in the final analysis, increase both yields and value addition at the farmer level leading to better incomes. He added that this is extremely important to ensure that our countrymen who depend on agriculture

for sustenance are not left behind in this age of technology and knowledge.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Council has identified the strategy for increasing agricultural production and productivity, leading to alleviating hunger, providing employment and increasing farm income for eventually bridging the gap of rural and urban divide. Several technological interventions like crop improvement and plant protection, increasing productivity of rainfed areas, multiple use of water resources, integrated nutrient management, reclamation of acid, saline and alkali soils, development of horticulture, seed production of agriculture and horticultural crops and fisheries, more productive incentive cropping systems, resource conserving technologies, diversification of agriculture, livestock and fisheries improvement and management, farm mechanization and strengthening of extension system and agro-met advisory services are important components of the strategy being implemented.

Website on Procurement and Distribution

1668. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any website on which the daily procurement and distribution of foodgrains is done and updated on regular basis;

(b) whether there is any proposal to link up all its fair value and ration shops with IT so as to get real-time updates on the distribution; 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) Yes, Sir. The website is www.fcamln.nic.in.

(b) and (c) For the next financial year i.e., 2006-07, Rs. 5.00 crores (provisionally) have been allocated for

release of funds to States/UTs for computerization of PDS operations in the States/UTs.

Expansion of AAY

1669. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for increasing the number of beneficiaries under Antyodaya Anna Yojana;

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

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested the Government for permission to utilize the entire quantity of rice procured from the State for distribution under Public Distribution System in the State itself;

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

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to improve supply of foodgrains 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At present about 38% of the total BPL families in a State/UT have been covered under the AAY. The number of AAY families so arrived at for Andhra Pradesh is 15.578 lakh and the State Government has already identified and issued Ration Cards to all these families as per the guidelines issued by the Government.

(c) and (d) The FCI supplies rice to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh out of the rice procured from within the State, to the extent possible.

(e) Planning and dispatch of the required number of rakes of foodgrains is made by the FCI every month for each consuming State/UT, including Andhra Pradesh,

at an optimally feasible level, within the constraints of availability of rakes and other logistics in order to adequately cater to the requirements of each State/UT under the TPDS and other Welfare Schemes and with the aim of building up and maintaining the stock level equivalent to three month's average requirement. On receipts of report of shortage of foodgrains, the FCI is advised to prioritize the induction of rakes to such State/UT and whenever required, the Railway Board is also requested to take appropriate remedial action to augment the supply and induction of the rakes.

Meeting of India-US Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture

1670. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether First Board meeting of the India-US Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture held in Washington on 15-16th December, 2005;

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

(c) the matter discussed therein; and

(d) the extent to which US has agreed to provide all help and assistance 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 Board decided to focus on the following areas in the short term :-

- Education, learning resources, curriculum development and training.
- Food processing and use of byproducts and bio-fuels.
- Biotechnology.
- Water Management.

(d) The Institutions and financial outlays are being worked out for forging the future cooperation in these areas.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3739/2006]

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Item No.2 - Papers to be laid.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am deeply thankful for your kind cooperation.

Shri Sharad Pawar.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 740 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2005, under section 26 of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005.

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati, for the year 2004-2005.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3740/2006]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO) : I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 291 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2004 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 430 (E) dated the 23rd May, 2003 issued under Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3741/2006]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 2004-2005.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3742/2006]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : SIR, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3743/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks Credit

Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3744/2006]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Labour Cooperatives Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Labour Co-operatives Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3745/2006]

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) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3746/2006]

[English]

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

I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3747/2006]

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 Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2004-2005.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3748/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, for the year 2004-2005.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3749/2006]

- (5) A copy of the Environment (Protection) First Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 48(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 2006, under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3750/2006]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 9 — Shri Sharad Pawar.

You can lay it on the Table, if you want.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

Re : Status of implementation of recommendations contained in 6th and 10th Reports of Standing Committee on Agriculture

* THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixth and Tenth Reports of Standing Committee on Agriculture in pursuance of direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part-II, dated September 01, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) for the year 2004-05 and presented their Sixth report based on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2004-05). This Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 2nd March, 2005 and the same was laid in the Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Committee have accepted the Replies of the Government to their recommendation Nos. 1,2,3,5,7 and 10 of the Second Report. The Committee did not accept the Replies of the Government to their Recommendation Nos. 4,8,9 and 11. Further, the Committee still awaits the final Reply of the Government to their Recommendation No.6. Hence, the Department has furnished the Further Replies of the Government to all these Recommendations in the Action Taken Report.

All these recommendations of the Committee have been considered and accepted in this Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. The action as proposed by the Committee has already been taken/initiated on all recommendations. The details of recommendations/

Comments of the Committee and Action/Further Action taken by the Government are enclosed in Annexe-I.

Further, the Standing Committee on Agriculture examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) for the year 2005-06, and presented their Tenth Report to the Lok Sabha on 20th April, 2005 and same was laid in Rajya Sabha on the same day. The Department in the Ministry of Agriculture has prepared the Replies of the Government and furnished to the Committee. The Committee have considered the Replies of the Government to their Recommendations.

All the Sixteen recommendations of the Committee have been considered and accepted in this Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. The action as proposed by the Committee has already been taken/initiated on all Recommendations.

The details of the Recommendations of the Committee and the Replies of the Government are given in Annexe-II.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I wish to compliment the Minister for this statement.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, U.C. Bannerjee has submitted his report...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We will take this up later.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, please. We come to Item No. 13.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : Those who have been held guilty are languishing in jail...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our request is that the Calling Attention Motion of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra should be taken up later. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not said that I will not allow. I have not said that. Please see the List of Business. After Question Hour and Papers laid, we shall continue with the Discussion under rule 193 and the hon. Prime Minister is to reply. We have all agreed to that.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, Calling Attention too.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : We will take up all items one by one.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Salim, I have not rejected the chance to you.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MD. SALIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would be happy if the Prime Minister even says that action would be taken against the guilty in the Godhra case...
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : When the hon. Prime Minister has to reply to a very important discussion, it is not correct to do like this.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : For the time being, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go to your seats. Otherwise, I will name you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, there are many issues on which there are definite views of different political parties. We should respect each other's views.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down, please. I have said I will give you a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I did not say you will not get a chance to speak. I have decided that after the Question Hour is over and the Papers are laid

*Not recorded.

[English]

this matter will be taken up and the hon. Prime Minister would reply. Can we not give the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Leader of the Opposition the chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, Please go to your seats. Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You give me the names of Members who are shouting.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Every one should kindly go back to his seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go to your seats. Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will name those honourable members who do not go back to their seats. [English] and all his conduct, I will send it to the Privileges Committee.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a shameful behaviour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : First of all go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will send to every hon. Member a cassette of today's performance here. You will see tomorrow what is there. It is a shameful behaviour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot decide. I will decide.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a shameful behaviour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry Mr. Salim, you are not doing justice to yourself.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Item No. 13, hon. Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will see tomorrow. If you have little time, see the cassette that I will send to all of you. The country has seen you, how you have behaved.

12.11 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

RE : India's vote in IAEA on the issue of Iran's nuclear programme

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have raised several points in

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

the debate following my *suo motu* statement on our vote at the International Atomic Energy Agency on Iran's nuclear Programme. Sir, I respect the views voiced by hon. Members on this very important issue and I thank all the Members for contributing to the debate in this august House.

Sir, several Members have made the point that our foreign policy should be guided by national interests, and that our positions on such issues should not be based on the position of other countries. My friends, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Subrata Bose made those points, as did Shri Kharabela Swain. There can be no two opinions that Government should not take predetermined positions, or positions at the behest of other countries. No one can dispute that it is the Government's duty to take a position on such matters after a dispassionate examination of the facts, keeping in mind our national interests. I respectfully submit that in the present case, the Government has done precisely this. We have considered the facts and have exercised our independent judgment before taking a position. This is also the very essence of the policy of Non Alignment, which my friend Shri Rupchand Pal exhorted us to follow.

Sir, let me recapitulate the essential facts of the matter:

- Iran has the legal right to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy, but it also has certain obligations and responsibilities, based on the Safeguards Agreement which it voluntarily undertook with the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- It was in recognition of the existence of several unanswered questions that Iran agreed to start the process of assisting International Atomic Energy Agency with investigations into several past activities.

- An important part of this process was the voluntary suspension by Iran of all enrichment and reprocessing activity in November 2004.
- However, since last August, Iran has renewed production of Uranium Hexafluoride, and since then, of Uranium enrichment.
- Unresolved questions regarding centrifuge imports and designs to make Uranium metallic hemispheres remain. The origin of such procurement is an issue of direct concern for us.

Under these circumstances, our position was based on these facts, which emerged from an objective investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and through information disclosed by Iran itself.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is also the question that several hon. Members raised regarding the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors' meeting today. Shri Chandrappan and Shri Owaisi spoke of this. I should inform Members that it is as yet not clear in what manner this issue will be taken up by the Board of Governors' today. The Resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors last month mentions certain steps that Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency will be taking. Discussions are taking place in Vienna on this matter. The Government's approach will be based on our consistent policy of promoting efforts for a resolution of issues through dialogue and discussions. I would like to assure hon. Members that our Government will take into account the sentiments expressed in this House in this context.

Some points were also made regarding options that could have been explored by the international community. There have also been discussions between Iran and Russia in this regard. We remain hopeful that solutions acceptable to all sides will be found. We do not favour confrontation, rhetoric or coercive measures as these only exacerbate tensions in the region and beyond. India has consistently stated that all sides must work find mutually

acceptable compromise solutions, and that confrontation should be avoided at all costs. For this to be possible, time must be given for diplomacy to work. Sir, I think there is consensus in Parliament and in our country that confrontation is not in the interests of India or of our region. Whenever this matter is taken up, we will work with all like-minded countries, including those from the Non-Aligned Movement, for a mutually acceptable resolution of the issue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, several hon. Members, including Maj. Gen. Khanduri expressed concerns regarding our relations with Iran, and the effect of these developments on this important relationship. As I said in my *suo motu* statement, our Government is committed to widening, deepening and expanding our diverse and mutually beneficial ties with Iran. Only recently, my colleague the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed, visited Tehran. He had meetings with the President of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Ahmadinejad, as well as several Ministers of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Shri Ahamed emphasized our desire to remain engaged with Iran on all issues of mutual interest. Sir, our desire to further deepen the friendly and productive ties between our two countries was fully reciprocated.

Government will continue to monitor the situation closely, and will deal with the Iran issue with the seriousness that it merits.

In dealing with this issue, we will pay due attention to our relationship with Iran, the need to maintain peace and stability in the Gulf region and safeguarding our own security.

Sir, I reiterate that this House can rest assured that we will also take into account the sentiments expressed in this august House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up the next item, Calling Attention. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : The Godhra issue is a very serious issue. The Bannerjee Commission Report should be laid on the table...
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have said that I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All of you kindly go back to your seats. I request all of you to be quiet. Shouting will not serve any purpose. You all know I have to follow the rulebook. It has been decided that the Prime Minister should make a reply. According to rule, now it is Calling Attention. I have said that I shall not allow. Only some procedure has to be followed. Now, hon. Members, do you think anything is being recorded? Except we are showing that we not disciplined, nothing else is going to the people of this country.

[English]

My appeal to you is to raise this important issue, I am not stopping anyone. If you want it to be recorded, if you want the country to know of it, this is not the manner. Therefore, let it be soon over and I shall allow all these things, but one by one so that things can be recorded. But please take your seats first. At least have this much of courtesy shown to the Chair.

[Translation]

I am telling you that I will give you an opportunity. Even for laying, these rules have to be followed. It has to be laid with the Action Taken Report.

*Not recorded.

[English]

I have to get a notice for that. There is no question of allowing or disallowing at this stage. Therefore, by shouting it cannot do. I will not submit so easily. You can go no shouting rest of the day, I will not adjourn so that you get exhausted by shouting.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I call Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra to raise the Calling Attention.

12.24 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of inaction on the part of Government to solve the problems being faced by the residents of Delhi due to massive demolition drive being undertaken in NCT Delhi

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Urban Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of the inaction on the part of Government to solve the problems being faced by the residents of Delhi due to massive demolition drive being undertaken in NCT Delhi."*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow the hon. Minister to make a statement.

*THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to make this statement to apprise the hon. Members of the House about the circumstances leading to the demolition action being undertaken by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the steps taken by the Government of India in the matter.

*Also placed in Library. See No. LT 3752/2006.

Sir, construction of buildings in Delhi is regulated as per the provisions of the Unified Building Bye-laws 1983.

The local bodies are responsible for implementing these bye-laws in areas falling under their respective jurisdictions.

Several Public Interest Litigations and Writ Petitions in respect of unauthorized construction and/or misuse had been filed in the hon. High Court of Delhi and were pending for the last few years. In a hearing of these cases on 14.12.2005, the hon. High Court directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to take appropriate action against all residential and commercial buildings, including action of demolition, to bring these buildings within the parameters of sanctioned plans and in conformity with permissible use.

Sir, the hon. Members will appreciate that the extent and magnitude of violations of unauthorized construction and misuse of premises is assessed to be huge and the number of families likely to be affected may be in lakhs. Such large-scale forcible action by local bodies also leads to complaints of harassment at the hands of the field staff as well as a genuine apprehension in the minds of people about the arbitrary and colourable use of power by the field functionaries.

These violations do not fall in a single category-some are more serious in nature than the others. It would, therefore, be appropriate to deal with the violations in phases. For this purpose, it is necessary to segregate different categories of violations. There is also the complex issue of construction activity in Lal Dora areas.

At the same time, there is the larger issue of planned development and growth of Delhi, as per the Master Plan of Delhi and building bye-laws, which need to be enforced in equitable and transparent manner.

Sir, what I wish to submit before the hon. Members is that the entire gamut of issues involved here is so complex that we need to take an in-depth and

comprehensive view in the matter on the larger interest of the community. With this end in view, we have decided to set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Tejendra Khanna, former Lt. Governor of Delhi. We have requested the Committee to submit its recommendations within three months. The Committee has started functioning.

Sir, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has filed an application apprising the hon. Court about setting up of the Committee and requested to permit it to continue to take action in respect of encroachments or construction on public land and ongoing unauthorized construction, while in other cases of violation and misuse, action be taken on receipt of the recommendations of the Committee. Government of India has also filed similar application in the High Court. The High Court considered these applications on 27.2.2006 and has listed the matter for hearing on 22.3.2006.

Such large scale unauthorized construction and misuse indicates, *prima facie*, remissness on the part of the enforcement machinery. Therefore, the Government has also requested the Government of NCT of Delhi to advise the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi to take exemplary action against delinquent officials and in glaring instances of unauthorized construction and misuse of premises, register criminal cases.

Sir, from these facts, it would be clearly evident that the Government of India is fully seized of the matter and has taken well-considered and timely action that is required under the circumstances.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has made a statement. Hon Reddyji is a very seasoned Minister. But the statement is very disappointing and highly objectionable. He said:

[English]

"It would be clearly evident that the Government of

India is fully seized of the matter and has taken well-considered and timely action..."

[Translation]

Both the views are completely wrong. I think the Minister is not aware of the problem. He has said that they have submitted in court that:

[English]

"That High Court considered these applications on 27.02.2006 and has listed the matter of hearing on 22.03.2006."

[Translation]

But he did not reveal that the court did not agree to extend the time. The court held that the demolition order given by it should continue to be implemented. The court neither granted a stay nor did it accept their views. I would like to explain the gravity of the situation arising out of it. According to him, the first order was passed by the High Court on 14.12.2005. As the Minister observed in his statement:

[English]

"to take appropriate action against all residential and commercial buildings, including action of demolition, to bring these building within the parameters of sanctioned plans and in conformity with the permissible use."

[Translation]

There are at least ten lakh houses in Delhi which have violated one or the other building laws and which face the threat of legal action against them and some action is very much required against them. Fifty lakh people reside in these houses. When you explained this before the court, it did not accept your views. This was the High Court's first order. The order says that all types of violations, including demolitions should be sealed.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

The third part of the order says that water and electricity connections to such buildings should be disconnected. There are about ten lakh such buildings. It is a problem of huge magnitude. In this regard the Minister's statement is important which need to be looked at. The High Court has said that 18,000 houses should be demolished. These have been put on the website as per the orders of the Central and State Governments. These are four storied houses, which house five lakh people. Immediate demolition of those 18,000 houses has to be carried out. Orders have been given for their demolition. Time limit has been extended for them and it has been stated that the proceedings of contempt of Court will be started against them. Moreover, orders have been issued to cut power and water connection of those houses. There are orders to demolish 40,000 houses built in unauthorized colonies adjacent to river Yamuna. They neither tried for a stay in this regard, nor made a mention about it. Even the deadline set to demolish the above mentioned 40,000 houses has lapsed.

The second order is about immediate sealing of business establishments and shops situated in all residential areas and about taking action against them. There are four lac such shops and if one includes their owners, workers and families, the total number of affected persons will be about 25-30 lac. I would like to know whether these four lac shops can be demolished? The bulldozers are being used to demolish them and at least two thousand shops have already been sealed. They have not been opened again. There is no mention about the remedy to save these 4 lac shops. The administration acquired their lands in 'Lal Dora' area, in all parts of Delhi. Although it was decided in the year 1963 that no building by-laws would be applicable in 'Lal Dora' areas now they have passed orders for closing of shops and commercial establishment built on this land by not following building by-laws which was owned by those persons whose land was acquired in the past and who had no land left for agricultural activities. In that order, there is no clear-cut

mention about shops and buildings built in 'Lal Dora' areas. The Supreme Court have issued an order yesterday that demolition work must be completed in two weeks and all the pavement shopkeepers including khomcha-wallas, rehri-wallas and teh-bazzari wallas and Sunday or weekly bazaar shopkeepers should be removed from their place of work in two weeks. How many such workers are there? It is true that there are about 50 thousand licensed vendors and three to four lac persons work without licence. The order is directed at vacating them. It is clear that a rich person will not work as pavement shopkeeper. How can they resettle them in two week's time? They were directed long ago to fix and allot land for the pavement workers but no action was taken. It was also said that the Government was giving serious thought to this problem and taking action in this regard. What will happen in two weeks. Will it not create law and order situation? It is proper that pavements must be encroachment free but the weekly-bazaar shopkeepers must be provided space for their work. Where will they provide space to them in two weeks? What was action taken by him? Even an assurance was not made about the intended action in two week's time.

Now, the Supreme Court have issued an order directing the authorities to shift 50 thousand jhuggis by 31st May. Other settlements are to be shifted. They had decided to shift the jhuggi dwelling people to some other places before the commencement of the Commonwealth Games. They have chalked out a scheme to construct four storey and eight storey buildings to shift them. Where will the 50 thousand jhuggi-dwelling people go after 31st May? The Govt. have started demolition work at many places. Overall, it seems that out of the population of one and a half crore only one or two percent people will remain unaffected by this drive. All others will be affected by it.

Another order is concerned with him directly. There are cases of Government employees who have class-III entitlement for government accommodation, but who are living in accommodations meant for class-IV employees.

They have added one more room in their quarters and demolition order for such illegal construction has been served to them. There are 30-40 thousand such quarters in Delhi. They have been told to vacate those quarters otherwise their quarter-allotments are liable to be cancelled. This is a serious and war-type problem, which may displace lacs of people. I have already told that even a tsunami, an earthquake or an order of an administration of Nadir Shah like rule cannot displace persons on such a large scale. They claim to have taken action on a large scale. What is that action?

They have constituted a committee, which will give its report in three months. But during these three months all those houses will be demolished and nothing will remain intact. He should have done something immediately before the orders of the High Court and the Supreme Court. Now, he says that something will be done in three months. He went to the High Court and the Supreme Court to get some relief but these Courts refused to give any relief. This is a war-type and not peace-type situation. What action is there?

What was done in Ulhasnagar? The order was stayed by promulgating an ordinance. I have said it earlier also that a committee was constituted under my Chairmanship. That Committee had studied that matter in its totality and made a recommendation that the government should not demolish the encroachment however an on going construction should be stopped. After stopping that, any small shop or building constructed on one's own land...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I will take two or three minutes' time. It is a very important issue. It is concerned with millions of Delhi citizens.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes that is why I have given you 10 minutes' time. I had given you a warning bell.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

Shri Chidambaram had launched a scheme which intended to regularize all black money, gold, silver or ornaments declared by the owner. The Courts will not give you relief. The hon. court will direct you to make some rule or law. You had an option to promulgate an ordinance on the pattern of Ulhasnagar.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : Will you make Delhi another Ulhasnagar?

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Let us see what the Government has to say about this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are such a seasoned parliamentarian. Do not get diverted.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Crores of people in Delhi are having nightmares about approaching bulldozers. Their problem can be solved only through the introduction of an amnesty scheme in this Session of Parliament. If they can turn thousands of crores of black money into white money and regularize several tonnes of gold lying with the people, then it is not a big problem to regularize those small houses and shops, owned by poor people. They should promulgate an ordinance in this Session itself. He had mentioned about unauthorized colonies. Who are those builders who have facilitated the settlement of colonies? The unauthorized builders, officers of Municipal Corporation, Government officers and big politicians are responsible for trapping crores of people in this quagmire. They escaped scot-free. No action has been taken...*(Interruptions)* They have been governing Delhi for three years now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi) : You may initiate a debate on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : So, I am saying that the response of the Government is very poor and very

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

disappointing in this matter...*(Interruptions)* If the action is not taken, there will be law and order problem in Delhi and this Government will be responsible for whatever happens in Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Otherwise, you will not get your chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have given him a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, I will allow three more hon. Members who have given notices.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, shall I first respond?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, later on together, you can respond.

Shri C.K. Chandrappan. I am giving you only two minutes. You only put a question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : It is very clear that this is not a thing that has happened all of a sudden. For several decades, the unauthorised construction was going on in several parts of Delhi. No Government—there was the BJP Government as well as the Congress Government in Delhi—seriously took note of it. Now, the bureaucracy ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM : They took note. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : They took note and they might have taken 'notes' also. ...*(Interruptions)* The point is that the bureaucracy, at that time, might have

amassed a lot of money about which the mover of the Calling Attention was telling. Now they are all sitting pretty. The politicians who ruled the State and the bureaucracy ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : There are two types of people involved in it as far as I understood. One is the builders *mafia* and they are going on constructing despite the court's verdict and despite the action of the Government. Now, those people should be put down ruthlessly; those who are doing that, and the poor people who are the victims of this should be protected. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chandrappan, you can only seek a clarification.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Therefore, my suggestion is that whatever legislation is required should be brought taking all these aspects into consideration. Those *mafias* should be put down and those who are violating the rules should be put down. The poor people who are the victims of this have to be protected. There should be a rehabilitation package for them. I hope the Government will consider that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is a suggestion for action.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : Sir, I'll put forth my point very briefly. I would like very humbly to urge upon the Union Government that whatever action is to be taken therein, should be taken expeditiously. The first and foremost important thing in connection with committee about which Shri Malhotra has just made a mention is that the said committee was constituted by the N.D.A. during

their last seven to eight years' regime. N.D.A.'s Minister were also there at that time D.D.A. was also in it, which was most important to do all this. If you have a glance at the data of DDA, you will find that neither 20 to 30 percent target of low cost housing nor the commercial target was achieved during the seven years....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is totally wrong...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : Let me speak and thereafter you should put forth your point...*(Interruptions)* It was not their Government, which did the wrong...*(Interruptions)* It's very unfortunate that BJP has politicized the whole issue. When there was a problem pertaining to Delhi, NDA Government was in power here. Thousands of slum dwellers were displaced from Delhi and hon'ble Sonia Gandhi ji visited the affected people. But none of them raised a voice. When a poor Delhite was being displaced from Delhi, they didn't recollect as to whom should be provided a house and whom not.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask for a clarification.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : Even today when the houses of moneyed shopkeepers in Delhi are demolished, BJP plays politics. When an issue regarding street hawkers came up, it did not examine the matter as to which party is working and which party is not working. Thousands of poor people from U.P., Bihar and other states migrate to Delhi and search for a job here by building small houses to hide their heads. But those all houses were removed/ demolished. At that time Malhotra ji or BJP did not think as to where a poor Delhite should go. A then they did not recall high handedness of Nadirshah. It was an upheaval,

which completely disturbed Delhi, thereby affecting its entire harmony.

MR. SPEAKER : What kind of clarification do you want, please ask for that.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : My only contention is that it's unfortunate that the P.I.L. has been filed by those very traders and shopkeepers about whom they talk and the Hon'ble High Court has ordered this drive for street hawkers. They talk of traders and support them. When law was violated by them knowingly or unknowingly the traders association came forward against the five lakh street hawkers and filed a writ petition in the hon'ble Supreme Court. But now these very people are politicizing that issue. It's very unfortunate and very shameful...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a Calling Attention. Please ask for clarification.

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : Therefor, I would like to request the Government that this is a very complicated question which has been referred to the Committee they have constituted. It not only seeks construction of houses but also seeks protection of those houses which have been constructed in violation of the building by law. These should be treated humanely. So I'd request the Govt. to do at the earliest instead of doing it within the three months' time. I'd also like to submit that Delhities are the sufferers due to this politicization. It is very unfortunate that BJP has launched a movement in Delhi in today's scenario. These people have created an atmosphere of terror in the entire city. Hastinapur is terrified. Now these people are politicizing on the decision given by the hon'ble High Court and Supreme Court.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Congress Party has been in power in Delhi and Centre and in corporation for the last seven years. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing else will be recorded except the statement of Shrimati Krishna Tirath.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that there is a very burning problem in Delhi today...(Interruptions) Sir, whenever Congress Party has come to power in Delhi, it has always rehabilitated the displaced poor people but B.J.P. ...(Interruptions) Malhotra ji from B.J.P. is sitting before us ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : 'Bhajapa' is not unparliamentary.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH : Sir, I am coming to the very point he has raised...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Malhotra ji doesn't accept this allegation.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when their Party did not remain in Power, they paid no attention. Undoubtedly, our Government's slogan is-'Hamara haath hamesha aam aadmi aur garib ke saath.' These people directly or indirectly are in collusion with those people who filed a writ petition in the court. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I remember one thing in this context that their condition is like that of a beloved whom her lover used to offer flowers but he didn't recognize her by face. He wore a mask and she hid her face under a veil. But her lover kept on offering her flowers frequently but has never thought about her. When her lover died and his grave was built, she went there to offer him flowers, a voice came from there. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Krishna ji, please ask question.

SMT. KRISHNA TIRATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a voice came from there-

Jab woh aaye meri kabra par Fatiha padhne,

Jab woh benakaab the, hum nakaab mein aa gaye.

So, these people are treating Delhi like this. When the Malhotra Committee submitted its report, they did not think of it. The master plan of Delhi was prepared in 2001 and it aimed at providing amenities to the people of Delhi. They did not bother. When it was going to expire in 2001, after that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is no debate.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at that time, their Government was in the Centre and even in 1993 it was their Government in Delhi too. These poor people were not settled done here in a day, rather they had been here for the years together. Then they did not say anything and nothing was built. But today, when our Government has come to power, those people have filed a PIL in the court. When today bulldozers are being run, they talk about relief...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now I will call the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I demand from the Government that the report of the committee which has been constituted should be produced expeditiously and such relief should also be provided at the earliest because population in Delhi has increased, families have also increased, leading to the unauthorized constructions within their houses. I demand that the said construction be regularized, but the government land encroached upon should definitely be vacated. Whether the Government would contemplate to regularize

*Not recorded.

the unauthorized constructions within the houses by removing the encroachment upon Government land?
 ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister. Nothing else will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are a very articulate Member. I have a lot of expectations from you. Only the hon. Minister's statement will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You need not reply to these additional questions.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I have personal regard for my good friend, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. He is not only a senior Member of the House, he is also among the senior most leaders in Delhi State. But I am painfully surprised to note that he has chosen to play to the gallery, not to the facts.

It is a very complex issue involving, as he rightly said, lakhs of people. This problem has developed over decades. It has gained in complexity. Therefore, it needs a very sophisticated nuance treatment. Prof. Vijay Kumar malhotra has also tried to paint an alarmist scenario. It is not correct.

Sir, we did go to the high Court with the request that we only concentrate on two violations for the moment. One is to deal with the constructions that took place on public land which would amount to encroachment and second one is ongoing illegal constructions. His entire speech was based on the premise that the court has said no to this

*Not recorded.

plea. May I, in all humility, submit to the House, through you, that it is not correct? The High Court has posted the matter to be heard on 22nd March, 2006. Therefore, it will not be correct to assume that the plea of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi or the application of Government of India has not been taken note of.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra referred to the need for general amnesty, how the Committee headed by him had earlier pleaded for general amnesty. I do not want to go into the merits of the amnesty because amnesty has an element of mercy. Therefore, nobody can disagree with that approach.

Having said that, I may set the record straight. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra knows that a Committee's Report submitted under his chairmanship was treated not only with benign neglect by his own colleagues, Shri Jagmohan and Shri Ananth Kumar ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, this is a wrong statement. The Delhi Government headed by Smt. Sheila Dixit did not approve of it and did not send it to the Centre. This is on record. Otherwise, it is a matter of privilege also.
 ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the Report submitted by Malhotra Committee was declined by the Government of Delhi, not the Union Government. The Urban Development Ministry ...(Interruptions) It was not agreed to. He was good enough to send the Report to the Urban Development Ministry directly. Both the Ministers, Shri Jagmohan and Shri Ananth Kumar, did not agree with its recommendations.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, this is a totally wrong statement being made by the hon. Minister...

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

(Interruptions) Shri Jagmohan only said that the Delhi Government has not recommended any action on it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, you can do it afterwards.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The ground reality is that I have not undergone any change in the last few years.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded except the reply of the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Therefore, it does not lie well in the mouth of any BJP Member to talk of amnesty. I agree with Prof. Malhotra that there is a need to adopt a compassionate approach, and a practical approach. We cannot adopt a legalistic approach. Therefore, we have appointed a High-powered Committee headed by former Lieutenant Governor Shri Tejendra Khanna, and the President of State BJP of Delhi is a Member of the Committee. One month is over, and the Committee has only two months to go. If we are to bring about changes in law, they we must know what changes must be made in it. What is the bench mark for any change in law? We are not, *per se*, opposed to changes in law. If necessary, I will come forward with an appropriate piece of legislation before this House, but I must know what changes I must make in it.

Now, Prof. Malhotra is in the Opposition, and could make sweeping recommendations. But I want him to be responsible, and I want him to feel committed to the objective of developing Delhi as India's proud capital city. I am saying this because we also cannot ignore the larger, more long-term considerations of Delhi as a capital city of India.

Sir, it is true -- as he said -- that there are 18,000 houses listed either for sealing or demolition. Demolition is an ultimate weapon, and it is not the only weapon. Therefore, we have gone to the High Court to see if the process could be slowed down until the Committee makes its recommendations.

As regards major buildings that were referred as being targeted for sealing, I must clarify that the Supreme Court itself was very compassionate in its approach. The Supreme Court clearly said that the small shops should be spared. So, we have issued a public notice to the effect that only major buildings, in other words, buildings that contained more than 50 per cent commercialization would be covered. Our understanding is that they will not be very large in number.

As for the issues in Lal Dora, these issues have been referred to the High-powered Committee. Please bear with us. You took six years to do nothing, but please give me two months.

As regards the issue of hawkers, I completely agree with him that we need to show sympathy, but the Supreme Court passed an order only yesterday. I have not seen the order. Sir, you -- as a noted jurist -- would not advise me to rush in like a fool where angels fear to tread. Therefore, I cannot make a comment on it unless I go through the judgement.

As regards *jhuggis*, our policy is very clear. They will not be dislocated unless we are able to show them alternative accommodation. Our policy is very clear to the effect that people in *jhuggis* and *jhonpdis* will not be disturbed from the places that they are occupying unless those places are required for some larger project.

13.00 hrs.

Otherwise, they will be provided with amenities in the given situation, what we call *in situ*. Therefore, his fears on the count of slum dwellers are misplaced. I am afraid,

*Not recorded.

he is trying to around false fears so that some vested interest can be served. I do not think, it is a correct approach.

Sir, as for Government Servants' quarters also, if Government Servants are not found to be misusing the quarters for commercial purposes, we are prepared to adopt a lenient approach.

Sir, he referred to the example of Ulhas Nagar. I am afraid, the analogy of Ulhas Nagar does not apply squarely to Delhi. It was one locality. It referred to one category, namely the refugees who came from Pakistan. We will certainly adopt some elements of the approach as and when the Committee makes the recommendations. We are sure the Courts of India also will adopt a very practical approach. There is no need for us to get worked up and get people worked up. Prof. Malhotra knows much more about the problem that I do, Sir, but he is merely interested in exploitation of the problem than in providing a solution to the problem.

Shri Chandrappan suggested a legislation. I think, at the end of the day, legislation is inescapable. Prof. Malhotra advocated the same approach, but, I would like to know as to what elements should constitute that legislation. That is the reason why I have appointed a Committee. Shri Sandeep Dikshit wanted relief to be given to affected sections excluding the vested interests. Naturally, relief will have to be given to the masses. If so many people were compelled to violate the law, there is something wrong with the law itself or with the law enforcing machinery. I admit that. Shrimati Krishna Tirath pleaded for relief. We will provide relief, after the recommendations of the Committee are received. We are also trying to get relief through the Courts. At the end of the day, Sir, if necessary, I will come back to the House with an appropriate piece of legislation.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several things remain unclear after the reply of the hon'ble

Minister. As it is a matter connected with the sentiments of lacs of people and the reply given by the hon'ble Minister is not satisfactory. We walk out of the House in protest.

13.03 hrs.

(Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon'ble Members then left the House)

13.03½ hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

**Re: Report of Justice U.C. Banerjee Committee
on Godhra Incident**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How. Members, unfortunately, no one from the Panel of Chairmen is now available. I had some urgent work to do. I am requesting Shri Mohan Singh to please sit in the Chair. I am sure, he will be more competent than the Speaker. Now, he will regulate what we call the 'Zero Hour'.

13.4 hours

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : We have given our notices. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am starting what you want. Please keep quite. Your turn will also come.

The matter is that some hon'ble Members had given notices to raise the matter of Justice Banerjee Committee Report. The first notice belong to Shri Ram Ji Lal Suman. I would like him to speak on it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM JI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : The report of the Justice U.C. Banerjee Committee constituted to look into the Godhara incident clearly states that the fire which broke out in the S-6 coach of the Sabarmati Express was not a part of a conspiracy, but a plain tragedy and no such evidences have come to light which suggest that the coach was set on fire after throwing petrol. The facts were distorted and action was taken. With the result the real culprits are still roaming freely while the innocent have been languishing in jails under POTA. The Government had constituted a review committee, still those prosecuted under POTA were not released. I feel that all this was done under a pre-planned conspiracy. Neither the Railway Safety Commissioner nor the then Minister of Railways visited the site of incident. The efforts were made to vitiate the atmosphere further and how the innocent people belonging to the minority community were slaughtered becomes amply clear from the report of the Justice Banerjee Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : We want that the report of the Committee be placed on the table of the House and the Narendra Modi Government be dismissed. There is no other option. I demand the dismissal of the Narendra Modi Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you have made your point. Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Let the Narendra Modi Government be dismissed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you keep quite. Once you have made your point.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will be called when your term comes.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, the U.C. Banerjee panel of Godhra has submitted its report to the Union Government. This report has once more revealed the truth that it all happened according to a plan built up on a deep conspiracy and a genocide was perpetrated by RSS and BJP in Gujarat with the aid and active connivance of Narendra Modi Government.

14.07 hours

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN in the Chair]

Notorious role of the BJP-led Government is well known to the people of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* A large number of innocent people are rotting in the jails and the leaders responsible for this are moving about freely. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Only Shri Rupchand Pal's statement will be recorded and nothing else.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Madam, I charge that the Chief Minister of Gujarat has an active hand in the genocide. ...*(Interruptions)* I demand that there should be a public trial of Chief Minister Narendra Modi. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Chandrakant Khaire. I let others to associate themselves.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Madam Chairman, I also hail from Gujarat. So I should also be given an opportunity to speak.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Have you given notice?

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Yes I have given notice.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Madam Chairman, I have give a notice. The Justice Banerjee Commission was constituted to look into the great tragedy that followed the breaking out of the fire in the Railway boggy at the Godhara station. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I know it. All are very much concerned about it. You please sit down.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : The setting up of Banerjee Commission is illegal because the Government of India had constituted Nanawati Commission to look into the said incident. During riots I was in Gujarat and had even visited the victim's families. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : This will not be allowed.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Madam, the Banerjee Committee report is totally....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I will not allow this.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : This word will not form a part of the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You sit down. I won't allow to speak in this way. I will allow you to speak only after ensuring that one has given notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I have also given notice...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Interrupting regularly will the not allow anybody to speak. This won't do. Salim ji, why are you interrupting when you have finished.

(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Kolkatta, North East) : He had not allowed Rupchand Pal ji to speak....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Are you reciprocating?

[English]

Are you that much revengeful? What is this?

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Madam, Banerjee Commission was constituted with an eye on the forthcoming Bihar elections so that they could garner Muslim votes. Still they fail to form Government in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to say that this report ..."

MADAM CHAIRMAN : This word won't go on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : I had gone to see the Sabarmati Express...*(Interruptions)*. To have a feel of as to how the people were burnt. I had also visited the homes of victims. I went to Ahmedabad and visited the aggrieved families. Two of the surviving girls of the family of which four members were killed, had narrated the entire incident to me. ...*(Interruptions)*. This is a distorted

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

report...*(Interruptions)* This report should be dismissed.
 ...*(Interruptions)* There is a great difference between this
 report and that submitted by the Nanawati Commission.
 There people want to do it for the sake of mobilizing
 Muslim votes....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Madhusudan Mistry, only
 two minutes.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Madam, the U.C.
 Banerjee Commission Report has been submitted only few
 days ago ...*(Interruptions)*

Those setting afire the houses of the people do not
 have any right to speak Killers of innocent children and
 wielding swords on their dead bodies...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Mistry, I have allowed you.
 Why are you quarreling? I do not understand. You please
 address the Chair. If you address properly, only then it will
 go on record. This quarrel will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : They stand and
 interrupt us. [English] I will only address you.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

Report of Bannerjee Commission has been given...
(Interruptions) .

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : This is Committee, not a
 Commission...*(interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : He has no right to
 speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Their leader had said
 that that Gujarat riots is a blot on the country and it has
 been substantiated by the report of this Commission...
(Interruptions)

[English]

Not only that, it is worse,

[Translation]

the reaction of the Chief Minister of Gujarat on it is
 that the social fabric of Gujarat must not be
 destroyed...*(Interruptions)* The destroyer of social fabric in
 Gujarat is now coming in the garb of a saint and
 is admonishing U.C. Banerjee Commission not to
 destroy the social fabric of Gujarat...*(Interruptions)*
 What right does he have?...*(Interruptions)*. Modi
 government has not given compensation to the victims
 till today. I demand that Government should lay this
 report on the table... *(Interruptions)* That Government
 should be dismissed and action should be taken
 against them...*(Interruptions)* Narendra Modi Government
 has failed to protect the people of the State. His
 Government should think over it. Such a Chief Minister
 should opt out of the party on humanitarian
 grounds....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You have completed your speech.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Your name is not there.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I associate the name of Shri Basudev Acharia. Shri Virchandra Paswan. Shri Alok Kumar Mehta. Shri Raghunath Jha. Shri C.K. Chandrappan and Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Only Shri Yerrannaidu's speech will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet at 2.15 p.m.

13.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE Patil in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, kindly take your seats.

(Interruptions)

14.15¼ hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

14.15½ hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day, in the List of Business may please be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

14.15¾ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (i) **Need to review the functioning of Department of Agriculture in Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : I would like to draw the attention of this House that the Department of Agriculture which is responsible for the welfare of the farming community in A & N Islands through production and productivity, improvement of the crops etc. However, it is not satisfactory doing its job.

*Not recorded.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri Manoranjan Bhakta]

Unfortunately, the Department failed miserably in all sectors like crop husbandry, soil and water conservation and minor irrigation. Since, March 2004. The Department has failed to procure and supply agriculture inputs like fertilizers, seeds, plant protection chemicals etc., which has created scarcity of inputs throughout the Islands and thus caused low production. This has led to reduction in income of the farmers and adversely affected consumers due to high prices agriculture produce specially vegetables.

Considering the potential of horticultural crops of these Islands, Government of India as per the recommendations of Island Development Authority approved high value agriculture programme for an estimated lay out of Rs. 50.06 crores. The Department of Agriculture is responsible for these programmes through, High Value Agriculture Development Agency. Many farmers have taken up the programme as per the guidance of the Field Officers involving PRIS. Not a single farmer is benefited out of this scheme so far. Moreover, many farmers have invested on the advise of Field Officers with the hope of getting assistance as per Government of India's norms.

To mitigate this grievance, non-timber forest produce like medicinal, aromatic and dye plants development was proposed by the Sekhar Singh Commission. Accordingly, A & N Medicinal Plants Board was created under the Chairmanship of the Lt. Governor for promoting cultivation, collection, processing and marketing etc. The Government of India has funded for the same but the Islanders are not benefited.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to look into the grievances of the farmers from these Islands.

- (ii) **Need to issue certificates to the families of those missing since 1984 riots for the purpose of filing claim compensations**

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA (Jalandhar) : There

are hundred of cases where compensations cannot be claimed for want of death certificates. Dead bodies were cremated without verification. In civil cases where the whereabouts of a person are not known for a period of 7 years, the person is assumed as dead for all intents and purposes. In order to give justice in such cases it is requested that the Sarpanch of the village should give a certificate that the victim is missing since a particular riots and this should be countersigned by the concerned Deputy Commissioner. In the meanwhile the last date of filing claims in such cases should be extended further.

- (iii) **Need to sanction a 'Bio-Methonation Plant' for Oddanchatram town in Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu for generating electricity from vegetable waste**

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani) : Sir, in my Palani Parliamentary Constituency, Oddanchatram is one of the Assemble Segments. Oddanchatram town in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu is famous for vegetables, butter, ghee and fruits.

There is one of the biggest vegetable markets in Oddanchatram Town. Thousands of farmers from the near by districts sell their vegetables here and huge quantities of vegetables, fruits are sent to various parts of the country. Nearly hundred of retail vegetables agencies are functioning here. In this market, huge quantities of vegetable wastes are accumulating every day and it is not used for any purpose and this is polluting the atmosphere. Hon'ble Minister is well aware that under a new technology electricity can be generated from vegetables wastes by way of installing a "Bio-Methonation Plant."

Hence, I upon the Hon'ble Minister of Non-Conventional Energy to sanction a "Bio-Methonation Plant" for Oddanchatram Town in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu to generate electricity from vegetables, fruits and other plastic wastes.

(iv) Need to enact a legislation to prevent sale of sub-standard gold

SHRI N.S.V. CHITHAN (Dindigul) : The basic users of gold ornaments are the poor section of our society. Even the poor section of all community consider Mangal Sutra should be in gold. Yellow metal is one item sought by India women from Kashmir to Kanyakumari at all times.

Further gold is a valid assent which is used as market property in case of emergency next to in priority to immovable property.

There are various legislations to prevent adulteration in milk, medicines, fertilizers and Petroleum products. However, there is no such legislation to prevent sale of sub standard gold or adulterated gold not only at the sale shops, but also at the making sector. In fact the wealth of a nation is equated on the basis of gold reserve. Pure gold is 22 carat and more. But this quality is very costly and therefore gold with lesser carat is supplies to the consumer market. Even in gold pure metal gold and powder gold are different. There is price differentiation in both. But taking advantage of demand for gold by women, certain gold sellers are adopting various methods to sell them. Powder gold is mixed with strong gold and gold with less carat is sold as gold with higher carat value. Very unfortunately women do not verify the gold as they purchase only gold ornaments. Thus purchasers are duped. There is no machinery with the gold sellers to point out the carat in the gold sold to them. That is why various gold sellers and gold ornaments sellers give much rebate to the purchasers. The stat has an obligation to protect the purchasers. Consumer Acts do not give any protection at the purchase stage. It is therefore, necessary that the Government should examine the matter to protect the innocent gold purchaser and to take legal action against those who are found guilty.

(v) Need to take steps for revival of Sindri Fertilizer Works in Jharkhand.

the only fertilizer manufacturing unit in the state of Jharkhand is situated at Sindhri. This unit used to supply its best quality of fertilizers not only to Jharkhand but also to other States like Bihar, Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. But this unit was shut down by the earlier NDA Government on 16th March 2002 despite the fact that it was operating on full capacity. As a result, there is shortage of fertilizers in the eastern zone causing difficulties to farmers, traders and common people of this region. Presently, Union Government have decided to increase agricultural production as well as production of fertilizer. In pursuance of this an expert group of PDIL has conducted survey for revival of Sindri fertilizer factory and submitted the report of the same in year 2004 itself. It also recommended to revive this unit.

Therefore, our demand is that deliberations should be started for revival of Sindri Unit at the earliest.

(vi) Need to formulate a national policy to prevent exploitation of ground water for commercial purposes in Jharkhand.

SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI (Singhbhum) : Sir, there is scarcity of ground water in Jharkhand state, despite that ground water is being exploited through deep boring for industrial purposes by several industrial units. As a result there is huge shortage of drinking water. Hand pumps and wells are drying up. In the 'Adhunik Power and Alloy Complex of 'Adhunik Group of companies at Kandra in Jharkhand 22 deep borings have been bored and it has caused the depletion of water level. There are several small and big industrial units in Kandra-Gambharia, Aadityapur industrial area which are exploiting ground water through deep boring for industrial use. It has resulted in fall of ground water level. A news item under the caption 'Vibhinna Companion ke deep boring ke karan kandr ka jalastar gira' has been published on the page no-11 on 28 June 2—5 in 'Uditvari' published from Jamshedpur in Jharkhand.

Exploitation of ground water by industrial units for industrial purposes is a matter of concern, it is essential to put ban on it immediately. Ban should be imposed

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad) : Sir,

[Shri Bagun Sumbrul]

immediately particularly in plateau area. There should be provision that industrial units conserve rain water. They should conserve rain water by constructing dams on rivers and streams and this water should be utilized for industrial purposes. A national policy should be prepared immediately to put ban on the use of ground water for industrial purposes and it should be implemented strictly so that common people do not face the problem of drinking water. There should be also a ban on deep borings in the Kandra, Aadityapur, Gamharia industrial areas.

[English]

- (vii) **Need to grant special financial package for development of tourism in Arunachal Pradesh.**

SHRI KIREN RIJU (Arunachal West) : North-Eastern states receives the lowest number of tourists in the country. The efforts of the Central Government to promote tourism in NE is not backed by adequate fund provisions and conducive tourism policies.

Arunachal Pradesh is the most peaceful state in the country and present itself as a perfect destinations for visitors. The tourism potential in the state is wide ranging particularly in the field of eco tourism, Cultural tourism & Adventure tourism. I have been raising the issue from time to time.

A normal and routine way of support from the union govt. will not improve the situation since there lies serious bottlenecks. There is hardly any basic infrastructure and amenities. The tourist circuits namely Bhalukpong-Bomdila-Tawang and Itanagar-Ziro-Daporijo-Along have immense potential to attract large tourist inflow and generate income. Without the support of Union Government the state Cannot overcome the bottlenecks.

I would like to urge the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism to grant special financial package to develop the above

mentioned circuits in a massive scale and bring Arunachal Pradesh in the Tourism map of India.

- (viii) **Need to start mobile services of BSNL in Forebesganj, Narpatganj and Jogbani areas of Araria Parliamentary constituency, Bihar.**

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Sir, in my parliamentary constituency of Araria BSNL has not started its mobile services in the cities like Forbesganj, Narpat ganj and Jogbani. It has been long standing demand but government have not given permission to start mobile services in those places. These areas are centers for trade between Indian and Nepal. Only Jogbani is an alternative route to go to Nepal. Other bordering areas in Bihar like Madhubani. Raxaul, Siliguri, Pani tanki etc. BSNL mobile services are in operation, but Forbesganj and Jogbani have not been provided mobile facilities.

Hence, through this House, I would like to urge hon'ble Minister that in the era of I.T. resolution BSNL services be provided in Forbesganj, Jogbani and Narpatganj immediately.

- (ix) **Need to ensure easy availability of L.P.G. and Kerosene to the consumers in the country.**

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa) : Sir, the Union Government have taken various steps to provide L.P.G. and kerosene to consumer easily. As a result consumers were assured that neither they would have to stand in long queues nor have to wait for several weeks. But today consumers are facing difficulties. They have to stand in long queues for kerosene. Easily available new connections for L.P.G. are not available. The distributors are taking advantage of this situation. It is uncertain that by when new connections would be available. The consumers are facing difficulties and requesting the distributors. For the last one year the Government are assuring continuously that the problem of LPG and Kerosene will be solved

very soon but consumers have got nothing except assurances.

So, I would like to urge the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to take effective steps to provide L.P.G. and kerosene as early as possible and to provide new connections of L.P.G. on demand as was done earlier.

- (x) **Need to start mining of coal in Chandrapur district, Maharashtra.**

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur) : Sir, the Western Coal field is extracting coal at Murpar in Chimur tehsil of Chandrapur district, Maharashtra. By installation of S.H.D. new machine the more quantity of coal is being extracted in that mine. Now it is in position to earn profit. So, 4 new S.D.L. machines should be installed.

Similarly, extraction of coal should be started at 1. Nand Baisur 2. Minjhari, 3. Bhansuli, 4. Murpar and 5. Bander. In view of shortage and import of coal there is an urgent need to start extraction of coal from these mines. The coal based energy pollution can occur there. So, the Union Government should immediately take action in this financial year.

[English]

- (xi) **Need to check deforestation within 15 kms. radius of Bandipur and Nagarhole National Forests in Mysore district, Karnataka.**

SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR (Mysore) : Hunsur is one of the Sub-Division headquarters of Mysore District. It consists of Heggadadevanakote, Piriapatna, KR Nagar and Hunsur taluks being surrounded by two National parks, Bandipur and Nagarhole. Tobacco is a major commercial crop in these taluks. Ninety percent of the total production of tobacco of the country is produced in these taluks. Virginia tobacco grown here is of extremely high quality and has huge demand from exporters. But, the process of baking and seasoning of this tobacco

consumes lot of fuel, which is mainly wood. At an average 15 MTS of wood is consumed for backing one barren (one unit) and there are 57000 authorised barrens and it consumes approximately 9 lakh metric tonnes of wood. Growing tobacco for well over three decades has taken out all fertility out of our soils. If the deforestation continues for another 4-5 years, the whole National Forests area in this sub-division will be converted into a dry-land.

So as to ensure the retention of the ecological and environmental balance I request the Government to take these steps-to ban all Tobacco Barrens within 15 kms of radius attached to the National Forests (Bandipur and Nagarhole), to promote other forms of fuels to burn these barrens, to encourage fuel sources out of agriculture, this could serve the Brigade Maneuvering Units, to give subsidy to entrepreneurs for setting up these BMUs, to supply coal at a subsidized rate through the Tobacco Board as was done earlier and to constitute an Expert Committee to study the situation.

- (xii) **Need to evolve a national programme to check erosion caused by river Darekeswar in Vishnupur Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal.**

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI (Vishnupur) : I would like to speak that the river Darekeswar, a big river is flowing through Vishnupur parliamentary Constituency. It sometimes becomes terrible in rainy season. It has damaged a large area due to soil erosion caused by the river tide. The riverbanks are becoming riverbed. Many villages and both the mud built and building are washed away.

Fortunately, there was no loss of human life. This year some days back the village Bhabapur in Indus P.S. completely and some portion of Madnmohanpura village in Kottulpur P.S. have been washed away alongwith crops and Mango garden. Thus, the people are becoming homeless, landless and helpless.

[Shrimati Susmita Bauri]

I request the Union Government to come forward to make arrangement for checking the devastation by taking it as a national programme.

The state Government is doing needful to protect the damage through panchayat, Zilla Parishad and Irrigation department. But it is not sufficient due to lack of funds.

(xiii) Need to release funds with a view to solve acute drinking water problem in Fatehpur district, Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Sir, thousands of tube wells, hand pumps and wells are becoming useless without water due to decrease in underground water level at tehsil Khaga and Kaushmbi in Fatehpur district and Western area including Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. The Union Government should send a survey team there immediately for inspection and constitute a workforce to solve drinking water problem. It should also sanction funds for installing 2000 India Mark IInd.

(xiv) Need to bring all districts of Bihar under Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, Bihar is the most backward state in our country. The infrastructural facilities, whether it is industry, power, roads or drinking water are not available there. Only four districts are covered every year under APDRP scheme, sponsored by the Union Government. Such work would be completed in 10-15 years in Bihar by this pace. In view of miserable condition of power in Bihar there is a need to start work by bringing all districts of Bihar under APDRP within one or two years. I would like to request the honourable Minister of Power, through this House to take action to bring all districts of Bihar under APDRP within one or two years.

(xv) Need to grant funds for desiltation of river Gomti in Sultanpur district, Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur) : Sir, there is erosion by river Gomti every year in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh due to which fields of farmers have become useless. The Union Government spend crores of rupees for desiltation of rivers but the State Government is not regular to do so. The fertile land of farmers is swept away due to erosion by river. There is no urgent need to clean these rivers every year. The maximum population of this district depend upon agriculture. If soil erosion would not be stopped then there could be scarcity of foodgrains. There should be a permanent solution to this problem. I would like to request the Union Government to issue instructions immediately to implement programmes to check erosion by rivers and the Union Government and State Government should bear their shares for implementation of such schemes.

(xvi) Need to develop 'Lonar Crater' in Buldana Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra as an International tourist Centre.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : A large section of population living in Buldana Constituency hails from the Backward, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Communities. There is no industry in my constituency. Sir, due to lack of industries, the economic conditions of the people of my constituency is very poor. People are being compelled to live in miserable conditions.

The unique crater at Lonar in Central Maharashtra is a spectacular spot and is one of the five largest such craters in the world. The Lonar crater is the only natural impact crater in basalt rock in the world. At the bottom of the crater a lake has formed around which small settlements have been established. This unique geological site is home to an impressive list of migrant and resident birds including kingfishers, orioles and minivets. Through this is one of the hottest parts of India, cold forests of tall trees and fruit orchards rim the area. It is also home to

a unique peacock sanctuary. The temples built in the Hemadpanti style are situated inside the crater. The structures are in a dilapidated condition.

LONAR CRATER, which is situated in my constituency, could not get worldwide publicity due to lack of proper infrastructure. Sir, there is urgent need to develop Lonar Crater as international tourist place to attract foreign as well as national tourists.

I would request the Union Government, through you Sir, to kindly develop Lonar Crater as International Tourists Centre.

(xvii) Need to connect all the villages by road under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana in Satara district, Maharashtra.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad) : Many unconnected villages in Satara district of Maharashtra which are having population of more than 500 have recently been deleted from Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojna. Upgradation of roads are planned without completing new connectivity.

There is need to connect all the unconnected villages under this Scheme first which are eligible under this Scheme as per the guidelines of PMGSY. After the said work is completed, the upgradation work of old roads may be taken up.

(xviii) Need to release the balance amount of funds for early completion of new railway link in Ferozpur, Punjab.

[Translation]

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN (Ferozpur) : Sir, there is a very important new railway link in my constituency Ferozpur, Punjab, which was started by N.D.A. Government in February 2004. Sir, the cost of this project is around 90 crores but so far the Union Government have released only 11 crore rupees. This railway link is useful not only for common people but also important for defence purposes. Therefore, there is a need to complete this

railway line urgently. I would like to request the Union Government, through you Sir, to release the funds for this project as early as possible so that this project could be completed in this year only.

[English]

(xix) Need to develop road infrastructure in Karaikal region of the Union Territory of Pondicherry

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry) : Karaikal region of the Union Territory of Pondicherry is a backward district due to lack of road infrastructure. The people of Pondicherry and Karaikal had to use road facility in the absence of rail facility. Karaikal is surrounded by Nagapattinam, Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai and Sirkazhi in Tamil Nadu. The road connecting these places with Karaikal are woefully bad and are non-motorable causing great inconvenience to the people of Pondicherry and Karaikal. Since Karaikal is emerging as a vital tourist spot thanks to famous Saneeswara temple, many tourists who wish to visit Karaikal are discouraged to visit this place because of the pathetic condition of roads. Provision of road facility, has become imperative, especially after the episode of Tsunami which has greatly impaired the road condition in Karaikal region. Therefore, it is requested, that the Ministry of Road Transport should take urgent steps to lay, if possible wider roads connecting Karaikal with the Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai and Sirkazhi. Further, the Government may also examine the feasibility of instituting ferry service from Chennai to Velankanni via Pondicherry, Karaikal, and Nagapattinam so that a new transport facility may be created for the people of Pondicherry and Karaikal. This would increase people to people contact, reduce inconvenience and enhance tourist traffic.

(xx) Need to create Special Economic Zones for the development and promotion of handloom industry.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor) : Sir, there is development in the country but development in all sectors has been

[Shri Munshi Ram]

neglected. The people are not financially sound and they are committing suicide in spite of increasing trend of annual development in the recent years in the country. There are 92 percent unskilled and trained labourers in our country and they can get employment in traditional industries like agriculture, textiles, animal husbandry etc. Unfortunately, these industries have been neglected in the country. In textile industry 36000-lakh meter cloth is manufactured and about 75 lakh people have got employment in this sector but it is witnessing a gradual decline. Today, production in this sector is very limited. The Weavers have become unemployed. In textile industry there are problems of handloom industry. This industry is not getting raw material, financial assistance on time and there is no sale of its product. I would like to suggest to create Special Economic Zones for solving the problems of handloom industry. The Special Economic Zones will not only provide financial assistance to handloom industry but it will also provide raw material and create markets for the sale of its products. So, I would like to request the Government, through this House, to pay attention towards it and to provide employment opportunities to crores of unemployed youth of this country.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Supplementary List of Business – Mr. Finance Minister.

(Interruptions)

14.16 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS
(GENERAL) - 2005-2006

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary

Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2005-06.

(Interruptions)

14.16½ hrs.

[English]

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL) -
2003-2004

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2003-04.

(Interruptions)

14.18 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Shallendra Kumar, Shri Ramkripal Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I will listen to you, but first please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 15.15 hours.

*Not recorded.

14.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fifteen minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at fifteen minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

15.15½ hrs.

Re: Report of Justice U.C. Banerjee Committee on Godhra Incident... Contd.

[*English*]

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly take your seats. Please speak one-by-one.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot show the paper.

(Interruptions)

15.16 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly go back to your seats. I am on my legs. Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister of Parliamentary

Affairs wants to make a statement on this issue. Please listen to him. ...(*Interruptions*) He wants to speak.

15.17 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us hear the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. The Minister is going to intervene.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, keep quiet.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, through you, I would request all the Members who have expressed their concern over the Report, to allow the normal business of the House to be conducted today. They have every right to take it up tomorrow. I will consult the Railway Minister. He can make his observations in this regard only tomorrow ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : No, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

15.18 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way to behave.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Prime Minister should make a statement as to what action the Government will take on the recommendations of Justice Banerjee Commission's Report. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way. We cannot record it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can make your points from your seats.

(Interruptions)

15.19 hrs.

(At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we want that action should be taken against the guilty of the crime. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not show the paper. Kindly sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister wants to make a submission.

15.20 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him make a submission. Kindly keep quiet and allow the Minister to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not show the papers. It is against the rules.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

15.22 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go back to your seat and then speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 7th March, 2006.

15.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 07, 2006/Phalgun 16, 1927 (Saka).

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