

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Eighth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

*Monday, August 07, 2006/Sravana 16, 1928 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

*[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]*

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is with a heavy heart that I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Suraj Bhan, one of our former colleagues and former Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Shri Suraj Bhan was Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1970; Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabhas from 1977 to 1984 and Eleventh Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1997. During the Eleventh Lok Sabha he was unanimously elected to the august office of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha on 12th July, 2006 which office he held with distinction till December, 1997.

An able administrator, Shri Suraj Bhan was Union Minister of Agriculture from May to June, 1996. He also held with distinction the high offices of Governor of Uttar Pradesh from 1998 to 2000, and that of Himachal Pradesh from 2000 to 2003 respectively. Thereafter, he was appointed as the Chairman of the then National Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on 24 February, 2004. He was the Chairman of the National Commission of Scheduled Castes at the time of his demise.

Shri Suraj Bhan was also a Member of Haryana Legislative Assembly from 1987 to 1990. During this period he was Minister of Revenue from 1987 to 1989 and was the Leader of Opposition of the Assembly from 1989 to 1990.

A very committed and conscientious parliamentarian, during the Sixth Lok Sabha he was the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions. Committee on Welfare of Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and that of the Joint Parliamentary Committee that revised the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. An active votary of the downtrodden and the underprivileged, Shri Suraj Bhan lost no opportunity in espousing their causes on the floor of the House.

In his death the country has lost a committed crusader for uplift and welfare of the backward classes and the deprived.

Shri Suraj Bhan passed away on 6 August, 2006, at New Delhi, after a brief illness at the age of 78.

I am sure the House would join me in conveying the condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while in the memory of the departed.

11.03 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while*

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a privilege notice to you. This is the matter of serious breach of privilege of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice is under my consideration.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Only today it has come. I have to look into it.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The people of the entire country are eager to know as to how the report was leaked out...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a matter under my consideration. Give me a little time to read it.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, you made your observation on that day also. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I did that. That has nothing to do with the breach of privilege.

Q.No. 201 –

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, You also said it. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

You had also observed that it is the breach of privilege of the House...(Interruptions) The Prime Minister should tender apology from the office of the Prime Minister to all the news Channels and the news papers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Malhotra, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When I stand up, I expect this very little courtesy from Members that they should take their seats. Already the position of Chair is known throughout the country; the position of the Speaker of Lok Sabha. My only request to you also.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The whole country is also watching the happening going on in the House and how breach of privilege is taking place. ...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Not a single line of what you are speaking is going on record. Why are you speaking?

(Interruptions)\*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : It is not the question of recording a single line of the speech ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The business of the House is conducted according to rules.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I myself did it. I thought that was more than enough. I had said 'I resent it. It should not have been done. Therefore, I would expect the Government to hold an inquiry.' That was, I believe, on Friday. Today, it is Monday.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Three days have elapsed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have been in the military. You know everything.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It is a question of your prestige...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If it is question of my prestige then let me conduct the business of the House.

(Interruptions)

11.08 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Subhas Maharia and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep quiet for a minute.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Fortunate or unfortunate I do not know, I have spent 37 years in this House.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly listen. There is a limit to everything.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is the first time I am noticing that notice has been given at 10 o'clock, the Speaker has already said that it is under consideration, even then the House is not being allowed to run.

I adjourn the House till 11:45 a.m.

11.23 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Forty-Five minutes past Eleven of the Clock.*

11.45 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty-Five minutes past Eleven of the Clock.*

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]*

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Sir, before the adjournment of the House you stated from the Chair that you have been a Member of the House for 37 years and what the opposition is doing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I did not say this. I said.

*[English]*

let me be clear-"When Speaker says the matter is under consideration-"

*[Translation]*

Thereafter question was never raised.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : It did not happen like this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit you that it is a matter of regret for me that I did not get your company during those 37 years, however, I have been seeing you from close quarters for the last six years. You used to sit on the next chair and the Members of Congress Party used to sit beside you. Please see the record. I regret that I find it difficult to follow whatever I, like other new Members, have learnt from you. But I do whatever you have done...*(Interruptions)* I have done the same thing...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not follow me. Please do not follow bad examples, If I have set a bad example, do not follow me. Why are you following bad examples?

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I feel like this because you are my leader and I follow the same thing that I have learnt from you...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, such a thing has never happened in the last 37 years that before laying the report on the Table of the House it has been leaked out to TV Channels and the Press ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

It has never happened...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : There is a question about the Public Distribution System.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : That day Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunshi ji said that he would report here after holding an inquiry in this regard...(Interruptions)

[English]

Three days have already passed.

[Translation]

The Prime Minister should tender an apology and should make a statement in the House...(Interruptions) He should apologize...(Interruptions) The Prime Minister should apologize...(Interruptions)

[English]

11.48 hrs.

(At this state, Shri Somabhai G. Patel and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

11.49 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER : Q No. 201 - Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat.

### Streamlining of Public Distribution System

+

\*201. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to further streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS) for strengthening it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted for the said purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the terms of reference of the said committee; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

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

### Statement

(a) and (b) The Streamlining of the Public Distribution System (PDS) to improve its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness is an ongoing process. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement of foodgrains, storage, their transportation upto the Principal Distribution Centres of Food Corporation of India (FCI) and delivery at prevailing Central Issue Prices, and the State Governments are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue them ration cards and distribute foodgrains through a vast network of 4.86 lakh Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country.

The Government has had several rounds of meetings with the State Governments, Fair Price Shop Dealers Federation, and Members of Parliament for strengthening of the PDS in the country. After consultation at various levels, the Government has issued instructions to the States to undertake a campaign for review of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) lists to eliminate ghost ration cards; take action under Clause 9 of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order for punishing the guilty to ensure leakage-free distribution of foodgrains; involve elected Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members in distribution of foodgrains; display of BPL/AAY beneficiary lists on all Fair Price Shops (FPS); putting up the district-wise and FPS-wise allocation of foodgrains on the websites; ensure timely availability of foodgrains at FPS level; training of members of the FPS level Vigilance Committees; and computerization of PDS operations to ensure transparency in the system.

(c) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court on 12.7.2006 has passed an interim order to "constitute a Central Vigilance Committee, headed by a retired Judge of the

Court to be assisted by Dr. M.C. Saxena, the Commissioner earlier appointed by the Supreme Court..... The Committee shall look into the maladies which are affecting the proper functioning of the system and also suggest remedial measures. For this purpose, the Committee shall, amongst other things, focus on:

- (a) The mode of appointment of the dealers.
- (b) The ideal commission or the rates payable to the dealers, and
- (c) Modalities as to how the Committees already in place, can function better.
- (d) Modes as to how there can be transparency in allotment of the food stock to be sold at the shops.

While dealing with the question of the mode of appointment, the Committee shall also suggest as to a transparent mode in the selection of the dealers. The Committee shall also indicate as to how more effective action can be taken on the report of the vigilance Committees already appointed. It goes without saying that the same shall be in addition to the legal remedies available to any citizen in setting law into motion..... The Committee would invite suggestions from general public, organizations and would consider the suggestions, if any received, in the proper perspective.

We request the Committee to give its report within a period of four months so that further instruction/directions can be given..... This direction is initially given for the Government of Delhi to be followed on all India basis."

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and the Government of India have formulated a good policy particularly for the poor people. However, in remote villages most of the dealers lift food grains from Government godowns on the pretext of distributing among the poor but the food grains meant for public distribution system are sold to general retail shops and the same grain

is sold to wholesale agents at higher prices....(Interruptions)  
Thereafter, the said agents change bags and labels and the same grain is again sold to the Food Corporation of India and Government godowns of the States at higher prices. I would like to know about such dealers against whom action has been taken by the Government. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture had constituted a committee which has been asked to submit its report in four months time. I would like to know the time by which the report of the said Committee is likely to be implemented ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : This case was referred to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court had given a suggestion in this regard on 12 July, 2006. They had given an interim order. As per the interim order a judge of the Supreme Court is to be appointed to look into the matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the term of reference of the Committee is as follows:

[English]

The mode of appointment of the dealers; the ideal commission or the rates payable to the dealers; and modalities as to how the Committees already in place, can function better; and modes as to how there can be transparency in allotment of the food stock to be sold at the shops.

[Translation]

After assigning the terms of reference, the Committee will be appointed and in the next stage the report will be submitting. Then the report of the Committee will be submitted to the Supreme Court as the order of the Supreme Court in this regard has been given on 12 July, 2006. Till now the process of constitution of the Committee has not yet been started. I hope that the Committee would submit its report in four months time and will give suggestions as to what reforms can be done in the existing system. After the submissions of the report of the Committee the Government would seriously ponder over implementing these reforms.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir,

through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to the fact that though kerosene is also made available to the consumers under the PDS system, however, kerosene is not given to poor consumers. Rather there is large scale black marketing of the kerosene. In the areas where there is drought like situation diesel pumps are operated for irrigation work especially by kerosene because diesel is costlier than kerosene.

Therefore, consumption of kerosene has increased and the poor consumers are not getting it at all. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture what steps the Government propose to take for making kerosene available and other essential commodities to the common consumers under PDS.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that diversion of kerosene under PDS takes place on a large scale. Some of the State Governments add colour to it so as to contain its diversion. And some of the States have taken stringent measures. I had convened a meeting of Food and Civil Supplies Ministers and concerned Secretaries of the State Governments and advised them that there is a need to pay more attention to the said issue. Suggestions have been made to the State Governments to check diversion of kerosene and some of the State Governments have taken action in this regard. I am sure the States will act tough in this regard and it would help in toning up the system.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Got up.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Got up.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring one thing to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that essential items meant for distribution to the people living below poverty line under PDS do not reach them. Rice meant for poor people and the benefits under food for work and other programmes do not reach them. Thus, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister-What steps the Government proposes to take to ensure that

commodities such as rice being distributed under said system reach the targeted people?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Food for work Programme is different from PDS and other Ministry is responsible for it but it is true that it takes place. Our Planning commission ...*(Interruptions)* had appointed a Committee under certain organizations which were vested with the task to find out as to how much quantity of commodities given under PDS are given to people and how much gets diverted? The report of the said Committee made very serious revelations. The report states that in many a States 100 per cent quantity of wheat gets diverted. It stated that PDS is functioning properly in South India and the cases of diversions are more in North Eastern and Northern States. Thus there is a need to take effective measures. After, receiving the report, I had called a meeting of the Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies and Secretaries of all the States and told them that there is a need to streamline the system. It has been observed that cases of diversion are less in case of foodgrains meant for BPL category and foodgrains meant for APL category is diverted more. So, the Government have decided to reduce the allotment of grains for the said category.

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the job of FCI is to procure foodgrains from the farmers and supply to State Food Corporation in Bihar. But supplies foodgrains to Food Corporation of Bihar only on papers. FCI an undertaking of the Government of India is vested with procurement of foodgrains directly from the farmers and supply it to Food Corporation of Bihar. But, in fact dealers buy grains from it directly and for many a month it so happens only on papers that dealers lifted grains from FCI, whereas, their grains are resold to them. This way, the grains are neither procured from farmers nor BPL category people get grains on time.

One more thing that I would like to bring to his notice is that the dealers keep red cards of poor people with themselves. In my State Bihar, a chain of FCI, Bihar unit of State Food Corporation and the dealers work in connivance with one another.



I would like to know as to what steps the Government propose to take to break the said chain. Secondly, what steps the Government propose to take for providing credit cards to labourers, as it was proposed by the hon'ble Minister?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, the hon'ble Member made a mention of Bihar. I would like to mention that this year FCI procured rice and paddy. This year, paddy production has been more than what it was during the last two years. FCI procures paddy, wheat and then the Government of India decides about allotment of certain quantity to each State. After the said decision is taken, the Government of Bihar, in case of Bihar buys the said quantity and then distributes it through its corporation or PDS to the poor. It is the responsibility of the Government of Bihar to provide foodgrains to the poor. If hon'ble Member sends the said complaint to me I would get it inquired into as it neither benefits the farmers nor the consumers. On the contrary, it results in loss to the Government. Under the circumstances there is a need to improve the system. If the hon'ble Member inform me about it, I would surely get it investigated.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, once the Government has decided to target the beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System, it has come in the open that many deserving families are out of the network of the Public Distribution System. If the Government is streamlining the Public Distribution System, the most important thing that the Government has to do is, widen its network. I would like to know as to whether this is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : This is a very important issue. We realised that this targeted people are really needy people who are not getting benefit. That is the reason, we have called the meeting of the Food Ministers from all the States and Secretaries of the Food Departments from all the States. One of the decisions we have taken is that the State Government should try to reassess the list of those who are living below the poverty line. Once we get the report from them, we would take appropriate decision,

including additional allotment to the States where the needy sections would get additional or required food grains.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Project Tiger

\*202. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry is implementing the 'Project Tiger';

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the achievements made under it as on date;

(c) whether the number of Tigers is declining in certain sanctuaries;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to set up wild life sanctuaries (Tiger reserves) in the protected areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Details relating to Project Tiger Scheme and its achievements are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) and (d) There is a report of disappearance of tigers from the Sariska Tiger Reserve. The details of tiger estimation in tiger reserves since 1972, as carried out by States, are given in the enclosed statement-II. Wild animal populations in nature are not static but fluctuate marginally.

(e) 'In-principle' approval has been accorded for designating eight new Tiger Reserves in the country, based on proposals received from States, and as approved by the Steering Committee of the Project Tiger, in its 37th meeting held on 23.01.2003. The details are provided at in statement-III enclosed.

**Statement-I****Details of Project Tiger Scheme**

- (1) Project Tiger is an ongoing centrally sponsored scheme, under which funding support is provided to States for conserving tigers in designated Tiger Reserves. This project has a holistic approach, since the eco-system in its totality is conserved by focussing on the flagship species (tiger), which occupies the apex of the ecological pyramid in nature.
- (2) The project launched in April 1973, in 9 eco-typical, specially designated areas of the country, as a core - buffer strategy. At present, the project coverage has increased to 28 Tiger Reserves spread over 17 States.
- (3) While the core area of a Tiger Reserve is managed for wildlife conservation, the buffer is treated as a multiple use zone to provide vegetal connectivity for spill over population of wild animals from the core conservation unit. In addition, the buffer zone also facilitates implementation of site specific eco-developmental inputs for eliciting the support of stake-holder indigenous people towards tiger conservation.
- (4) The Government of India provides 100 per cent funding support for non-recurring items of expenditure, and 50 per cent funding support for recurring items, based on annual proposals received from States to implement the Tiger Reserve specific management plan for tiger conservation.
- (5) An amount of Rs.288.34 crores has been provided as Central assistance since inception of the Project Tiger (from 1973-74 to 2006-07).

**Achievements of Project Tiger****(Impact related)**

- (1) Project Tiger has saved the endangered tiger from extinction, and has put the species on an

assured path of recovery by improving the protection and status of its habitat.

- (2) The project coverage has been increased from 9 Tiger Reserves in 1973 to 28 Tiger Reserves at present. Further, "in-principle" approval has been accorded for designating 8 more Protected Areas as Tiger Reserves, based on proposals received from States.
- (3) The core buffer strategy of Project Tiger has provided scope for eliciting local public support through site specific ecodevelopment in the buffer/fringe areas.
- (4) The project has contributed towards several intangible environmental benefits to society, eg. absorption of carbon dioxide, improvement of micro climate, rainfall and river flow.
- (5) The project has generated considerable wages for the benefit of fringe dwelling communities, who are deployed as local work force for protection and other labour oriented works.
- (6) While conserving the flagship species (tiger), the project has saved several other species of plants and animals from extinction.
- (7) The local communities are also benefiting from eco-tourism in tiger reserves apart from ecodevelopmental inputs in fringe areas.

**(Process related)**

- (1) The Project Tiger has served as a role model for wildlife management planning, habitat restoration, protection and ecodevelopment in our country.
- (10) States have been provided funding support for enhancing site specific protection through deployment of local work force, ex-army personnel.
- (3) The field staff working in Tiger Reserves have

been provided project allowance as an incentive for working in difficult conditions.

- (4) Independent monitoring of tiger reserves has been undertaken by a panel of experts, based on the framework of the World Commission of Protected Areas of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The assessment reports have been peer reviewed by the IUCN, which has commended the effort.
- (5) The All India Estimation of tiger, copredators and prey animals has been refined by Project Tiger in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, with a peer review mechanism comprising of independent experts, both national and international (IUCN). This has been approved by the Tiger Task Force constituted by the National Board for Wildlife.
- (6) The tiger habitat of the country has been evaluated in the GIS (Geographical Information System) domain at the Tehsil level.

- (7) The status and changes of forest cover within Tiger Reserves upto an outer surround of 10 km. radius distance has been assessed in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India, for facilitating restorative action.
- (8) The Zoological Survey of India and the Botanical Survey of India have been co-opted for bringing out compendia on their faunistic and floristic surveys in Tiger Reserves.
- (9) Steps have been taken for implementing the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force which, inter alia, including setting up of the 'National Tiger Conservation Authority' and the 'Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau' (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau).
- (10) As a pilot initiative towards e-governance to foster management support system, five Tiger Reserves have been linked with the Project Tiger Directorate in the GIS domain.

#### Statement-II

S. No.	Name of Reserve	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1995	1997	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Bandipur (Karnataka)	10	39	53	50	66	74	75	82
2.	Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh)	—	—	—	—	41	46	46	56
3.	Bhadra (Karnataka)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
4.	Bori-Satpura-Pachmari (Madhya Pradesh)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
5.	Buxa (West Bengal)	—	—	15	33	29	31	32	31
6.	Corbett (Uttar Pradesh)	44	84	90	91	123	128	138	137

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	Damppha (Mizoram)	—	—	—	—	7	4	5	4
8.	Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)	—	—	—	90	94	98	104	76*
9.	Indravati (Madhya Pradesh)	—	—	38	28	18	15	15	29
10.	Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)	43	71	109	97	100	97	114	127
11.	Kalakad (Tamil Nadu)	—	—	—	22	17	16	28	27
12.	Manas (Assam)	31	69	123	92	81	94	125	65*
13.	Melghat (Maharashtra)	27	63	80	77	72	71	73	73
14.	Nagarjunasagar (Andhra Pradesh)	—	—	65	94	44	34	39	67
15.	Namdhap (Arunachal Pradesh)	—	—	43	47	47	52	57	61
16.	Nameri (Assam)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
17.	Pakhui (Arunachal Pradesh)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Palamau (Bihar)	22	37	62	55	44	47	44	32
19.	Panna (Madhya Pradesh)	—	—	—	—	25	22	22	31
20.	Periyar (Kerala)	—	34	44	45	30	39	40	36
21.	Pench (Madhya Pradesh)	—	—	—	—	39	27	29	40
22.	Pench (Maharashtra)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
23.	Ranthombore (Rajasthan)	14	25	38	44	36	38	32	35
24.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	—	19	26	19	24	25	24	22
25.	Similipal (Orissa)	17	65	71	93	95	97	98	99
26.	Sunderbans (West Bengal)	60	205	264	269	251	242	263	245
27.	Tadoba (Maharashtra)	—	—	—	—	34	36	42	38
28.	Valmiki (Bihar)	—	—	—	81	49	N.R.	53	53
Total		268	711	1121	1327	1366	1333	1498	1576

\*Under compilation/vetting

N.R.-Not reported by the State

**Statement-III****List of the Proposed New Tiger Reserves**

Sl. No.	Name of the Proposed New Tiger Reserve	State
1.	Anamalai-Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuaries	Tamil Nadu and Kerala
2.	Udanti and Sita Nadi Wildlife Sanctuaries	Chattisgarh
3.	Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuaries	Orissa
4.	Kaziranga National Park	Assam
5.	Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary	Chattisgarh
6.	Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park	Karnataka
7.	Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary	Madhya Pradesh
8.	Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu

*[English]***Notices Issued to Drug Companies**

\*203. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :  
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

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

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is responsible for price fixation/revision of drugs and formulations and other related matters;

(b) whether the NPPA also monitors the prices of decontrolled drugs and formulations and oversees the implementation of the provisions of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95);

(c) the number of bulk drugs which falls under the price control and the prices fixed for these drugs;

(d) whether drug companies are overcharging the patients for drugs;

(e) if so, the details of overcharging notices issued by the NPPA to various drug companies during the last three years and the current financial year;

(f) the amount of liability to each company;

(g) the details of the cases settled, pending and the amount recovered during the said period; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to recover the remaining amount with interest?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) :  
(a) to (h) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. The detail of prices of Scheduled Bulk Drug/Derivatives fixed/revised by NPPA is given in the enclosed statement-I. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September 1994.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc., The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd.

NPPA regularly takes action against Pharma companies who do not implement the prices fixed/ notified by NPPA under the provisions of DPCO' 1995 and this is a continuous and ongoing process. NPPA since its inception in August 1997, has raised the demand of Rs.719.94

crores for the recovery towards overcharged amount in 355 cases under the provisions of DPCO 1995 read with Essential Commodities Act, 1955. NPPA has recovered Rs.99.28 crores (upto June 2006) from the defaulting companies. Details of overcharging notices issued by the NPPA to various drug companies during the last three years and the current financial year (upto 30.6.2006) is

given in the enclosed statement-II. NPPA has been regularly taking appropriate action for the recovery of the overcharged amount. In some major cases the recovery is affected, due to the cases being subjudice in various High Courts and Honorable Supreme Court of India. Special efforts are being taken to get these cases expeditiously decided.

**Statement-I**

**Notified Prices of Bulk Drugs/Derivatives as Specified in First Schedule of DPCO, 1995**

S. No.	Name of the Drug	Unit	Price (Rs.)	S.O. No. of the Gazette	Date of Notification
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Amodiaquine HCL	KG	704.00	742 (E)	19.05.2006
2.	Aspirin	KG	134.00	1135 (E)	15.10.2004
3.	Analgin (Metamizole)	KG	458.00	1429 (E)	30.12.2004
4.	Aminophylline	KG	419.00	1007 (E)	04.10.1999
5.	Benzathine Pencilline G (Pen G)	KG	2288.00	740 (E)	19.05.2006
5a	Pott. Penicilline G (1st Crystal)	BU	727.00	201 (E)	07.03.2001
5b	Potassium Penicillin G	BU	1106.00	805 (E)	20.08.2001
5c	Potassium Penicillin V	BU	1001.00	806 (E)	20.08.2001
5d	Procaine Penicillin G	BU	958.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
5e	Sodium Penicillin G	BU	824.00	1837 (E)	29.12.2005
6	Betamethasone Valerate	GM	219.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
6a	Betamethasone Valerate	GM	208.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
6b	Betamethasone Sodium Phosphate	GM	175.00	1307 (E)	14.09.2005
7.	Chlorotetracycline HCL	KG	1877.00	479 (E)	03.07.1997
7a	Dimethyl Chloro Tetracycline HCL	KG	4559.00	206 (E)	31.03.1999
7b	Tetracycline HCL	KG	782.00	1065 (E)	29.10.2001

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Chloroquine Phosphate	KG	763.00	1044 (E)	11.07.2006
8a	Chloroquine Sulphate	KG	1692.00	915 (E)	18.12.1992
9.	Cloxacillin Sodium (Oral Grade)	KG	1153.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
9a	Cloxacillin Sodium (Sterile)	KG	1651.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
10.	Chlorpropamide	KG	306.00	754 (E)	29.08.1995
11.	Cefadroxyl Monohydrate	KG	2474.00	378 (E)	23.03.2006
12.	Ciprofloxacin HCL	KG	4190.00	227 (E)	20.03.1997
13.	Captopril	KG	11971.00	443 (E)	13.06.1997
14.	Cefotaxime Sodium (Sterile)	KG	7285.00	417 (E)	27.03.2006
15.	Carbamezapine	KG	2180.00	412 (E)	27.03.2006
16.	Cefazoline Sodium (Sterile)	KG	7966.00	416 (E)	27.03.2006
17.	DIODohydroxy Quinoline (DIHQ)	KG	547.00	728 (E)	21.08.1995
17a	Iodochloro Hydroxy Quinoline (ICHQ)	KG	832.00	411 (E)	27.03.2006
18.	Dextro-Propoxy Phene HCL	KG	3841.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
18a	Dextro-Propoxy Phene Napsylate	KG	5172.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
19.	Doxycycline HCL / Doxycycline Hyclate	KG	1749.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
20.	Dexamethasone (Pure)	GM	114.00	755 (E)	06.08.2001
20a	Dexamethasone-11-21 PO4 (DI Sodium)	GM	125.00	755 (E)	06.08.2001
20b	Dexamethasone-Trimethylacetate DTA	GM	158.67	481 (E)	02.08.1993
21.	Dichloro Metaxylenol (DCMX)	KG	241.00	564 (E)	06.08.1997
21a	P-chloro Metaxylenol (PCMX)	KG	270.00	741 (E)	19.05.2006
22.	Ephedrine HCL	KG	1062.00	414 (E)	27.03.2006
22a	Ephedrine Resinate	KG	954.00	922 (E)	21.12.1994
22b	Pseudo Ephedrine HCL	KG	1761.00	414 (E)	27.03.2006
22c	Pseudo Ephedrine Sulphate	KG	2535.00	435 (E)	16.06.1992
23.	Erythromycin (Base)	KG	2085.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006

1	2	3	4	5	6
23a	Erythromycin Thiocynate	KG	3072.00	84 (E)	11.02.1991
23b	Erythromycin Sterate	KG	1459.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
23c	Erythromycin Estolate	KG	2057.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
23d	Erythromycin Ethyl Succinate	KG	2883.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
23e	Erythromycin Propionate	KG	2309.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
24.	Ethylestrenol	KG	80465.00	564 (E)	06.08.1997
24a	Lynestrenol	KG	73995.00	414 (E)	24.03.2005
25.	Frusemide	KG	1473.00	765 (E)	07.07.2003
26.	Furazolidone	KG	417.00	564 (E)	06.08.1997
27.	Framycetin Sulphate	KG	13732.00	564 (E)	06.08.1997
28.	Famotidine	KG	1358.00	415 (E)	27.03.2006
29.	Griseofulvin	KG	4270.00	419 (E)	11.05.2001
30.	Gentamycin Sulphate Base	GM	12.74	605 (E)	03.07.1995
31.	Glipizide	KG	29244.00	1043 (E)	11.07.2006
32.	Hydroxyethyl Theophyllin (HET)	KG	511.00	1302 (E)	14.09.2005
32a	Theophylline Ethinate of Piperazine	KG	513.00	36 (E)	14.01.1992
32b	Theophylline	KG	439.00	1302 (E)	14.09.2005
33	Human Insulin	KG	3241924.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
33a	Insulin	MU	24017.00	564 (E)	06.08.1997
34.	Ibuprofen	KG	408.00	1045 (E)	11.07.2006
35.	Metronidazole	KG	471.00	164 (E)	07.02.2006
35a	Metronidazole Benzoate	KG	401.00	164 (E)	07.02.2006
36.	Methyl Dopa	KG	4205.00	564 (E)	06.08.1997
37.	Mebhydroline Napadisylate	KG	1268.00	120 (E)	10.02.1998
38.	Naproxen	KG	1864.00	845 (E)	15.06.2005
38a	Naproxen Sodium	KG	1916.00	845 (E)	15.06.2005



1	2	3	4	5	6
39.	Nalidixic Acid	KG	1622.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
40.	Norfloxacine	KG	841.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
41.	Oxytetracycline HCL	KG	1097.00	414 (E)	24.03.2005
41a	Oxytetracycline Amphoteric Base	KG	1553.00	414 (E)	24.03.2005
42.	Prednisolone	KG	56470.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
42a	Prednisolone Acetate	KG	31813.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
43.	Pheniramine Maleate	KG	1107.00	1838 (E)	29.12.2005
44.	Pyranol Pamoate	KG	1204.00	1305 (E)	14.09.2005
45.	Pentazocine	KG	24710.00	413 (E)	27.03.2006
46.	Phenyl Butazone	KG	352.00	1133 (E)	15.10.2004
47.	Pentoxyphylline	KG	2013.00	591 (E)	23.05.2003
48.	Rifampicin	KG	3518.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
49.	Ranitidine HCL	KG	625.00	842 (E)	15.06.2005
50.	Streptomycin Sulphate Base	KG	2381.00	837 (E)	15.09.2000
51.	Sulphadimidine	KG	460.00	590 (E)	12.08.1994
52.	Spirolactone	KG	25667.00	414 (E)	24.03.2005
53.	Sulphadiazine	KG	565.00	564 (E)	06.08.1997
53a	Silver Sulphadiazine	KG	3596.00	846 (E)	18.11.1992
54.	Salbutamol Sulphate	KG	4818.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
55.	Sulphamethoxazole	KG	323	1299 (E)	14.09.2005
56.	Sulphamoxole	KG	588	418 (E)	27.03.2006
57.	Trimethoprim	KG	828	418 (E)	27.03.2006
58.	Tolnaftate	KG	4167	412 (E)	24.03.2005
59.	Verapamil HCL	KG 1000	4109	564 (E)	06.08.1997
60.	Vit. A Pamitate (Oily Liquid) [1.0/1.7 MIU/GM]	MIU 1000	2425.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006

1	2	3	4	5	6
60a	Vit. A Acetate - (Oil Liquid) [1.0 MIU/GM]	MIU 1000	2532.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
60b	Vit. A Acetate (Dry Powder) [0.5 MIU/GM]	MIU 1000	3390.00	418 (E)	27.03.2006
61.	Vit. C Plain	KG	392	418 (E)	27.03.2006
61a	Vit. C Coated	KG	378	418 (E)	27.03.2006
61b	Sodium Ascorbate	KG	408	418 (E)	27.03.2006
62.	Vitamin E Acetate	KG	815	1046 (E)	11.07.2006
63	Vitamin B2 (Riboflavin)	KG	950	418 (E)	27.03.2006
63a.	Vitamin B2-5 Phosphate	KG	2217	1300 (E)	14.09.2005
64	Vitamin B1 HCL	KG	1418	1102 (E)	23.12.1998
64a	Vitamin B1 Mononitrate	KG	1160	1102 (E)	23.12.1998

**Note:** The Production of rest ten bulk drugs is not reported in the country.

**Statement-II**

<b>Statement-II</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Notices Issued during the Financial Year 2003-2004 *</b>						
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of Company</b>	<b>Estimated Overcharged Amount and Interest (Rs. in Lakhs)</b>	<b>Recovered Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>			
1.	Wyeth Ltd.	0.946	0.946	4.	Concept Pharma Ltd.	0.360
		0.083	0.83			0.126
2.	Ind-Swift Limited	0.419	0.880	5.	Shiv Chem Pharma	0.433
		0461				0.330
3.	TTK Healthcare	1.939		6.	SPM Drugs (P) Ltd.	0.348
		1.914				0.191
				7.	Piya Pharmaceuticals	0.261
						0.062
				8.	Khandelwal Labs.	1.249
						1.145
				9.	Cooper Pharma	0.683
						0.427

1	2	3	4
10. G.S. Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.	0.070	0.070	
	0.024	0.024	
	0.028	0.28	
11. Bharat Laboratories	0.565		
	0.179		
12. Healthcare Formulation Pvt. Ltd.	0.0335		
	0.065		
13. Jenus Remedies Pvt. Ltd.	9.131		
	3.601		
14. Twenty First Century Pharma Ltd.	2.130	1.800	
15. J and J Ltd.	2235.728	2235.728	
	1297.420		
16. N.R. Jet Enterprises Ltd.	902.077	902.077	
	509.492		
17. Indo Swift Limited	2.82	4.836	
	2.016		
18. Ind-Swift Ltd.	2.521	4.509	
	1.988		
19. Okasa Pharma Ltd.	182.000		
20. Okasa Pharma Ltd.	91.620		
21. Okasa Ltd.	474.000		
22. Ranbaxy Labs.	161.619		
23. Ranbaxy Labs.	15.994		

1	2	3	4
		10.769	
24. Cipla Ltd.		5144.185	
25. Cipla Ltd.		4791.163	
26. Cipla Ltd.		5416.215	
27. Okasa Pharma Ltd.		117.896	
28. Okasa Pvt. Ltd.		2385.250	
29. Okasa Ltd.		467.000	
30. Kopran Ltd.		64.190	
31. Romet india Labs. Ltd.		0.963	
		0.457	
32. Dua Pharma Pvt. Ltd.		1.871	
		0.847	
33. Shri Dev Pharmaceuticals		0.086	
		0.034	
34. Intact Drugs		0.01	0.214
		0.004	
35. Dr. Reddy Lab.		22.870	11.439
36. Ranbaxy Lab. Ltd.		188.000	
37. G.T. Pharma Pvt. Ltd.		0.079	
		0.009	
38. S.K. Parenteral P. Ltd.		0.540	0.1
			0.200
39. Medibest Pharma P.Ltd.			1.700
Total		24518.936	3165.023

*Overcharging notices Issued during the financial Year 2004-05*

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Name of Formulation	Estimated Overcharged Amount and Interest (Rs. in Lakhs)	Recovered Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Alar Labs. Pvt. Ltd.	Lartidine Tablets	0.247 0.050	0.247
2.	Gene Laboratories Ltd.	Co-trimoxazole Tab. SS and DS	2.108 0.984	
3.	Wilcure Remedies	Ibunol Tabs. Vostrim Suspension	0.0477 0.0133	0.048 0.0133
4.	Ranbaxy Labs.	Cefazoline Sodium	209.267 245.6020	190.953 18.314
5.	Alkem Labs. Ltd.	Faltidine	5.641 2.405	5.641
6.	Arco Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	Fancid 40mg. Tabs.	0.040 0.012	0.04 0.012
7.	Esskay Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Dexarex tab.	3.754 1.454	
8.	Kemwell Pvt. Ltd.	Ventrrolin Exp./Sry.	773.77 241.804	386.886
9.	Nirman Pharma	Cefatop 250/500 mg. cap	22.44 10.38	4.049
10.	Colinz Labs.Ltd.	Pabuflam Tab.	0.333	

1	2	3	4	5
			0.233	
11.	Lanbert Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.	Brulam Plus	0.867	
			0.035	
12.	Glaxo smithkline Pvt. Ltd.	Ventrolin Inhaler	435.46	217.732
			123.866	
13.	Marvel Lab.	Velciox + Norcin	2.118	
			2.217	
14.	Excel Healthcare Pvt. Ltd.	Ibu+Para	0.256	0.256
			0.080	
15.	Overseas Pharma	Optran Tab	1.280	1.890
			0.578	
			0.032	
			1.331	1.331
			0.148	
16.	Nivaram Pharma	Griseofludim Tabs 250 mg	0.52	0.052
			0.060	0.060
17.	Kabra Drugs Ltd.	Oxytetracycline 250 mg caps	0.065	
			0.081	
18.	Synthochem Labs Research	D.E. Citrate (Bulk drug)	1.092	1.092
			2.194	
19.	Pravin Pharma	Analgin / Tetracycline	0.207	0.204
			0.190	
20.	Ranbaxy Lab. Ltd.	Cloxacillin based formulations	199.627	125.000
			238.693	
21.	Wyeth Ltd.	Prednisolone	309.634	302.983
			1281.814	984.945
			119.293	

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Bectolac Formulations Pvt. Ltd.	Bactofen Tabs	0.816 0.939	
23.	Zenith Healthcare	Inflazen Tab.	0.393 0.192 0.100	0.393 0.202
24.	Aurobindo Pharma Ltd.	Autidine 20mg		0.276
25.	Bilmet Pharma	Betamet Eye Drops		1.604
26.	Arvind Remedies	Cetafen	3.319 5.142	
27.	Curewell Drugs	Cefadroxil		0.069
28.	Pelicom Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	Peliclox Tab. 125	0.199 0.034	
29.	Pelicom Pvt. Ltd. Pharma	Peliclox Tabs		0.234
30.	Crystal Pharma Pvt. Ltd.	Caplex Caps.	1.178 0.471	
31.	Centaur Labs P. Ltd.	Afren Compound	1.571 2.339	1.571
32.	Panacea Biotech Ltd.	xeed-2, xeed-3, xeed-4,	146.007	41.954
33.	Nicholas Piramal India Ltd.	Tetracycline 500mg Tabs	13.303 8.702	13.303
34.	Mercury Labs Ltd.	Merigenta Drops Eye/Ear drops	0.377 0.231	0.377 0.212
35.	Bennet	Radic Tablet		0.280
36.	Ranbaxy Labs Ltd.	Ciprofloxacin	6171.080	
37.	Synex	Chloroquine Inj.	0.364 0.163	0.364 0.163

1	2	3	4	5
38.	Natchem	Ibuprofen tab		0.594
39.	Brussels Labs Ltd.	Broxycilin Capsules		0.36
40.	Selvok Pharmaceuticals	Primafen Tablets	1.191	0.14
			0.018	
41.	Kabra Drugs Ltd.	Oxytetracycline 250 mg caps	0.065	
			0.081	
Total		Total	10600.129	2303.843

*Overcharging notices Issued during the financial Year 2005-06*

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Name of Formulation	Estimated Overcharged Amount and Interest (Rs. in Lakhs)	Recovered Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Pacific Pharma	Tetracycline and Ranitidine formulations	1.457	
2.	Arcadia Pharma	Cefril - DT	1.32	0252
			0.66	
			0.036	
3.	Sunny Drugs	Furazole	0.24	0.240
			0.054	0.397
4.	Orphic Pharma	Oxil DS 30ml	0.57	
			0.22	
5.	Gray Anon formulation	Sprint Plux tab.	0.26	
			0.331	
6.	Mangesh Pharma	Bruplus tablet	2.024	
			0.885	

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Jenifer Pharma	Prednisolone		0.121
8.	Goldstein Lab. Cheenai	Ceforin kid tab		0.73
9.	Goldstein Lab. Cheenai	Ulciril 300 tab.		0.155
10.	Goldstein Lab. Cheenai	Stanicycline 500 tab.		0.109
11.	Goldstein Lab. Cheenai	Ulciril 150 tab.		0.117
12.	R.S. Lpharmaceutical	Ramycin E/E drop		0.155
13.	Tripada Healthcare	Farip 40	0.306	0.306
			0.107	0.107
14.	Dr. Reddy's Labs	Norfloxacin	1542.97	771.486
			1306.87	
15.	Lancet Pharmaceuticals	Lancet 500	0.095	0.095
16.	Vera Pharma Ltd.	Ranitidine	2.20	0.243
			0.64	
17.	Fytokem Formulations Ltd.	Ranibid 150 tab.	0.51	0.510
			0.404	
18.	Universal House Drug	Sixprodince	3.699	3.699
	Pvt. Ltd.		2.714	2.714
19.	Indu Drugs	Indufen tabs	1.963	1.963
20.	Pharmaids Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Erythromycin Stearchi 250 mg Tabs	2.304	
21.	Sunny Drugs and Pharma Ltd.	Ranitidine HCL 150mg. Tab.		0.234
				0.103
				0.24
				0.127
22.	Maan Pharmaceuticals	Fotime inj. 1g and 500 mg		0.117
23.	Shalaks Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Ceedox D.T.	20.540	9.642
			1.740	



1	2	3	4	5
24.	Alpa Labs	Quiderdus	3.160	3.160
			0.724	
25.	Panacea Biotec	Ocimix Tab.	1.69	1.69
			0.27	0.27
26.	J.R. Pharmaceuticals	Oroflam Tab.	6.616	
			1.739	
27.	Metro golden Labs.	Metronidazole tab	0.069	0.406
			0.180	
28.	Ashok Pharmaceutical	Pacital	0.998	0828
		Ibu+Para	0.374	
				0.064
				0.513
29.	Deepti Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd.	Epofen Forte Tab.		0.051
				0.018
30.	J.R. Pharmaceutical	Oroflam tab.		4.00
31.	Natco Pharma Ltd.	Trimazole DS Tab.		0.210
32.	Natchem Pharma Ltd.	Trimazole DS Tab.		2.734
33.	Shinto Orgaincs	Acnedox		0.238
34.	Alkem Lab Ltd.	Tetrachem 250mg. Cap		0.661
35.	Alkem Lab Ltd.	Bruceta Tab.		18.35
36.	Walton Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd.	Comfam tabs	0.774	
			0.419	
37.	Zendic (India) Pharma Pvt.Ltd.	Zenfen tabs	0.029	0.29
38.	Adore Pharmaceuticals P. Ltd.	Gentamycin Sulphate E/E Drops	0.470	
			0.460	
39.	Sky Labs	Erythrotop 3		0.149

1	2	3	4	5
40.	Pharma Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Paratron Forte		0.54
41.	Medoz Pharmaceuticals	Reden plus		0.323
42.	Sumages Pharma Pvt.	Ibu + Para, Cotrimoxazole	0.280	0.280
43.	Choloroxoxazone tabs		16.825	
44.	Carmaz tabs		12.68	21.06
			13.59	22.306
45.	Provnet plus tabs		0.03	
46.	Mount Mattur Pharma		0.158	
47.	Doxycycline		0.311	
48.	Doxycycline HCL		0.178	
			0.29	
49.	Cipic 250 mg, Twiclox Caps/ Tabs and Bynex Tabs		1.393	
50.	Therachem Labs		0.516	
Total			2959.342	827.719

*Overcharging notices Issued during the financial Year 2006-07 (up to 30.06.06)*

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Name of Formulation	Estimated Overcharged Amount and Interest (Rs. in Lakhs)	Recovered Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Texas Labs		0.06	0.06
2.	Cotec	Dexamethosan Tabs	0.09	0.09
3.	Apex formulations (P) Ltd.	Sefadox 250 mg tabs		0.1
4.	Denizen Pharma	Doxycycline Capules		0.02

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Union Drug Co	Udiclox	1.13	0.88
				0.44
			0.65	
6.	Supra Pharmaceuticals			0.14
7.	Kopran Ltd.	Vent Syrup	2.505	
			2.018	
8.	Malladi Drugs		11.64	
			27.80	
9.	Lupin Ltd.		20.81	
			47.72	
10.	Southern Petrochemicals Industries corporation (SPIC)	Griseofulvin 250 mg Tabs.	47.81	
			37.17	
11.	Johnson and Smith		80.69	
12.	Glindia Ltd.		33.75	
13.	Infar Ltd.		44.84	
14.	Tridoss Ltd.		858	
15.	Neuron Pharma	Nedrox 250 and 500 tabs	0.99	
16.	Cotec Pharma	Ifurgesic Tabs	0.42	
17.	Remidex Pharma and Glaxo SmithKline	Zevit Forte Caps	641.377	
			111.906	
18.	M/s. Alive	Eritop cream	0.41	0.15
19.	Agarwal	Aprofen Olus	0.1	
Total			1971.886	1.880

### Scheme for Fishermen

\*204. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is providing assistance under saving-cum-relief scheme for fishermen;

(b) if so, the details of the Central share released to the States during the last three years and current financial year;

(c) whether any amount out of the sanctioned assistance is yet to be released by the Union Government under the scheme;

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

(e) the time by which the said amount is likely to be released?

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

(b) The Central share of Rs.2739.38 lakh and Rs.5.10 lakh has been released to the States/UTs to implement the saving-cum-relief component of the National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen during the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06) and current financial year 2006-07 (till 31.7.06) respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir. Out of Rs.2849.77 lakh sanctioned towards Central share during the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06) to various States/UTs to implement Saving cum Relief component of the Welfare Scheme of Fishermen, a sum of Rs.2739.38 lakh has been released and Rs.110.39 lakh is yet to be released.

(d) The balance amount pertains to Kerala (Rs.26.87 lakh) and Tamil Nadu (Rs.83.52 lakh).

(e) Based on proposal received from the State Government indicating actual number of fishermen covered or anticipated, Central assistance is sanctioned and amount released in the light of quantum of assistance and availability of funds under the scheme. In case of major

States, Central assistance is extended in two installments provided the concerned State Government furnish details of actual numbers of fishers covered under the scheme, contribution collected from the beneficiaries and utilization of Central assistance released towards first installment. The States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been requested to furnish the details.

[Translation]

### Action against Hoarders

\*205. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn the powers given to the State Governments for taking action against hoarders and speculators under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 through its orders in 2002;

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

(c) whether some States have requested the Union Government to review its decision in view of the rising prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) The Central Government issued Notifications on 15.02.2002 and 16.6.2003 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 removing the licensing requirement, stock limits and movement restrictions on specified foodstuffs namely wheat, paddy/rice, coarsegrains, sugar, edible oilseeds, edible oils, pulses, gur, wheat products (namely maida, rava, suzi, atta, resultant atta and bran) and hydrogenated vegetable oil or vanaspati. With the issue of these orders, any dealer may freely buy, stock, sell, transport, distribute, dispose, acquire, use or consume any quantity of these commodities.

This decision was taken on the basis of recommendations of the Standing Committee of Ministers incharge of five Central Ministries and Chief Ministers of eleven States which was constituted pursuant to the Conference of the Chief Ministers on "WTO and Agriculture" held on 21/05/2001, and in conformity with the policy of the Government towards economic liberalization.

These Notifications, however, do not restrict the Central Government or the State Governments from operating the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 in respect of Public Distribution System (PDS) items, operation of the rice/paddy levy orders issued by the State Governments for the purpose of procurement of rice and regulating procurement and distribution of sugar.

(c) and (d) Some State Governments have raised concern over the rise in prices of essential commodities, particularly pulses, and also requested to review the notification dated 15.2.2002. Restoration of restrictions on stock limits and movement of foodgrains is not considered desirable as this would impede smooth distribution and retailing of agricultural commodities and recreate internal barriers to trade that will adversely impact farmers and agricultural production. It will also lead to a reversion to a regime of raids and inspector raj that would impede the process of agricultural reforms. Since price levels are determined by fundamental factors related to demand and supply of any item, restoration of these restrictions is not likely to bring down prices unless the supply position improves.

[English]

#### Illegal Trade in Wildlife

\*206. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any efforts have been made to persuade the international community to adopt stringent measures and cooperate in curbing illegal wildlife trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is taking proactive and strong measures to prevent such incidents in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to give any special package for the staff forest guards, besides wireless sets, cell phones and vehicles; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The issue of trans boundary illegal trade of wildlife had been taken up by this Ministry at various meetings of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to which India is signatory and in the meetings with Government officials from China and Nepal.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The following measures have been taken to control poaching and illegal trade of wildlife;

(i) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced.

(ii) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(v) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project

Elephant' for infrastructure development, setting up of anti-poaching camps, purchase of wireless sets, vehicles, fire arms etc.

(vi) India has bilateral agreements with Nepal and China for controlling transboundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(e) and (f) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, an allowance is given to the field staff posted in Tiger Reserves only. For other staff, there is no proposal to give special package by this Ministry.

[Translation]

### Inter-Linking of Rivers

\*207. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of links proposed under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for implementation of the plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether consensus among the concerned States under this project has been obtained for implementation of the plan;

(e) if not, the objections raised by the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Under Peninsular Rivers Development Component of National Perspective Plan, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) after various studies identified 16 links for preparation of feasibility reports. The details of the links are given in the enclosed statement-I Out of the 16 links, feasibility reports of 14 links have been completed so far.

(b) and (c) The time for implementation of ILR programme depends upon the consensus and cooperation of the States.

(d) and (e) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and Union Minister(WR) was signed on 25th August, 2005 in respect of Ken-Betwa link under Peninsular Component of the Plan for preparation of the DPR of the link by Central Government. Further, Government has identified another four priority links, namely, Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal involving States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, Damanganga - Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada links involving States of Gujarat and Maharashtra and Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link involving States of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh. The objections/apprehensions of the concerned States on priority links are given in the enclosed statement-II

(f) A group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and consisting of other officers of CWC and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resources Department from concerned States has been constituted in June, 2002 to discuss with the States the issues for arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus waters and the preparation of detailed project report. The Group has held 4 meetings on 4 priority links.

### Statement-I

*List of Water Transfer Links Identified for Preparation of Feasibility Reports by NWDA*

### Peninsular Rivers Development Component

1. Mahanandi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link\*
2. Godavari (Polavaram) - Krishna (Vijayawada) link\*
3. Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Pulichintala) link\*
4. Godavari (Inchampalli) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link\*

5. Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) - Pennar (Somasila) link\*
6. Krishna (Srisailem) - Pennar link\*
7. Krishna (Almatti) - Pennar link\*
8. Pennar (Somasila) - Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link\*
9. Cauvery (Kattalai) - Vaigai - Gundar link\*
10. Parbati - Kalisindh - Chambal link\*
11. Damanganga - Pinjal link\*
12. Par - Tapi - Narmada link\*
13. Ken - Betwa link\*
14. Pamba - Achankovil - Vaippar link\*
15. Netravati - Hemavati Link
16. Bedti - Varda link

\*Feasibility Reports completed.

#### Statement-II

#### Objections/Apprehensions of the States

##### \* Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal :

Madhya Pradesh : To modify link to cover more districts in MP and to join the link at Gandhisagar

Rajasthan : To extend link upto Banas/Banganga rivers and more share in divertible water and to join the link to Ranapratap sagar

##### \* Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal

Gujarat : (i) Wants two links  
(a) Damanganga-Sabarmati-Mangrol and (b) Damanganga-Kakrapar within the State.

Maharashtra : (i) Trans basin diversion of water of Damanganga, Par, Nar, Ambica, Purna basins across western divide to Godavari and Tapi basins may involve huge lift.  
(ii) Extend Damanganga-Pinjal link upto Tansa river; Water contribution from the catchment in Maharashtra for Par-Tapi-Narmada link to be compensated in Tapi basin.

##### \* Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada)

Andhra Pradesh : (i) Water requirements of Polavaram project by considering new cropping pattern and less delta by NWDA;

(ii) No surplus in Godavari basin and Matter is Subjudice before 2nd Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal.

Karnataka and Maharashtra : (i) Separate agreement for sharing the surplus water; Sharing of additional quantity in Krishna due to link diversion in the same proportion as agreed to in Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal.

Chattisgarh : Submergence of Polavaram in their State

Orissa : Submergence environmental impact analysis and R&R plan of project necessary.

[English]

**Task Force on Balanced use of Fertilizer**

\*208. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADUSUL :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had set up a task force on balanced use of fertilizers;

(b) if so, whether the said task force has since submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made;

(d) whether the Government has discontinued the National Project on use and development of bio-fertilizers;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote the use of bio-fertilizers which is environment friendly and a cheaper source of plant nutrients?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, the Government had constituted a Task Force on Balanced Use of Fertilizers under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) and it has submitted its report in October 2005.

(c) The main recommendations made by the Task Force on Balanced Use of Fertilizers are as follows:—

(i) Strengthening of soil testing laboratories under public/cooperatives/private sector.

(ii) Strengthening of fertilizer quality control laboratories for testing of fertilizer, organic manures and bio fertilizers, etc.

(iii) Promotion of balanced and integrated nutrient management.

(iv) Subsidy on fertilizer to be nutrient based (N,P,K, Sulphur and micro nutrients), instead of existing product based.

(v) More Fertilizer products to be brought within the ambit of subsidy/concession.

(vi) Incentive for production and promotion of efficient site specific customized fertilizers.

(vii) Creation of a Central R&D Technology Transfer fund by charging 0.05% of total subsidy being paid on fertilizers for promoting R&D Technology Transfer activities.

(d) and (e) The scheme, National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers has been subsumed under a new Central Sector Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming since October 2004.

(f) In order to promote bio-fertilizer in the country, Government had provided a subsidy of Rs.20.00 lakhs for setting up of bio-fertilizer production units under the National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers during 9th Plan and 2002-03. Now under National Project on Organic Farming, the Government is providing credit linked back-ended subsidy for setting up of bio-fertilizer production units @25% of the project cost to a maximum of Rs.20.00d lakhs through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and also to State Governments/State Agencies/ICAR/SAU.

In order to ensure supply of quality bio-fertilizers, the Central Government has also notified the specifications and methods of analysis of 4 bio-fertilizers namely - Rhizobium, Azotobacter, Azospirillum, and Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria, under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.

[Translation]

**Sugar Mills**

\*209. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH :  
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH :

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



(a) whether the sugar mills operating in the country are making profits;

(b) if not, the reasons attributed thereto;

(c) the number of sugar mills closed-down during the last two years, State-wise, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any action plan/package has been formulated for revival of the said mills; and

(e) if so, the assistance provided/proposed to be provided under the said package alongwith the success achieved therein State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), an apex organization of the private sugar mills, most of the private sugar factories were in profit in the last two years. National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd., an apex organization of cooperative sugar sector, has informed that out of 187 reporting cooperative sugar mills, 82 of them have made profits in 2004-05 sugar year. The reasons for losses are specific to individual factories depending on a number of factors.

(c) The number of sugar mills, State-wise, which did not work during the last two sugar seasons, namely, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 is given in the enclosed statement. The main reasons for closure of these sugar mills include the payment of high price for sugarcane relative to sugar prices, inadequate availability of sugarcane, uneconomic size of the mills, outdated plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence etc.

(d) and (e) There is provision for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick sugar mills with negative net worth under the Sugar Development Fund Rules. Loans at a concessional rate of interest are provided for modernization/rehabilitation and sugarcane development to such mills. Further, a package has been announced in September, 2005 for cooperative sugar mills having outstanding term loans as on 31.3.2005 and which are

commercially viable and have adequate operational surplus to repay the said term loans. The term loans of such mills was to be restructured/rescheduled and rate of interest reduced to 10% per annum with effect from 1.4.2005. The Government of India will provide subvention on the restructured loan, estimated to come to Rs.560 crores. Term loans of all the sugar mills that have applied under the scheme and fulfill the laid down criteria have been rescheduled/restructured. It is too early to evaluate the outcome.

#### Statement

*State wise number of sugar mills which did not work during 2003-04 and 2004-05, sugar seasons*

State	2003-2004 (P)	2004-2005 (P)
1	2	3
Punjab	1	3
Rajasthan	2	2
Uttar Pradesh	19	17
Madhya Pradesh	5	5
Gujrat	7	5
Maharashtra	45	82
Bihar	18	19
Assam	3	3
Andhra Pradesh	14	8
Karnataka	13	12
Tamilnadu	4	4
Orissa	4	2
West Bengal	1	1
Nagaland	1	1
Kerala	2	2

1	2	3
Pondicherry	1	1
Haryana	—	2
Total	140	169

#### Showcause Notices to TV Channels

\*210. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has issued showcause notices to television channels for violation of programmes and advertising codes as reported in Hindustan Times dated June 20, 2006;

(b) if so, the number of notices issued during the last three years, till-date;

(c) whether the Union Government has directed the State Governments to constitute monitoring committees to monitor private satellite channels and local cable channels and look into violation of the programmes and advertising code;

(d) if so, the name of the States who have constituted such committees; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to regulate broadcast content of the services?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) During the period 2004-06 (till date), the Government have issued 195 show cause notices to different television channels for violation of Programme and Advertising Codes as opposed to 150 reported in Hindustan Times June 20, 2006.

(c) Yes, Sir. Orders for setting up of monitoring committees for private television channels at the State and District levels was issued on 6th September 2005 to take

cognizance suo-motu or look into the specific complaints regarding violations of the Programme Code and Advertising Code, as defined in Rule 6 and 7 of the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994, are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) So far 14 States and 1 Union Territory have reported constitution of monitoring committees. The details are as under:

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of District level monitoring committees
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Bengal	1
5.	Gujarat	4
6.	Haryana	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
9.	Kerala	1
10.	Lakshyadweep	1
11.	Madhya Pradesh	44
12.	Meghalaya	1
13.	Punjab	2
14.	Rajasthan	3
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1

(e) The Central Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into the violation of the Programme Code and Advertising Code. The Committee either suo-motu or on receipt of complaint, examines cases of violation of the Code and recommends

action to be taken by the Government. Show cause notices are issued in the first instance to TV channels for telecasting objectionable programmes / advertisements in violation of the Codes. Further action is taken as per rules. Developing a new Content Code for self-regulation in consultation with the media/industry is in the process. Government is considering a proposal to set up a Broadcasting Services Regulator through a suitable legislation, who will also regulate content on TV channels.

**Statement**

**2301/7/2003-BC-III**

**Government of India**

**Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**

**Broadcasting (BC) Wing**

**Dated : 6th September, 2005**

**Order**

**Subject : Monitoring Committee for Private Television Channels at the State and District Levels.**

WHEREAS as per the Section 2 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the District Magistrate or a sub-Divisional Magistrate or a Commissioner of Police is designated as "authorized officer" within his local limits of jurisdiction by State or Central Government. And whereas as per Section 11 and 12 of aforesaid Cable Act, the authorized officer has the power to seize and confiscate the equipment of the cable operator for violation of Section 5 and 6 of the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, i.e., violation of Programme Code and Advertisement Code prescribed under Rule 6 and Rule 7 of the Cable Television Network Rules'94 respectively. And whereas, it has been noticed that enforcement of said act in many parts of the country is not satisfactory either due to lack of knowledge or mechanism to enforce the same. And whereas it was unanimously agreed in the 25th State Information Ministers Conference (SIMCON) held on 16th April 2005 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi that an enforcement mechanism needs to be constituted to enforce the provisions of Cable Television Network Regulations, 1994.

NOW, THEREFORE, it has been decided to constitute a "Monitoring Committee for the Programmes and Advertisements telecast by Cable TV Channels" at the State, District/local level to enforce the Cable Act and Rules. In pursuance of the decision, a Committee with the following as members is hereby constituted:

- (i) District Magistrate (or Police – Chairman  
Commissioner)
- (ii) District Superintendent of – Member  
Police
- (iii) District Public Relations – Member  
Officer
- (iv) Principal of one of the – Member  
Women's College, in the  
district (to be selected by  
the DM)
- (v) Representative of a leading – Member  
NGO working for children  
welfare (to be nominated by  
the DM)
- (vi) Representative of a leading – Member  
NGO working for women  
welfare (to be nominated by  
the DM)
- (vii) Academicians/psychologists/ – Member  
Sociologists (one each to be  
nominated by DM)

For cities where Police Commissioner is appointed, he shall be the Chairman of the Committee. In addition Director, Information and Publicity of the State Government or his nominee shall be a member of the Committee. All other members shall be nominated by the Police Commissioner under various categories listed above.

The nominated members shall have a term of two years. They shall not be eligible for re-nomination. Any vacancy can be filled up by nominating a new member for a fresh term.

NOW THEREFORE, this Monitoring Committee will review and deliberate on the litany of complaints received by "Authorized officer" or take suo-motu cognizance of violations of Programme and Advertisement Codes in the programmes transmitted and re-transmitted in the local cable channels. The Committee will take a decision on the matters referred to it in accordance with the opinion of the majority of the members present at the meeting. The Committee will determine whether a violation of the Codes has taken place and render advise on the further action to be taken in the matter to the 'Authorised Officer'.

FURTHER, the Committee will forward complaints against satellite channels to the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, who is the Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted under Section 20 of the Cable Act to look into the violations of Programme and Advertisement Codes.

In respect of content related issues telecast on local cable channels or on satellite TV channels which have local implications, Authorised officers will take action as per Section 19 of the aforesaid Cable Act. However, content related issues telecast on satellite channels, which have all India implications the necessary action will be taken by Central Government.

Hindi versions of this Order will follow.

(Seema Jere Bisht)

Director (BC)

Tel: 23381592

To

1. All Chief Secretaries of the State Governments/  
Union Territories
2. All District Magistrates

Copy to : Director (BP&L) for information and record.

Copy also to : Director (OL) for translation.

### Foreign Newspapers and Magazines

\*211. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of foreign newspapers and magazines being published in India;
- (b) whether any guidelines have been issued for publication of these newspapers and magazines; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) Under the extant guidelines, no foreign newspaper has been permitted to be published from India. However, forty-eight (48) foreign magazines/journals have been permitted to bring out their Indian editions, so far.

(b) and (c) The detailed guidelines issued by this Ministry for publication of foreign newspapers and magazines/periodicals/journals from India are given in the enclosed statement I and II.

#### Statement-I

#### Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

#### Guidelines for

- (I) Publication of Newspapers and Periodicals dealing with News and current affairs
- (II) Publication of Facsimile Editions of Foreign Newspapers

New Delhi,

Dated 31st March, 2006

#### Preamble

In supersession of the previous guidelines issued by this Ministry dated 13th July 2005, the Union Government have decided to allow, with immediate effect:

- (i) Foreign Direct Investment (which includes foreign direct investments by NRIs, PIOs) and portfolio investments by recognized FIIs, together up to a ceiling of 26% of paid up equity capital, in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs. Such investment would be permissible by Foreign entities having sound credentials and international standing, subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) Facsimile editions, in whole or in part(s), of foreign newspapers, by Indian entities, with or without foreign investment, and also by foreign companies owning the original newspaper, provided they get incorporated and registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956.

The following guidelines are hereby prescribed:

### 1. Application

- (i) Nine copies of the prescribed application form, duly filled in, along with the requisite documents shall be submitted to the Ministry of LandB.
- (ii) Application fee of Rs.5000/- will have to be submitted through demand draft made in favour of Pay and Accounts Officer, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, payable at New Delhi.

### 2. Title of the Publication

Title verification shall continue to be done by the Press Registrar as per existing procedure, including for facsimile editions.

### 3. Eligibility Criteria

#### A. Foreign Investment in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs:

- (i) Foreign Investment will be allowed only where the resultant entity (hereinafter called "New Entity") is a company registered with the Registrar of Companies under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.

- (ii) Foreign Investment including FDI by foreign entities, NRIs, PIOs etc and portfolio investments by recognized FIIs, will be allowed up to a maximum of 26% of paid-up equity of the New Entity.

- (iii) Permission will be granted only in cases where equity held by the largest Indian shareholder is at least 51% of the paid up equity, excluding the equity held by Public Sector Banks and Public Financial Institutions as defined in Section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956, in the New Entity. The term largest Indian shareholder used in this clause will include any or a combination of the following:

- (1) In the case of an individual shareholder,

- (a) The individual shareholder
- (b) A relative of the shareholder within the meaning of section 6 of the Companies Act, 1956
- (c) A company/group of companies in which the individual shareholder/HUF to which he belongs, has management and controlling interest.

- (2) In the case of an Indian company,

- (a) The Indian company.
- (b) A group of Indian companies under the same management and ownership control.

Provided that in case of a combination of all or any of the entities mentioned in sub-clause (1) and (2) above, each of the parties shall have entered into a legally binding agreement to act as a single unit in managing the matters of the New Entity.

- (iv) While calculating the 26% foreign investment in the equity of the New Entity, the foreign holding component, if any, in the equity of the

Indian shareholder companies of the New Entity will be duly reckoned on pro rata basis so as to arrive at the total foreign holding in the New Entity.

- (v) At least 50% of the foreign direct investment will have to be inducted by issue of fresh equity. The balance, viz. upto 50% of the foreign direct investment, may be inducted through transfer of existing equity.
- (vi) Permission would be conditional on at least 3/4th of the Directors on the Board of Directors of the New Entity and all key executives and editorial staff being resident Indians.

#### **B. Facsimile Editions of foreign newspapers:**

- (i) Any Indian entity, with or without foreign investment, desirous of publishing a facsimile edition of a foreign newspaper, or any foreign company owning the original foreign newspaper will be permitted to publish the facsimile edition of its newspaper, in whole or in part(s), provided:
  - (a) It is incorporated and registered as a company with the Registrar of Companies under the provision of the Companies Act, 1956.
  - (b) It has a commercial presence in India with its principal place of business in India.
  - (c) That at least 3/4th of the directors on the Board of Directors of the New Entity and all key executives and editorial staff are resident Indians.
- (ii) Any entity publishing a facsimile edition of a foreign newspaper in India shall be subject to all the relevant laws and guidelines applicable to Indian newspapers and their publishers.

#### **4. Basic Conditions/Obligations:**

- (i) Subject to the ceiling prescribed, it will be obligatory on the part of the all Entities to inform Ministry of Information and Broadcasting about any alteration in the foreign shareholding pattern as on 31st March of every year and within 15 days of the end of the financial year.
- (ii) It will be obligatory on the part of the all entities to take prior permission from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting before effecting any change in the shareholding of the largest Indian shareholder indicated in clause 3A (iii) above.
- (iii) All entities shall inform Ministry of Information and Broadcasting within 15 days of effecting any change in the composition of its Board of Directors or key executives and editorial staff. Such a change would be subject to post-facto approval of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- (iv) All entities shall obtain prior clearance of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of any foreigners/NRIs proposed to be employed/engaged in the New Entity either as consultants (or in any other capacity) for more than 60 days in a year, or as regular employees.
- (v) Facsimile editions shall be permitted subject to the following conditions:
  - (a) The original foreign newspaper, whose facsimile edition is proposed to be brought out in India, is being published with the approval of the regulatory authority of the country of origin and is a standard publication in that country and is not specially designed for Indian readers.
  - (b) The facsimile edition shall not carry any advertisements aimed at Indian readers in any form.
  - (c) The facsimile edition shall not carry any locally generated content/India specific con-

tent, which is not simultaneously published in the original edition of foreign newspaper.

- (d) Prior permission from Ministry of I&B is obtained for publication of facsimile editions and the title got registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI).
- (e) The publication shall clearly indicate that it is a facsimile edition, in whole or in part(s), and shall prominently carry the masthead, the editorial page and the place of publication of the original foreign newspaper.

## 5. Processing of Applications

- (i) All new applications for foreign investments in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs and proposals for publishing of facsimile editions of foreign newspapers, shall be processed and decided upon in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the basis of Inter-ministerial consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and other Ministries, as may be required.
- (ii) The applicant entity shall make full disclosure, at the time of application of Shareholders' Agreements and Loan Agreements that are finalized or proposed to be entered into. Any subsequent change in these shall be disclosed to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting within fifteen days of such a change.
- (iii) The applicant entity shall frame its Articles/Memorandum of Association to ensure compliance with the prescribed eligibility criteria.
- (iv) All entities shall obtain prior clearance from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of all persons not being resident Indians who are proposed to be inducted in the Board of Directors of the New Entity.
- (v) If the applicant company, which has obtained permission for limited foreign investment, pro-

poses to raise the limit within the caps, from investors other than those for whom permission for foreign investment has been granted, it will have to apply in the prescribed Application Form.

- (vi) Applicant companies, which have been granted permission for limited foreign investment and which seek further foreign investment from the same investor within overall ceiling need not re-apply in the prescribed Application Form, provided they seek enhancement of their foreign investment within 5 (five) years of grant of initial permission and provided there is no change in the Board of Directors or terms of Agreement.
- (vii) Applicant Companies seeking further funding from the same investors after 5 (five) years from grant of previous permission would also need to apply in the prescribed Application Form.
- (viii) All applications for publishing facsimile editions shall clearly indicate whether the facsimile edition is to be published in whole or in part. In case only a part of the original foreign newspaper is proposed to be published, each page shall be treated as one part, and the exact page numbers of the original foreign newspaper to be published, shall be clearly indicated.

### Statement-II

#### Guidelines for

- (i) Publication of Indian Editions of Foreign Technical/Scientific/Speciality Magazines/Journals/Periodicals; and
- (ii) Foreign Investment in Indian Entities Publishing Scientific/Technical/Speciality/Magazines/Journals/Periodicals

### Preamble

The Union Government has decided to allow:

- (i) Publication of Indian editions of foreign scien-

tific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals; and

- (ii) foreign investment upto 100% in Indian entities publishing scientific/technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals.

### 1. Application

- (i) An application shall be made to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the prescribed format to determine the nature of contents of the publication
- (ii) Application fee of Rs.5000/- (Rupees Five thousand only) shall have to be deposited through a Demand Draft in favour of the Pay and Accounts Officer, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, payable at New Delhi.

### 2. Processing

- (i) The application shall be processed by the Ministry of I&B, after due inter-Ministerial consultations, to decide whether the proposed publication is covered under the category of scientific, technical or speciality magazine/periodical/journal. Representatives of the concerned Ministries/specialist bodies and language experts, as found necessary will be associated in this task. In appropriate cases, the Ministry of I&B will issue:
  - (a) An approval, subject to compliance with the provisions of the Press and Registration of Books Act and Rules made thereunder for publication of the foreign journal; or
  - (b) A No Objection Certificate (NOC) for foreign investment, a copy of which would be sent to RNI/SIA/RBI and the applicant.
- (ii) Determination of category assigned to the publication(s) is liable for review by the Ministry of I&B if the contents of the publication(s) undergo change at a later date.

- (iii) (a) In cases where both FDI and FII investment is envisaged, the applicant may approach the FIPB./RBI for clearance after obtaining the No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of I&B.
- (b) In cases involving only portfolio investment, the applicant may approach the Reserve Bank of India, for further clearance, if any, after obtaining the No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of I&B.
- (c) The Ministry of I&B will keep the Secretariat for industrial Assistance and the Reserve Bank of India informed of the FDI projected by the Company and the balance permissible foreign investment on the portfolio investment route, while communicating the No Objection.

### 3. Title of the Publication

Title verification shall continue to be done by the Press Registrar as per existing procedure.

### 4. Foreign Investment

- (i) Total foreign investment upto 100% may be allowed. Guidelines of the Ministry of Finance on FDI and portfolio investment would apply.
- (ii) All cases involving Foreign Investment shall be handled by the prescribed agencies, viz. FDI on the Government approval route through the mechanism of the FIPB and portfolio investment by the RBI.

### Effects of Pollution

\*212. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

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



(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey in regard to ill effects of rising pollution on human life due to industrial/chemical plants and mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of pollution spread by heavy industries/chemical plants;

(d) the effective measures taken so far by the Government to control increasing pollution in the country;

(e) the percentage of shortfall in pollution noticed through the present measures; and

(f) the measures initiated/proposed to meet the inadequacies?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Studies on burden of morbidity have been carried out in some urban and industrial areas by various institutions. The salient findings included higher incidence of respiratory diseases besides some other ailments amongst the population living in polluted/urban areas in comparison to the rural areas/control group. Whether such higher incidence of morbidity is due to industrial/chemical/mining activity, or due to other sources of health risk in urban areas, cannot be definitely established.

(c) The percentage of pollution load contributed by various industries is as under:-

— Air polluting industries in terms of particulate matter load:

Thermal Power Plants	—	80%
Sugar	—	10%
Cement	—	07%
Others	—	03%

— Air polluting industries in terms of sulphur dioxide emissions:

Thermal Power Plants — 89%

Steel Plants — 05%

Oil Refineries — 03%

Sulphuric Acid Plants — 02%

Others — 01%

— Water pollution load contributed by various industries in terms of bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD):

Distilleries — 28%

Textiles — 26%

Engineering — 15%

Paper and Pulp — 09%

Others — 22%

(d) The measures taken to control pollution include the following:—

— Comprehensive policy for environment and abatement of pollution;

— Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of developmental projects;

— Out of 2672 highly polluting industries identified under 17 categories, 1963 have provided necessary pollution control facilities, 329 are closed and action has been taken against 380 defaulters;

— Critically polluted areas have been identified and action plans have been prepared for abatement of pollution;

— A procedure for mandatory public hearing has been introduced w.e.f. 10.4.1997 as a pre-requisite for consideration of projects for environmental clearance;

- Promotion of cleaner technologies;
- Installation of common effluent treatment plants (CETPs);

(e) As a result of various measures taken, the industrial air pollution load in terms of particulate matter has reduced from 3 lakh tonnes per day to 5400 tonnes per day and industrial water pollution load in terms of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) has come down from 9500 tonnes per day to 1700 tonnes per day.

(f) The measures initiated/envisaged to control pollution include the following:-

- Strengthening of the net-work of air and water quality monitoring stations;
- Assessment of pollution load and source apportionment studies;
- Implementation of Charter on the Corporate Responsibility on Environmental Protection (CREP) for specified industries.

[English]

#### Consumer Awareness

\*213. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a majority of the consumers in the country are not aware of the provisions of Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, whether the awareness campaign launched by the Government through the electronic and print media has also failed to achieve its objectives;

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

(d) whether the Bagla Committee had recommended sanction of additional posts in the State Commissions in view of the increasing work load;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Department of Consumer Affairs has been undertaking a systematic and sustained multimedia campaign throughout the country to educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities and also to disseminate various consumer related information. The growing awareness of consumers in the country regarding the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 can be seen from the fact that since the establishment of the three-tier consumer disputes redressal machinery, more than 26 lac cases have been filed in these fora. Further, increasing number of complaints received from consumers through the National consumer Helpline (NCH), set up to provide telephonic guidance/counselling as well as the Consumer Online Resource and Empowerment Centre (CORE), set up to provide online counselling and assistance and their geographical and sectoral spread also bear evidence to the increasing level of consumer awareness in the country. However, raising the level of consumer awareness in a country is an on-going process requiring persistent efforts on a sustained basis.

(d) to (f) The Bagla Committee gave recommendations regarding staffing pattern for the three-tier Consumer Fora taking into account the existing workload and also the anticipated workload in years to come. Since the State Governments are statutorily responsible for the setting up and functioning of the State Commissions and District Fora, the report was circulated for their consideration. The staffing pattern of the State Commission and the District Fora is decided by the concerned State Government in accordance with its policy guidelines and availability of budgetary resources.

[Translation]

#### Obscenity and Vulgarity in Newspapers

\*214. SHRI SITARAM SINGH :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the obscenity and vulgarity in mass media is increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also issued directions to check the increasing obscenity in the newspapers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide more penal powers to the Press Council to remedy the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) Instances of obscenity and vulgarity in media have been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) No formal directions have been received from the Supreme Court.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The proposal to provide more penal powers to the Press Council of India is under consideration in the Ministry.

#### **New Forest Policy**

\*215. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements made under the forest policy, 1988;

(b) whether the policy has failed to meet its objectives;

(c) if so, the factors attributed thereto;

(d) whether the Government has since prepared the draft of new forests Policy;

(e) if so, the present status thereof; and

(f) the time by which the new policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The achievements of National Forest Policy, 1988, *inter alia*, are as follows:

(i) Increase in the forest and tree cover.

(ii) Involvement of local communities in the protection, conservation and management of forest through Joint Forest Management Programme.

(iii) Meeting the requirement of fuel wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations.

(iv) Enhancing the livelihood opportunities of forest dependent communities by assigning the rights of minor forest produce.

(v) Conservation of Biological Diversity and Genetic Resources of the country through ex-situ and in-situ conservation measures.

(vi) Significant contribution in maintenance of environment and ecological stability in the country.

(b) and (c) The National Forest Policy, 1988 outlines the importance of supply of adequate fuel wood and fodder to the rural and tribal population, soil and water conservation and achieving 33% forest and tree cover in the country etc. The following constraints are faced in the implementation of national forest Policy:

(i) Increased biotic pressure including grazing and fire.

(ii) Inadequate financial resources.

(iii) Inadequate human resources for the protection of forests.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise. The National Forest Commission has also recommended to continue with the National Forest Policy, 1988.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **National Programme on Organic Farming**

\*216. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG PATIL :  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has introduced National Programme for Organic Production to promote organic farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the achievements made so far under this programme;

(c) the recommendations made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to the Government for protection of soil fertility; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The National Programme for Organic Farming was initiated to promote organic production.

(b) A new central sector scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" (NPOF) has been taken up as a pilot project for production, promotion and market development of organic farming in the country with an outlay of Rs. 57.05 crore during 10th Plan period. The main components of the scheme are:-

- (i) Capacity building through service provider.
- (ii) Setting up of organic input units of fruit/vegetable waste compost/bio-fertilizer/vermiculture hatcheries.
- (iii) Training programmes and field demonstrations.

(iv) Market development and promotion of organic farming.

In addition, the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) being implemented by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Ministry of Commerce and Industry includes the following programme:-

- (i) Framing the National Standards for Organic Production and Certification Scheme.
- (ii) Laying down procedures for export of certified organic products.
- (iii) Accreditation of certifying agencies.
- (iv) Updation of NPOP document.
- (v) Introduction of Group Certification, awareness programme through training.

The major achievements made under the National Programme for Organic Production are given below:-

- (i) The export of organic products has increased from Rs. 50.00 crore in 2000-01 to Rs. 95.00 crore in 2004-05.
- (ii) To improve the trade with European Union (EU), an equivalency agreement has been established for acceptance of National Standards by EU Commission and the same has been notified by the EU Commission on 28.06.2006.
- (iii) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has accepted the conformatory assessment system of NPOP for accreditation of certification bodies. USDA has notified their acceptance on 16.02.2006.
- (iv) APEDA has provided training to a number of organizations to develop them as Certification Bodies. As a result, five such domestic organizations have been accredited. This has contributed to reduction in cost of certification.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been carrying out multi-location, long term field experimentation under diverse agro-ecological regions and cropping system. Based on these experimentations, ICAR has been advocating the following multi-pronged strategy for protection of soil fertility:-

- (i) Integrated use of locally available organic manure like Farm Yard Manure, Composts, Poultry Manure, Green Manure, Crop Residues etc.
- (ii) Cultivation of legumes, cover crops and folder crops as green manures.
- (iii) Use of Microbial cultures for enhancing fixation of atmospheric nitrogen and solubilization of phosphorous in soil.
- (iv) Balanced use of all the essential soil nutrients based on soil tests and crop requirement.

(d) Based on the recommendations of the ICAR, the Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which includes soil test based judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manure and bio-fertilizers.

[English]

#### Production/Export of Iron Ore

\*217. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :  
DR. K. DHANARAJU :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the total deposits of iron ore in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether it is sufficient to meet the steel vision projected in the new steel policy;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to completely ban the export of iron ore;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the number of agreements made during the last three years for export of iron ore with different countries, country-wise;

(g) the total requirement/consumption of iron ore in the country as compared to the quantity being exported;

(h) whether the Government proposes to introduce price control mechanism for iron ore and steel in view of their limited availability;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The total deposits of total iron ore (haematite and magnetite) in the country, State-wise as on 1.4.2000 as indicated in Indian Minerals Year Book '2005 published by Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) In view of sufficient reserves position of iron ore, there is no proposal to completely ban the export of iron ore at present.

(f) Three agreements were signed as per enclosed statement-II.

(g) The position for the last five years is as follows:-

(Quantity in Million tonnes)

Year	Domestic consumption	Export
1	2	3
2001-02	41.36	41.64
2002-03	49.98	48.47
2003-04	51.62	62.57

1	2	3
2004-05 (Provisional)	54.00	78.14
2005-06 (Provisional)	58.00	89.27

(h) to (j) The prices of iron ore as well as steel are deregulated and are governed by market forces. There is no proposal for introducing price control mechanism.

**Statement-I**

**Statewise Reserves/Resources as on 1.4.2000**

(Qty. in million tonnes)

State	Reserves		Remaining Resources		Total		Total (Haematite + Magnetite)
	Haematite	Magnetite	Haematite	Magnetite	Total Haematite	Total Magnetite	
Jharkhand	2544.78	2.98	499.68	6.93	3044.46	9.91	3054.37
Orissa	1822.31	—	1967.08	—	3789.39	—	3789.39
Chhattisgarh	664.59	—	1455.44	—	2120.03	—	2120.03
Karnataka	527.97	220.50	620.35	7663.35	1148.32	7883.85	9032.17
Goa Region	397.51	62.83	244.60	152.72	642.11	215.55	857.66
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	481.88	—	481.88	481.88
Andhra Pradesh	15.493	—	124.523	1463.54	140.016	1463.54	1603.556
Rajasthan	2.016	.047	17.426	522.55	19.442	522.60	542.042
Others	50.341	0.202	471.676	104.68	522.012	104.881	626.892
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6025.01</b>	<b>286.559</b>	<b>5400.775</b>	<b>10395.65</b>	<b>11425.78</b>	<b>10682.21</b>	<b>22107.99</b>

[Source: Indian Mineral Year Book, 2005 published by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)].

\* Reserves refer to proved and probable resources.

**Proved:** Iron ore deposits have been proved by way of pitting, drenching and drilling. Metallurgical and ore dressing test by drawing bulk sample is also done. Thereafter we get to know the surface limit and bottom of the pit-up to which iron ore can be mined.

**Probable:** No exploration work has been done or if at all, it has been done on wider exploration grid.

\* Remaining Resources includes feasible, pre-feasible measured, indicated, inferred.

**Statement-II**

No Long term agreements (LTA) were signed during the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06

LTA signed in 2006-07 are as follows:-

S. No.	Country	Period	Duration of LTA
1.	Japan (5 Steel Mills)	May, 2006	Financial Year FY 2006-10
2.	South Korea (1 Steel Mill)	June, 2006	FY 2006-10
3.	China (1 Steel Mill)	July, 2006	FY 2006-10

[Translation]

**Irregularities in Wheat Import**

\*218. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :  
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE :

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

(a) whether the Multi National Companies (MNCs) and private entrepreneurs procured huge quantities of wheat due to delay in declaration of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and lower MSP offered by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the wheat has been imported at a price higher than the market price;

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

(d) whether any subsidy was paid for the import of said wheat;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the imported wheat is proposed to be distributed at the currently prevailing prices under Public Distribution System; and

(g) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) The Minimum Support Price of Rs. 650 per quintal for wheat was announced on 10.10.2005. Keeping in view the low trend in procurement of wheat, an incentive bonus of Rs.50 per quintal was announced on 21st April 2006. There has been more active participation by private traders, including Multi National Companies (MNCs), in the purchase of wheat during the Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07.

(b) and (c) It was decided to import wheat to meet the deficit in the stocks of wheat in the Central Pool in relation to the buffer norm and the requirement of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes through imports. Three tenders have been finalized by the State Trading Corporation (STC) for the import of wheat. The weighted average accepted tender rates are as under:-

	1st Tender	2nd Tender	3rd Tender
Date of issue of tender	10.02.06	08.05.06	12.06.06
Quantity (lakh tonnes)	5	8	22
Weighted averaged contract price (C&F-FO) Rs./Tonne)	7981	8804	9101

These prices were lower than the wholesale prices of wheat in most of the States in the country in the relevant period.

(d) and (e) The import of wheat will be financed, as in the case of domestic procurement, through cash credit limit borrowing from the banking system. The difference between the economic cost of the imported wheat and the sales realization at the time of issue under the TPDS and other welfare schemes will be released to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as food subsidy.

(f) and (g) Imported wheat is being issued under the TPDS at the existing Central Issue Prices (CIPs), which are as under:-

(Rs./per quintal)	
Category	Wheat
APL	610
BPL	415
AAY	200

[English]

#### Census on Bengal Tigers

\*219. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and the Forest Department have conducted separate Census on Royal Bengal Tigers of Sundarbans;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of the census conducted by both;

(c) whether there is a great variation between the census conducted by ISI showing figures of only 65 tigers and the forest department showing figures of 251 tigers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the methodology adopted by ISI and the Government of India in conducting the census on Tigers of Sundarbans; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for protecting the Royal Bengal Tigers of Sundarbans?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) As reported by the State, the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) has not conducted any census of tiger in the Sundarban Tiger Reserve. The State Forest Department alone has carried out Phase-I of the

refined methodology of estimating tigers, co-predators, prey animals and evaluation of their habitat, evolved through collaborative research work between Project Tiger (Ministry of Environment and Forests) and the Wildlife Institute of India, Which has been approved by the Tiger Task Force.

(e) The refined methodology of estimating tigers involves sampling and estimation of tiger density in different strata using a combination of methods, i.e. camera trap, digital photography of pugmarks to fix identities by a computer based recognition technique based on a mark-capture statistical framework and correlation with other data, eg. physical signs of tiger presence, prey-base, apart from DNA characterization of scats at places. The methodology has been approved by the Tiger Task Force constituted by National Board for Wildlife. The process is underway and its phase-I alone has been completed. The State has informed that the ISI is yet to develop its software fully for carrying out pugmark analysis for tiger estimation.

(f) Steps taken by Government of India for conservation of wild animals including Tigers is given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

Steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of tigers and other wildlife are as under:

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest degree of protection.
- (iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment in cases of offences has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture



of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

- (iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.
- (vi) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States of providing effective protection to wild animals.
- (vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16 was adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life under the chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.
- (viii) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.
- (ix) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.
- (x) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
- (xi) Action has been taken for implementing the urgent recommendation of Tiger Task Force and creation of Tiger and Other Endangered

Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau).

### **National Water Policy**

\*220. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Water Policy has failed to regulate surface and ground water resources in the country;

(b) if so, whether certain drawbacks in the Policy have been identified;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to revise the National Water Policy to make it realistic and more acceptable for implementation by the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) The National Water Policy, 2002 (NWP) was adopted by the National Water Resources Council on 1st April, 2002. The NWP addresses the various issues related to development and management of both surface and ground water resources. Observations/views of a number of people have been received in respect of NWP from time to time and they have been duly examined by the Ministry of Water Resources. The examination of these views did not call for immediate need for revamping the National Water Policy. However, the NWP states that it may be revised periodically as and when need arises.

The NWP clearly states that its success will depend entirely on evolving and maintaining a national consensus and commitment to its underlying principles and objectives. For achieving the desired objectives, the NWP stipulates formulation of State Water Policy backed with an operational action plan in a time bound manner.

### **Working conditions in Assam Forests**

1520. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam has submitted any proposal for improving the working conditions in Assam forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For the current financial year, Government of Assam has submitted a proposal for Rs.600 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Forest Protection Scheme. So far, under the said scheme a sum of Rs. 9.766 crore has been released during the Xth Plan. Release of funds against the current year's proposal will be considered only after the State Government substantially utilizes the central assistance of Rs. 150.27 lakhs released to the State in July, 2006 as IInd installment of Annual Work Programme 2005-06.

#### Gene Revolution

1521. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether gene recombination technology has a potential in eradicating poverty in the country in near future; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction to achieve gene revolution in India?

THE MINISTER OF 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) There is every possibility of developing new plant varieties by putting together the characteristics of many wild and cultivated varieties into a new elite cultivar. This is possible through the process of molecular breeding facilitated by marker assisted selection in a breeding programme. The marker assisted selection is a preferred

tool now a days by plant breeders as it is more efficient and saves a lot of time and energy in identifying and developing improved plant varieties. By this process, varieties can be developed with high yield and with resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses. Consequently, these tools have a potential in eradicating poverty in the country in near future.

To achieve gene revolution, development of genetically modified (GM) crops is underway with improved characteristics. Suitable genes have been isolated and gene constructs prepared. Functional genetic transformation protocols have been developed in different crops.

The work is in progress on developing GM crops, such as cotton, rice, sorghum, maize, chickpea, pigeon pea, mustard, tomato and brinjal for resistance to insect-pests, fungal and bacterial diseases. Resistance to virus diseases is being incorporated in cotton, soyabean, mungbean, tomato, potato, banana, papaya and cassava. Transgenic development is also under progress for abiotic stress resistance in rice, wheat, mustard and tomato. Efforts are in progress for developing transgenic mustard with improve heterosis for hybrid seed production. The various transgenics are at different stages of testing.

Some of the transgenics such as cotton, rice, brinjal for insect resistance, potato with improved protein quality, tomato for virus and drought/salinity resistance and mustard with improved tolerance to salinity and drought stresses are undergoing field trials with Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) approval.

#### Losses due to Bt. Cotton

1522. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers of Karnataka who raised Bt. Cotton during 2005-06 suffered a huge loss according to study done by a group of Non-Governmental Organizations in the States;

(b) if so, whether the Government has considered their reports;

(c) if so, the main findings of the report and the steps being taken to help the Karnataka farmers who have incurred such losses; and

(d) the compensation provided to Karnataka farmers 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) It has been reported by Government of Karnataka that no such reports/findings have been received from any Non-Governmental Organization.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Afforestation Target for NCR

1523. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any target for afforestation of 14 per cent land was set for National Capital Region; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests does not fix the tree planting targets for the National Capital Region as such. However, tree planting targets under item numbers 16A and 16B of the Twenty-Point Programme-1986 are fixed for the States and Union Territories on annual basis. The targets and achievements of tree plantation during the year 2005-06 for Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh is given in the enclosed statement. The Forest and Tree Cover of these States as per State of Forest Report 2003 prepared by Forest Survey of India is given below.

State	Forest and Tree Cover	
	Area (in Sq. Kms.)	As percent of Geographical Area
Delhi	268	18.08
Haryana	2,932	6.63
Rajasthan	24,464	7.15
Uttar Pradesh	21,833	9.06

#### Statement

#### Progress of Tree Plantation under the Twenty-Point Programme-1986

State/UT	Target 2005-06		Achievement 2005-06	
	Item 16A Tree Plantation on Private Lands (No. of trees in lakhs)	Item 16B Area Covered (under Plantation) Public and Forest Lands (ha.)	Item 16A Tree Plantation on Private Lands (No. of trees in lakhs)	Item 16B Area Covered (under Plantation) Public and Forest Lands (ha.)
1	2	3	4	5
Delhi	10	0	10.17	0
Haryana	375	26000	293.19	18648

1	2	3	4	5
Rajasthan	80	45000	121.1	59906
Uttar Pradesh	2500	100000	2702.00	40653

**Assistance for Co-operative Societies**

1524. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding financial assistance granted in favour of co-operative societies in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the details regarding the terms and conditions laid down therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Financial assistance released by National Cooperative

Development Corporation (NCDC) to the Cooperative Societies in Madhya Pradesh under central sector/centrally sponsored schemes and corporation sponsored schemes during the last three years are as follows:-

	(Rs. in lakhs)
2003-04	4102.24
2004-05	7410.94
2005-06	11793.33

Cooperative Society-wise and project-wise details of funds released by NCDC in Madhya Pradesh along with details of terms and conditions on which assistance was released during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are placed at given in statements-I, II and III respectively.

**Statement-I**

*Details of assistance released by NCDC to Cooperative Societies in Madhya Pradesh during 2003-04*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Cooperative Society	Loan	Subsidy	Total	Terms and Conditions	
					Rate of Interest	Period of loan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>A. Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes</b>						
1.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Rajgarh	262.25	25.58	287.83	10.50%	8 years
2.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Jabalpur	246.27	4.58	250.85	10.50%	8 years

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Chhindwara	134.00	11.83	145.82	10.50%	10 years
4.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Bhind	191.00	7.26	198.26	10.50%	8 years
5.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Ratlam	262.50	2.66	265.16	10.50%	8 years
6.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Sidhi	176.90	20.92	197.82	10.50%	10 years
7.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Guna	0.00	8.00	8.00	NA	NA
8.	Sahakari Sheetgrah Sanstha Mydt., Rau – Godown	0.00	4.99	4.99	NA	NA
9.	Maa Chamunda Sheetgrah Sahakari Sanstha Mydt., Dewas – Cold Storage	0.00	24.00	24.00	NA	NA
Total (A)		1272.92	109.81	1382.73		
<b>B. Corporation Sponsored Schemes</b>						
1.	MP State Minor Forest Produce Coop. Federation – Working Capital Loan	2500.00	0.00	2500.00	10.00%	1 year
2.	MP State Minor Forest Produce Coop. Federation – Godown	7.38	0.00	7.38	10.50%	8 years
3.	Sah. Sheetgarh Sanstha Mydt., Rau – Godown	9.99	0.00	9.99	11.00%	8 years
4.	Jawahar Nehru Sah. Agri. Produce Society Ltd. Khargone – Modernisation of Spinning Mills	159.65	0.00	159.65	11.00%	8 years
5.	Maa Chamunda Sheetgrah Sah. Sanstha Mydt., Dewas – Cold Storage	42.50	0.00	42.50	9.00%	10 years
Total (B)		2719.51	0.00	2719.51		
Grand Total (A+B)		3992.43	109.81	4102.24		

**Statement-II***Details of assistance released by NCDC to Cooperative Societies in Madhya Pradesh during 2004-05*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Cooperative Society	Loan	Subsidy	Total	Terms and Conditions	
					Rate of Interest	Period of loan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>A. Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes</b>						
1.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Chhindwara	0.00	4.33	4.33	NA	NA
2.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Rajgarh	220.75	15.00	235.75	8.50%	8 years
3.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Jabalpur	250.00	25.00	275.00	8.50%	8 years
4.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Bhind	175.00	41.00	216.00	8.50%	8 years
5.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Ratlam	343.00	60.50	403.50	8.50%	8 years
6.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Chhindwara	83.02	7.82	90.84	8.50%	8 years
7.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Guna	0.00	7.00	7.00	NA	NA
8.	Sahakari Sheet Grah Sanstha Mydt., Indore – Godown	0.00	3.50	3.50	10.50%	5 years
Total (A)		1071.77	164.14	1235.91		
<b>B. Corporation Sponsored Schemes</b>						
1.	Sah. Sheetgrah Sanstha Mydt., Rau Working Capital Loan	50.00	0.00	50.00	9.50%	1 year
2.	MP State Minor Forest Produce Ltd.– Working Capital Loan	2500.00	0.00	2500.00	8.00%	1 year

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	MP State Minor Forest Produce Ltd.— Working Capital Loan	2500.00	0.00	2500.00	7.50%	1 year
4.	Jawaharlal Nehru Sah. Agri. Produce Procg Society Ltd. – Working Capital Loan	1100.00	0.00	1100.00	0.090%	1 year
5.	Sah. Sheet grah Sanstha Mydt., Indore – Godown	7.00	0.00	7.00	10.50%	5 years
6.	Sah. Sheet grah Sanstha Mydt., Indore – Cold Storage	18.03	0.00	18.03	10.50%	8 years
Total (B)		6175.03	0.00	6175.03		
Grand Total (A+B)		7246.80	164.14	7410.94		

**Statement-III***Details of assistance released by NCDC to Cooperative Societies in Madhya Pradesh during 2005-06*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Cooperative Society	Loan	Subsidy	Total	Terms and Conditions	
					Rate of Interest	Period of loan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>A. Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes</b>						
1.	M.P. State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. – Godown	0.00	21.50	21.50	NA	NA
2.	Naval Singh Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana— Godown	0.00	11.09	11.09	NA	NA
3.	M.P. State Minor Forest Produce Coop. Federation – Margin Money	1600.00	400.00	2000.00	10.00%	5 years
4.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Rajgarh	350.00	35.00	385.00	8.50%	8 years
5.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Ratlam	75.00	0.00	75.00	8.50%	8 years

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Integrated Cooperative Development Projects – Bhind	300.00	0.00	300.00	8.50%	8 years
7.	Sahakari Sheetgrah Sanstha Ltd., Indore – Cold Storage	0.00	11.50	11.50	NA	NA
8.	Jawaharlal Nehru Agri. Produce Procg. Society – TUFS Inttt. Subsidy	0.00	6.60	6.60	NA	NA
Total (A)		2325.00	485.69	2810.69		
<b>B. Corporation Sponsored Schemes</b>						
1.	MP State Minor Forest Produce Coop. Federation – Working Capital Loan	5000.00	0.00	5000.00	7.00%	1 year
2.	Jawaharlal Nehru Agri. Produce Procg. Society – Working Capital Loan	1400.00	0.00	1400.00	9.00%	1 year
3.	Sahakari Sheetgrah Sanstha Ltd., Indore – Cold Storage	4.97	0.00	4.97	10.50%	8 years
4.	M.P. State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. – Godown	43.00	0.00	43.00	10.50%	5 years
5.	Naval Singh Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana– Godown	22.20	0.00	22.20	10.50%	5 years
6.	Swaping of outstanding Government loan with lower rate of interest	2512.47	0.00	2512.47	8.50%	1-4 years
Total (B)		8982.64	0.00	8982.64		
Grand Total (A+B)		11307.64	485.69	11793.33		

**Environmental Clearance to Pollavaram Project**

1525. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has raised objections to the environmental clearance accorded to the Pollavaram Project of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Government of Orissa has raised objection against the submergence of areas in Orissa envisaged under the project.



(c) The objection of Government of Orissa has been referred to Government of Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Expenditure on Zoological Parks**

1526. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of zoological parks in different States and expenditure incurred in each of them during the last three years.

(b) the state of their management as on date;

(c) whether the Government proposes to invite private sector to participate in creating research facilities in zoological parks and upgrade them to international standards for the benefit of animals and the visitors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) There are 206 large, medium, small, mini, rescue centres and circuses which have been recognized as zoos under Section 38H of the Wild Life (Protection) Act in the country. The zoos are under the administrative control of the State Government, Trust, Municipal Corporation and Private persons and the expenditure on their maintenance is being incurred by the respective Zoo Operators. The Government of India is only maintaining the National Zoological Park at Delhi and the expenditure incurred during last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No zoo has complied with all the prescribed standards and norms under the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992, and therefore the zoos in the country have been granted conditional recognition on the basis of progress made in compliance of the Rules.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

*Expenditure details of National Zoological Park, Delhi between 2003 to 2006*

S. Year No.	Plan expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)	Non-plan expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1. 2003-2004	214.88	317.13
2. 2004-2005	50.25	338.11
3. 2005-2006	89.00	328.67

#### **Promotion of Onion Cultivation**

1527. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to export onion in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the quantity of onion exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom so far and proposed to be exported during the remaining period of this year;

(c) the estimated yield of onion this year and the area under said cultivation in the country particularly in West Bengal, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to promote onion cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) As per the extant Foreign Trade Policy, onions can be exported after obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Government designated State Trading Enterprises (STEs).

(b) As per the available data, approximately 3.32

lakh MTs of onions have been exported during the year 2006-07 (upto 31.07.2006) valued approximately at Rs.300 crores. No targets have been fixed for the remaining year.

(c) The yield of onion in 2005-06 was about 13.274 tonnes per hectare. The State-wise area, production and productivity of onion during 2005-06, is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Under the National Horticulture Mission, Government supports onion seed infrastructure; production of seed in the public and private sectors; and low cost storage facilities . Schemes such as the Transport Assistance Scheme and Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojna are implemented to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices for their exports as well as increased access to the international market.

**Statement**

*Statewise Area, Production and Productivity of Onion*

States	Area (in '000 Ha)	Share %	Production (in '000 MT)	Share %	Productivity (in tonnes/ha)
Andhra Pradesh	22.050	4.85	197.000	3.26	8.934
Bihar	24.050	5.29	265.650	4.40	11.046
Gujarat	49.230	10.83	984.750	16.32	20.003
Haryana	13.050	2.87	257.000	4.26	19.693
Karnataka	41.640	9.16	306.600	5.08	7.363
Madhya Pradesh	25.500	5.61	303.800	5.03	11.914
Maharashtra	84.480	18.58	1661.000	27.53	19.661
Orissa	55.500	12.21	473.000	7.84	8.523
Rajasthan	28.350	6.24	380.600	6.31	13.425
Tamil Nadu	24.000	5.28	251.100	4.16	10.463
Uttar Pradesh	53.650	11.80	562.000	9.31	10.475
West Bengal	17.000	3.74	190.000	3.15	11.176
Others	16.100	3.54	201.750	3.34	12.531
All India	454.600	100.00	6034.250	100.00	13.274

Source : NHRDF, Nasik.

**Land under Kharif Cultivation**

1528. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ) :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the area under kharif cultivation, product-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken a serious note of delayed monsoon showers in many parts of the country;

(c) if so, whether many affected States have raised concerns about kharif sowing in their States;

(d) if so, whether the Government has drawn any contingency plans to ease the problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) As per the reports received in the weekly meeting of the Crop Weather Watch Group (CWWG) held on 31st July, 2006 in the Ministry of Agriculture, the crop-wise area coverage in kharif 2006-07 is shown in the table below:

(Lakh Hectares)	
Crop	Area Coverage
1	2
Rice	192.64
Jowar	29.35
Bajra	54.01
Maize	64.10
Total Coarse Cereals	157.11

1	2
Cotton	80.39
Sugarcane	44.45
Arhar	27.54
Urad	16.85
Moong	18.41
Total Pulses	74.89
Groundnut	34.72
Soyabean	73.41
Sunflower	6.47
Sesamum	10.74
Total Oilseeds	129.19

(b) and (c) The Government has taken note of delayed monsoon in some parts of the country. In Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh the quantum of rainfall had been less than the normal, affecting the sowing of some crops.

(d) and (e) Contingency plan arising out of delayed monsoon has been developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and made available on their website. Farmers have been advised to diversify the cropping system and go for alternate crops like sunflower, pearl millet, pigeon pea, cotton and sugarcane.

**Removing of Slaughter Houses**

1529. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals from the Government of Maharashtra regarding removing of slaughter houses are pending with the Union Government for a long time;

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

(c) the details of such slaughter houses whose displacement proposals have been approved; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to dispose of the pending proposals?

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

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

#### Production of Steel

1530. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether steel production is more than the domestic requirement in the country;

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

(c) whether the steel plants have achieved significant increase in the production of steel and its sale during the last two years;

(d) if so, the increase in production and sale achieved during the last two years;

(e) whether steel has been exported to various countries during the said period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) and (b) The domestic requirement for finished (carbon) steel is reflected in the figures of apparent consumption. The production of steel in the country has always been more than the domestic demand. The production and apparent consumption of

finished (carbon) steel in the country during the last three financial years and the current year is given below:-

(in million tonnes)

Year	Production	Apparent Consumption
2003-2004	36.957	31.169
2004-2005	40.055	34.389
2005-2006 (Provisional)	42.737	38.112
2006-2007 (April-June 06) (Provisional)	10.634	08.534

(Source : Joint Plant Committee)

(c) and (d) The production of finished steel in the country grew by 8.4% in 2004-05 and 6.4% (Provisional) in 2005-06. The details of production of saleable steel and domestic sales by main Public Sector undertakings viz. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) during the last two years is given below:-

(in '000' tonnes)

Saleable Steel		2004-05	2005-06
SAIL	Production	11317	12051
	Domestic Sales	11029	11312
RINL	Production	3173	3237
	Domestic Sales	3064	3105

(Source : SAIL and RINL)

(e) and (f) The country-wise details of export of steel during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement****Country-wise Export of Iron and Steel**

(Quantity in tonne and value in Rs. Lakh)

Country	Total Steel (Including Pig Iron and Ferro Alloy)			
	2005-06		2004-05	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5
Australia	46246	17369	30291	13184
Baharain IS	10583	3216	7443	2563
Bangladesh	189826	37938	116394	21199
Belgium	315640	78722	477184	143344
Bhutan	29794	6547	25513	4972
Canada	12645	7964	22630	10775
China PRP	527295	162869	744869	266635
Congo P REP	9000	3355	4947	1974
Djibouti	117884	36530	78128	23696
Ethiopia	2007	682	2098	727
France	22754	8709	52507	17457
German F REP	36987	27527	31755	25629
Ghana	29897	10870	29219	10309
Greece	31401	9906	44496	13867
Hong Kong	60605	27727	48680	20400
Indonesia	277407	74334	200251	56533
Iran	410254	63571	131456	41858
Iraq	381	125	1862	443

	1	2	3	4	5
Italy	181375	56464	358076	115882	
Japan	12861	2227	13218	3958	
Jordan	7563	2293	2393	904	
Kenya	45955	11519	21888	7617	
Korea DP RP	529	294	8364	2298	
Korea RP	1309999	33455	111158	37065	
Kuwait	29402	8837	46859	14297	
Madagascar	9589	3098	5699	1909	
Malaysia	113066	24782	205132	36609	
Mauritius	2078	637	2655	824	
Mayanmar	71550	16406	34485	8131	
Mexico	5718	3620	7699	3567	
Nepal	64100	12801	94380	17895	
Netherland	42656	17148	67752	21624	
Nigeria	58076	19208	35682	11169	
Oman	11343	3956	6789	1944	
Pakistan	26857	11613	10435	5466	
Peru	3706	1784	2636	1316	
Philippines	174640	40121	96965	28648	
Puerto Rica	0	0	66	29	
Saudi Arab	40616	13445	53305	13699	
Singapore	62664	20073	50082	18118	
South Africa	112905	35384	131276	39263	
Spain	87649	25551	269250	81585	

1	2	3	4	5
Sri Lanka	246636	52221	91247	23361
Sudan	30839	9596	14043	4553
Sweden	4060	2630	1695	955
Tanzania Rep	16751	4481	3649	1171
Thailand	186991	36160	151535	33888
Taiwan	38900	12633	91273	30915
Trinidad	7522	2229	5874	1642
Turkey	16359	13241	17300	10990
Uganda	1297	676	1417	548
U Arab Emrts.	300447	90269	217655	72503
U.K.	123630	38139	62510	23514
U.S.A.	644629	216130	820815	297975
Vietnam Soc Rep.	61482	21751	73084	27979
Yemen Republic	12286	3898	10547	3893
Others	317453	107677	180814	78515
<b>Total</b>	<b>5435785</b>	<b>1554408</b>	<b>5429425</b>	<b>1761784</b>

Source : DGCi&S

[Translation]

#### Cattle Diseases

1531. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Governments particularly Gujarat for controlling the cattle diseases;

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

(c) the decision taken by the Government on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) to (c) Government has not received any specific proposal from the State of Gujarat for controlling the cattle diseases. However, proposals for release of funds under the on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely (i) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD), (ii) Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) and (iii) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication (NPRE) have been received. The details of the funds released and revalidated for Gujarat during the last three years and the current financial year is given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

*Details of the funds released and revalidated to Government of Gujarat during the last three years and the current financial year under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely (i) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD), Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) and (iii) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication (NPRE)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
	Revali- dation	Release	Total	Revali- dation	Release	Total	Revali- dation	Release	Total	Revali- dation	Release	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
ASCAD	1.885	246.715	248.800	82.802	439.37	522.172	162.61	293.00	465.61	84.11	200.00	284.11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
FMD-CP	0.000	88.000	88.000	0.000	150.00	150.00	0.00	80.00	80.00	36.80	0.00	36.80
NPRE	12.090	25.000	37.09	10.200	20.00	30.20	8.41	30.00	38.41	19.36	0.00	19.36

[English]

#### Package for Irrigation Project

1532. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh met the Agriculture Minister recently and demanded Rs.70,000 crore special package to deal with agrarian crises in the State including irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government on the demand of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a rehabilitation package for Rs.51856.36 crore for ameliorating the hardship faced by the farmers in 16 identified districts of the State where the incidence of farmers' suicide has been very high, namely, Adilabad, Ananthapur, Chittoor, Kadapa, Guntur Karimnagar, Khammam, Kurnool, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nellore, Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Prakasam, Ranga Reddy, and Warangal. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had a meeting with the Agriculture Minister in this regard. The package, inter alia, includes assistance for developing assured irrigation facilities in these identified districts. The Government is finalizing the package submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on the pattern of the package that has been recently announced for the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

#### Environmental Clearance to Positra Port

1533. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether environmental clearance for Positra Port (Gujarat) is still pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any proposal from Positra Port, Gujarat seeking environmental clearance.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Diversion of Forest Land

1534. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Development Projects in Chhattisgarh where diversion has been made in forest land during the last three years, project-wise; and

(b) the area-wise details of all the projects where compensatory plantation has been done alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) The number of development projects in Chhattisgarh where diversion of forest land has been

permitted during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is stipulated over non-forest land equal in extent or degraded forest land double in extent to the forest land being diverted for non-forestry use. The CA is carried out by the State Government at the project cost and area-wise and project-wise details of CA is maintained by the State Government. So far, since 25.10.1980 the State Government has carried out Compensatory Afforestation over 32,444.356 hectares of land.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of Proposal	Area Diverted (ha)
1	2	3
1.	Widening of NH-16 Pattagudam to Jagdalpur by Bro in District Dantewala	473.42
2.	Construction of Canal in favour of Water Resource Department in District Bastar	0.82
3.	Construction of Narsinghpur Tank in favour of Water Resource Deptt., Mungeli in District Kawardha	13.00
4.	Construction of Ganjiganja Tank Project at Village Gatapar in District Rajnandgaon	14.08
5.	Construction of Mongra Barrage (Irrigation project) in favour of Department of Water Resources in District Rajnandgaon	140.00
6.	Construction of Chandongri Tank in favour of Water Resource Department, Marwahi in District Bilaspur	19.90

1	2	3
7.	Construction of canal at Hardi village in District Raipur	2.759
8.	Sutiapat Medium irrigation project in District Kabirdham	21.27
9.	Putatank Project in District Bilaspur	23.074
10.	Construction of Aurapani Tank Project in favour of Water Resource Department, Pendra Road in District Bilaspur	24.84
11.	Bagnai irrigation project in District Raipur	25.00
12.	Ratga Irrigation Tank Project in favour of irrigation Department in District Korea	3.82
13.	Kannaigudam Tank in District Bastar	33.64
14.	Construction of Gangpur Tank in favour of Water Resource Department in District Bilaspur	33.99
15.	Kamthi Tank Project in District Bilaspur	37.59
16.	Construction of Semraha Minor Irrigation Tank by Irrigation Department in District Bilaspur	39.072
17.	Construction of Cherichapper Irrigation tank in favour of Water Resource Department in District Bilaspur	4.75
18.	Construction of Dam and Canal of Pachni Tank Scheme in District Korea	43.747
19.	Sawla Tank Project in District Sarguja	56.68
20.	Paseeda Tank Project in District Raipur	61.643
21.	Upper Khuji Irrigation Project in District Bilaspur	66.2
22.	Pairi Ghumar Irrigation Project in District Raipur	69.19



1	2	3
23.	Construction of Kharasia Branch Canal under Minimata Hasdeo Bango Project in District Dhamtari	8.53
24.	Karranalla Barrage Project in District Kabirdham	85.698
25.	Belora Tank Minor Irrigation Scheme in District Dhamtari	90.67
26.	Murum Mining under P.M. Gram Sadak Yojana at Village Chipawand in District Bastar	0.4
27.	Stone Mining under PM Gram Sadak Yojana at village Dilmili in District Bastar	0.4
28.	Stone Quarry at village Pipra in favour of executive Engineer, project implementation unit in District Bastar	0.5
29.	Stone Mining under PM Gram Sadak Yojana at village Udiyapal in District Bastar	0.6
30.	Stone Quarry at Village Dihipara in favour of Member Secretary, project implementation unit in District Bastar	0.92
31.	Gitti (Stone) Mining at Village Karathi Alwad under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in District Bastar	1.00
32.	Construction of Gitti Mining lease in favour of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in District Bastar	1.40
33.	Mining Lease for Mayurpani mines of Steel Authority of India (SAIL) in District Durg	100.00
34.	Mining Lease for Pandri Dalli-Rajhara Hill Mines of Bhilai Steel Plant in favour	100.76

1	2	3
	of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in District Durg	
35.	Mining Lease in favour of Shri Jeevan Lal Jain for Mining of Iron ore in village Barbaspur in District Kanker	14.714
36.	Captive Coal Mine Project of Prakash Industries Limited in District Janjgir	188.326
37.	Mining Lease to M/s. SECL in District Raigarh	19.00
38.	Mining Lease for Dalli Rajhara Mines of Bhilai Steel Plant in favour of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) in District Durg	283.6
39.	Renewal of Corundum Mining Lease by Mining Corporation, Bastar in District Bastar	3.70
40.	Opencast Mining in favour of SECL, West Chirmiri in District Korea	30.55
41.	Mining Lease to Jayaswal NECO Ltd. in District Raigarh	419.887
42.	Mining Lease to M/s. Jindal Power Limited in District Raigarh	48.208
43.	Renewal of Mining Lease by M/s. OCL India Ltd. in District Raigarh	9.80
44.	Construction of Solar Light at Urdhana Hills in favour of M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. in District Raigarh	0.64
45.	Construction of Approach Road for Mining in favour of M/S South Eastern Coalfields Limited in District Sarguja	1.04
46.	Construction of Railway siding in favour of MSP Steel and Power Ltd. in District Raigarh	2.023

1	2	3
47.	Railway line from Sipat STPP to Gatora Railway station in favour of NTPC in District Bilaspur	60.00
48.	Kumda New Longwall Project in Vishrampur area for supply of underground water (permission for making Bore Holes) in District Sarguja	83.00
49.	2x(250-300) MW Thermal Power Project in Village Raksikatra, Chirhut, Syahimudi of East Korba in Favour of Chhattisgarh State Development Board in District Korba	111.811
50.	Construction of Dam on River Kurkut for 1000MW Thermal Power Plant by Jindal Power Limited in district Raigarh	177.542
51.	Laying of 11 KV Transmission Line in favour of Monet Ispat Ltd. in District Raigarh	1.26
52.	Laying of 132 KV Electric Line from Gurur-Kanker by CSEB in District Durg	17.82
53.	Additional Land for 765 KV 2 X S/C Sipat – Seoni Transmission Line in District Kabirdham	3.993
54.	400 KV Vindhyachal Korba Transmission Line in District Sarguja	324.432
Total		3,400.709

#### Setting Up of Cement Plant

1535. SHRI GANESH SINGH :

SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to establish cement plants in the country under any joint collaboration;

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

(c) whether any agreement has been reached to establish a cement plant on Babupur Steel Authority Mines at Satna, Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the percentage of share capital fixed under the agreement;

(f) the estimated cost of the Plants proposed; and

(g) the time likely to be taken for setting up such cement plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) to (d) The Government does not have any proposal to establish cement plants in the country under any joint collaboration. However, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Steel has identified M/s. Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. as a strategic partner for producing cement in a Joint Venture at Babupur (Madhya Pradesh) and Bhilai (Chhattisgarh). A letter of indent (LoI) has been issued to them on 26.06.06. The agreements are being firmed-up.

(e) M/s. Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. will have 74% equity, whereas SAIL will hold 26% equity in the proposed Joint Venture.

(f) The Plant is expected to cost around Rs. 600 crores.

(g) The estimated time for setting up of the cement plant would be 37 months, after all necessary clearance.

[English]

#### Revival of Super Bazar

1536. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has prepared a revival plan for Super Bazar at New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps proposed for the withdrawal of liquidation process?

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. However, in compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court given on 28.2.2006, an official Committee constituted by the Supreme Court has submitted a report regarding revival of the Super Bazar in the Supreme Court on 29.3.2006. The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.

#### Rehabilitation of Villages

1537. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some villages on the boundary of Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary in Satara district of Maharashtra are proposed to be rehabilitated;

(b) if so, whether the area of revenue land is being merged into the Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the area of land required for rehabilitation of these villages;

(e) whether land has been identified for rehabilitation of these villages;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether State Government has been told to pay the cost of land required for rehabilitation;

(h) if so, whether the revenue land being merged into the wildlife sanctuary is much more than the area required for rehabilitation; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Yes Sir. As informed by the State Government, 12 villages of Patan and Jawali Talukas in district Satara, located inside the sanctuary are proposed to be rehabilitated.

(b) Yes Sir. After rehabilitation of 12 villages from the Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary, revenue land of these villages will be merged into the Sanctuary.

(c) The details of Revenue/private land to be merged into Sanctuary is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) Approximately land required for rehabilitation of these villages is 1075.79 ha.

(e) and (f) Out of 12 villages, land has been identified for the rehabilitation of 9 villages. Identification of forest land for rehabilitation of remaining three villages i.e. Vele, Deur and Nahimbe-Abeghar-Nahimbe-Shirsinge is under progress.

(g) No Sir. Since land identified for rehabilitation of villages in Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary is forest land, the question of paying the cost of forest land required for rehabilitation does not arise.

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) Details of revenue land to be merged into Sanctuary and land required for rehabilitation is given in the enclosed statement-II.

#### Statement-I

*The details of Revenue / Private land to be merged into Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary*

S. No.	Name of Village	Private Land (in ha.)
1	2	3
1.	Zadoli	130.67

1	2	3
2.	Kisrule	12.28
3.	Punvali	142.66
4.	Dicholi	659.63
5.	Nahimbe-Ambeghar Nahimbe-Shirsinge	56.46
6.	Ravandi	80.13
7.	Adoshi	52.94
8.	Madoshi	73.01
9.	Kusapur	49.25
10.	Khirkhindi	133.00
11.	Vele	226.81
12.	Deur	167.37
Total : 12		1784.19

**Statement-II**

*The details of Revenue land to be merged into Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary and land required for rehabilitation*

(in ha.)

S. No.	Name of Village	Private Land to be merged into PA	Approximate Land required for rehabilitation
1	2	3	4
1.	Zadoli	130.67	207.20
2.	Punvali	142.66	
3.	Kisrule	12.28	196.80
4.	Dicholi	659.63	
5.	Nahimbe-Ambeghar Nahimbe-Shirsinge	56.46	163.60

1	2	3	4
6.	Ravandi	80.13	242.39
7.	Adoshi	52.94	
8.	Madoshi	73.01	
9.	Kusapur	49.25	
10.	Khirkhindi	133.00	
11.	Vele and other	226.81	265.80
12.	Deur	167.37	
Total : 12		1784.19	1075.79

**Fall in Prices of Chilli**

1538. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of chilli recorded in the country particularly in Kamataka during each of the last three years and the rates of procurement, State-wise;

(b) whether chilli prices have fallen steeply in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide reasonable price to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The State-wise production of chillies for the years 2002-03 to 2004-05 including that for Kamataka and all-India is given in the enclosed statement. During the years 2003-04 to 2005-06, procurement of chillies has been done as shown in the table below:

Year	State	Procurement Price (Rs. per Qtl.)	Quantity Procured (Metric Tonnes)
2003-04	Andhra Pradesh	2650	30,000
2004-05	Andhra Pradesh	2700 (Premium Quality) 2500 (Common Quality)	30,000
2005-06	Mizoram	2800	1,250

So far, no proposal from any State Government has been received for procurement of chillies under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) during the current year, i.e., 2006-07.

(b) and (c) Following table shows the average month end wholesale prices of chillies for the years 2003 to 2005 for major producing States/centres:

State and Centre	Average Month end Wholesale Prices (Rs./Quintal)		
	2003	2004	2005
Karnataka Banglore	4310	4728	2606
Andhra Pradesh Guntur	4021	3383	2150
Maharashtra Nagpur	3545	2337	1752
Tamil Nadu Chennai	3879	3421	2342
West Bengal Kolkata	5200	4175	3063

It may be seen from the above table that the average month end wholesale prices of chillies show a declining trend for all the States and centres shown above. The fall in prices during 2005 seems to be due to normal variations in demand and supply of chillies, since production of chillies has fallen only marginally during 2004-05.

(d) Under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), the Government of India, on the request of a State/Union Territory Government undertakes procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities, including chillies. The MIS is implemented in order to protect the growers of these commodities from making distress sale in the event of bumper crop when there is glut in the market and the prices tend to fall below economic levels/cost of production. Procurement under MIS is made by NAFED as Central agency and by the State designated agencies.

#### Statement

#### Production of Chillies

(000' Tonnes)

State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	409	797.0	749.0
Arunachal Pradesh	2.3	2.4	2.6
Assam	10	9.7	9.2
Bihar	2.3	2.2	2.2
Chhattisgarh	5.7	4.2	3.3
Gujarat	10.5	8.4	5.7
Haryana	1.6	1.2	1.2
Himachal Pradesh	0.1	0.1	0.1
Jammu and Kashmir	1	1.0	1.0
Karnataka	153.4	94.5	94.5

1	2	3	4
Kerala	0.8	0.7	0.7
Madhya Pradesh	31.7	38.4	39.6
Maharashtra	53	44.0	44.0
Manipur	6.1	8.0	8.0
Meghalaya	1.2	1.2	2.1
Mizoram	0.9	0.8	0.8
Nagaland	7.9	0.9	0.9
Orissa	62.9	63.2	63.2
Punjab	4.5	4.2	4.2
Rajasthan	15	31.4	31.1
Tamil Nadu	40.6	40.1	44.6
Tripura	2.4	2.3	2.3
Uttar Pradesh	10.8	12.8	1.8
West Bengal	60.5	66.3	61.4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.4	0.7	1.0
All India	894.6	1235.7	1185.5

#### Release of Water to Tamil Nadu

1539. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has refused to release 395 tmc. ft. (thousand million cubic feet) of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu as recommended by the assessors appointed by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to intervene and resolve the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) by an order dated 10th May, 2006 has directed its Registry to make available the reports/notes of Assessors to the party States for comments within five weeks and further comments within three weeks. The party States have filed their comments. The CWDT in its hearing on 10th July, 2006 has taken note of the comments/cross comments filed by the party States and further Order on these comments/cross comments have been reserved by the Tribunal.

(c) and (d) The CWDT was set up in June, 1990 under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD) Act, 1956 (now known as ISRWD Act, 1956). Under the provisions of the Act, the Tribunal after carrying out necessary investigation is required to submit a report to the Central Government setting out the facts as found by it and giving its decision on the matter as referred to it. The Central Government or any State Government may seek further explanation or guidance from the Tribunal on the report and decisions submitted by the Tribunal. The ISRWD Act, does not have any provisions for giving direction by Central Government to the Tribunal for submitting its report and decision in a particular manner.

#### Construction of Major and Minor Dams

1540. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of approvals and financial assistance provided to the State Governments during the current year for construction of major and minor dams, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : The list of major irrigation projects approved during the current year is given below. The State Governments are competent for granting approval to the minor irrigation schemes. As such, the project reports of

minor irrigation schemes are not required to be sent to the Central Government for techno-economic appraisal. Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. This Ministry is providing Central assistance for expeditious completion of approved major/medium/minor irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). So far, no financial assistance for major/minor dams has been provided under AIBP to the State Governments during the current year.

Name of the State	Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of approval
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Puskara Lift Irrigation Scheme	27th June, 2006
	2.	Todipudi Lift Irrigation Scheme	27th June, 2006
Madhya Pradesh	1.	Pench Diversion Project	10th April, 2006

#### **Increase in Procurement Price**

1541. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the procurement prices of wheat, rice, sugar and several other items meant for the distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS) have increased manifold during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether this increase in procurement prices have affected the off-take of these items; and

(c) 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) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Norms for Mineral Water**

1542. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of mineral water produced and sold in the country, during the last three years, State-wise and Brand-wise;

(b) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has laid down specification for the quality of mineral water;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the permissible limits for pesticide contents in mineral water;

(d) whether these norms conform to the European Standards;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to bring them in line with the European Standards?

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) BIS has granted 7 licences to the manufactures of Packaged Natural Mineral Water. State-wise and Brand wise details of the Natural Mineral Water produced during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Bureau of Indian Standards has laid down the specifications for quality of Packages Natural Mineral Water as per IS : 13428 which also specifies limits for pesticide contents therein as 'below detectable limits'.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

**Statement**

State	Name of Licensee	Brand Name	Annual Production		
			2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Gujarat	Sheelpe Enterprises, Ahmedabad	Aava	639560 lts from Oct 05 to March 06	Nil	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	M/s Manwar Mineral Water Company, Basti	Lumbini	Licence granted recently. No production. Installed capacity 5,60,000 lts.	Nil	Nil
Himachal Pradesh	Dharampal Satyapal Limited, Kullu	Catch, Rohtank	56,68,268 lts.	4121195 lts.	3350132 lts.
	G.C. Beverages Pvt. Limited, Solan	Natural Spring, Life Spring	9,88,629 lts.	628485 lts.	253000 lts.
	Adhya Himalayan Water, Solan	Bisleri	Licence granted recently. No production. Marketing yet to be initiated. Installed capacity 1,72,80,000 lts.	Nil	Nil
	Mount Everest Mineral Water Limited, Sirmour	Himalayan	1,32,19,662 lts.	10934828 lts.	6051256 lts.
	Manali Food and Beverages, Kullu	Life	Unit under no production. Installed capacity 9,00,000 lts.	Nil	Nil

[Translation]

**Housing Units for Beedi Workers**

1543. SHRI FURKAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey for the construction of housing units under "Ek Pariwar Ek Awas" scheme being implemented for registered beedi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government is contemplating to bring any proposal in this regard in near future;

(d) if so, whether the said scheme is likely to be implemented in the current financial year; 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) No Sir. There is no such scheme being implemented or under consideration in the name of "Ek Pariwar Ek Awas". A scheme, namely, "Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS) – 2005 for Beedi Workers etc." is being implemented by the Government w.e.f. 25th May, 2005. A Beedi Worker or Ghar Khatta Worker, who is engaged in beedi industry for not less than one year, whose family monthly income does not exceed Rs.6500/- and having a land in his/her name or land allotted by the State Government/Gram Sabha and who has deposited an amount of Rs. 5,000/- as worker's contribution with the District Collector or Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district along with the application form, is eligible to avail financial assistance of Rs. 40,000/- as housing subsidy under the RIHS – 2005.

#### **Adulteration in Imported Wheat**

1544. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has relaxed the permissible limits of weeds and insecticides in the tenders for the import of 22 lakh tonnes of wheat recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the comparative figures regarding the earlier permissible limits and the relaxed norms;

(c) whether the said relaxation violates the instructions of the Plant Quarantine Order, 2006; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the said relaxation?

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

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

#### **Statement**

Sl. No.	Item	Limit before relaxation	Relaxed Norms
1	2	3	4
1.	Quarantine/exotic weed seeds	Wheat shall be free from quarantine weed seeds (as per Schedule VIII of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003, as amended)	Wheat consignment not to contain more than average 100 quarantine weed seeds (as per Schedule VIII of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003, as amended) per 200 Kg. of Samples drawn as per the prescribed procedure.
2.	Argimone mexicana and Lathyrus sativus	Wheat shall be free from Argimone mexicana and Lathyrus sativus	Wheat shall be practically free from Argimone mexicana and Lathyrus sativus and this shall be ensured by the supplier through sieving and other appropriate methods.

1	2	3	4
3.	Tolerance limit (mg/kg. ppm-Max. of insecticides residues		
(i)	Cabaryl	1.5	2.0
(ii)	Fenitrothion	0.02	2.0
(iii)	Hydrogen Phosphide	Nil	0.1 As per CODEX limits.
(iv)	Inorganic Bromide	25.00	50.0
(v)	Phosphamidon	0.05	0.1
(vi)	Dithiocarbamates	0.20	1.0

[English]

**Project under NHM in Gujarat**

1545. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any project regarding Hi-Tech Horticulture under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in Gujarat particularly in Jamnagar, Rajkot and Porbandar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) The Government has received Annual Action Plan for the year 2006-07 for taking up horticulture development programmes in the State of Gujarat under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM). However, the districts of Jamnagar, Rajkot and Porbandar are not covered under NHM.

(c) The Annual Action Plan has been approved by the Executive Committee of NHM for the year 2006-07.

**Production of Wheat in Orissa**

1546. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any efforts has been made by the Government to increase wheat cultivation in Orissa during Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the target set therefor; and

(c) the achievement made thereon 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) to (c) There is no specific scheme running in Orissa for promotion of wheat cultivation as it is predominantly rice growing State. However, wheat is grown in Orissa on small scale. The Government is providing wheat seed and extension support for benefit of wheat growers.

**Modernisation of Public Sector Undertakings**

1547. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernize the Public Sector Undertakings in Pharmaceutical and Fertilizer Sectors for better production and profitability;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the projects surveyed and the process to be modernized; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (c) Two proposals have been received from Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL) Bangalore, and Rajasthan Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL) Jaipur, Joint Ventures of Central Government through Central Pharma PSEs and the respective State Governments, for modernization of their plants and meeting the requirements of international GMP guidelines. The proposal of KAPL involves an expenditure of Rs.22.45 crore. Planning Commission has since granted in principle approval of Rs. 22.45 crore. Planning Commission has since granted in principle approval to the proposal. Similar proposal received from RDPL at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.00 crore is under examination in the Department. There are also proposals to rehabilitate and revive sick Pharma PSUs viz. IDPL and BPCL. Government has already approved rehabilitation scheme of Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL). The cost of rehabilitation scheme of HAL is estimated to be Rs. 508.50 crore. Of this, there would be cash infusion of Rs.137.59 crore. Regarding Fertilizer Public Sector undertakings, new pricing scheme for urea units introduced with effect from 1.4.2003 replacing the erstwhile Retention Price scheme provides an incentive based policy framework which induces urea units including those in public sector to take energy efficiency measures on their own and retain the gains as a result of operational efficiency.

#### **Irrigation Schemes of Tamil Nadu**

1548. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of irrigation schemes approved for Tamil Nadu;

(b) the funds released by the Union and State Governments separately during the last three years and the amount earmarked for the current year, scheme-wise; and

(c) the number of schemes which are completed within the stipulated time and the number of schemes which are yet to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The Union Government has not received propoosals for major/medium irrigation projects for approval under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) 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" assistance has been provided to the Tamil Nadu as per detail given in the following table:

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Water bodies	Estimated cost in Rs. crore	Additional potential (in ha.)	Centre share in Rs. crore
1.	Sivagangai	8	1.222	153.23	0.458
2.	Villupuram	38	9.372	1178.15	3,5145

#### **Package for Organic Farming**

1549. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has chalked out/ finalized any special package for organic farming in the country;

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

(c) whether the organic produces have good export potential due to demand in international market;

(d) if so, whether the Government provides any financial aid to encourage organic farming by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);

(e) if so, the number of NGOs which have submitted their organic farming projects; and

(f) the details of sanctioned projects and the total amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) A new central sector scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" (NPOF) has been taken up from October, 2004 with an outlay of Rs. 57.05 crore for production, promotion and market development of organic farming in the country during 10th Plan, on pilot basis, with the following components:-

- (i) Capacity building through service providers;
- (ii) Setting up of organic input units of Fruit/vegetable waste compost, Bio-fertilizers and Vermi-culture hatcheries;
- (iii) Training programmes for Certification and inspection agencies/service providers, Organic input production and quality control, Field functionaries/Extension Officers and Farmers' training;
- (iv) Field demonstrations on Organic inputs including vermin-compost/city compost, use of enriched biogas slurry and setting up of model organic farms; and
- (v) Market development and promotion.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is made available to the implementing agencies on the basis of their proposals, therefore, no State-wise allocation is made.

In addition, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched a network research programme at

13 centres of All India Coordinated Research Project on Cropping system Research with a financial allocation of Rs.2.83 crore during 10th Plan to standardize technology package for Organic Farming for important crops.

(c) Organic products have a good potential for export in the three main markets namely, European Union (EU), United States (US) and Japan. The present global market with the major shares of these countries is around US\$ 31 billion.

(d) to (f) The Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are being involved in implementation of the NPOF for the activities indicated in reply to part (a) and (b) above.

A number of NGOs throughout the country submitted proposals under NPOF. However, based on their eligibility i.e. experience, infrastructure availability in the field of organic farming, funds amounting to Rs.74.24 lakh and Rs.275.18 lakh were released during 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively to various NGOs including State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

#### **Setting Up of Regional Provident Fund Office**

1550. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Regional Provident Fund Office in the country particularly at Keonjhar, Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) The proposal for opening of a Sub-Regional Office at Keonjhar, Orissa has been approved.

Proposals for opening of new Offices are received periodically and processed according to duly approved norms. The State-wise detail of proposals received is given in the enclosed statement.

<b>Statement</b>	
<b>State</b>	<b>Proposals received for new office</b>
Andhra Pradesh	Khammam (AP)
	Vijaywada (AP)
	Tirupati (AP)
	Kurnool (AP)
	Uppal (AP)
	Vijayanagaram (AP)
Chhattisgarh	Bhilai (Chhattisgarh)
	Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)
Delhi	Okhla (DL)
Gujarat	Jamnagar (GJ)
	Bharuch (GJ)
Haryana	Ambala (HR)
	Hissar (HR)
Jharkhand	Bokaro (Jharkhand)
Karnataka	Mysore Road (KN)
	Yelahanka (KN)
	Tumkur (KN)
Maharashtra	Andheri (MH)
Tamil Nadu	Nagercoil (TN)
	Kanyakumari (TN)
	Erode (TN)
	Hosur (TN)
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad (UP)
	Ghaziabad (UP)
West Bengal	Alipurduar (WB)
	Haldia (WB)

**[Translation]****Project Report of Ken-Betwa Link**

1551. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work relating to preparation of detailed project report on Ken-Betwa Link has been entrusted to National Water Development Agency (NWDA);

(b) if so, whether the help of Madhya Pradesh Government is also being taken in Ken-Betwa Link Project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 25.8.2005 between the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and Union Government for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Ken-Betwa link. The Ministry of Water Resources subsequently decided that DPR for Ken-Betwa link shall be prepared by NWDA.

(b) and (c) Cooperation from the State of Madhya Pradesh is required by NWDA in many aspects for the preparation of DPR of Ken-Betwa link.

**[English]****Subsidies to SC/ST Farmers**

1552. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend subsidies provided to SC/ST farmers for water harvesting schemes to small and marginal farmers in drought affected area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the artisans are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) Government of India, Ministry of Finance has launched a Centrally Sponsored Water Harvesting Scheme for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) during X Five Year Plan with main objective to cover SC/ST farmers who are not able to avail benefits from credit link schemes for providing irrigation facilities to their homestead in drought affected areas. Under the scheme, Water Harvesting Structures are constructed to augment the income generating capacity of the SC/ST farmers. According to the scheme capital subsidy upto 50% is provided by the Government through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to a maximum of Rs.15,000.00 and the balance 50% is provided through Bank loans for covering one irrigation unit at an average cost of Rs.20,000.00.

The Scheme is being implemented through Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks. These banking institutions have the necessary infrastructure and capabilities to implement the scheme and are getting reimbursement of 50% as a subsidy from NABARD. This scheme benefits the SC/ST farmers by increasing their income due to assured irrigation. An amount of Rs.20.00 crore has been allocated during 2006-07 for construction of 10,000 numbers of Water Harvesting Scheme to benefit SC/ST farmers.

In addition to above various Watershed Development Programmes namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPR), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSCA), (v) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs), (vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vii) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (viii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme (IWDP) and (ix) National Afforestation Programme (NAP) are being implemented by

Government of India as Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Programmes (with 100% Central Assistance). Under these programmes, activities for Water Harvesting viz. Farm Ponds, Percolation Tank, Dug Wells, Silt detention Structures, Dug-out Pond, Gully Plugs, Live Check Dams, Check Dams, Earthen Gully Plugs, Gabion Check Dams, Drop Spillways, Drop Inlet Spillways, Loose Boulder Structures, Spurs etc. are under taken. Water Harvesting Structures can be constructed on private lands in drought affected areas with 90% Government funds and remaining 10% contribution is taken from the individual farmer under NWDPR. For SC/ST farmer this contribution is only 5%.

Assistance in the form of subsidy is also provided at the rate of 25% of cost to a maximum limit of Rs.8000.00 for purchase of Pump Set to all categories of the farmers under Farm Mechanization Programmes of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture.

Under NWDPR programme livelihood support is also provided to non farm families i.e. artisan etc. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are formed for providing financial assistance to such artisans. 26,106 numbers of SHGs have already been formed with a view to help such artisans.

#### **Establishment of Animal Welfare Organizations**

1553. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Animal Welfare Board of India has any plan/role for anti-rabies vaccination and animal birth control programmes to achieve a rabies-free India;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far;

(c) whether the Government is giving priority to establish more animal welfare organizations campaigning for prevention of cruelty to animals;

(d) whether an institutional synergy is proposed to be developed in association with the Veterinary Council of India and State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The anti-rabies vaccination and animal birth control programmes are being sustained through scheme of Birth Control and Immunization of Stray Dogs, being implemented by Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI). At present there is no specific proposal for intensification of the anti-rabies vaccination and animal birth control programmes, beyond the implementation of this scheme. An amount of Rs.360 lakhs has been provided for the scheme in the current financial year.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is not responsible for establishment of any animal welfare organizations, goshalas or units for prevention of cruelty to animals. At district level, the responsibility for setting of Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has been given to various State Government in terms of the SPCA Rules, 2001.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is however, supporting animal welfare activities of such agencies through funds provided under various scheme namely Provision of Shelter House for Looking after the Animals, Provision of Ambulance Services to animals in distress, Birth Control and Immunization of Stray Dogs, Scheme for Relief to Animals during Natural Calamities and unforeseen circumstances and the AWBI Plan scheme. For these schemes a provision of Rs.1710 lakhs has been made in the current financial year.

(d) and (e) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is a subject under the Concurrent list of the Constitution. The State Governments and the Veterinary Council of India are already actively associated in various initiatives relating to animal welfare.

[Translation]

#### Withdrawal of Criminal Cases

1554. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has recently decided to withdraw criminal cases filed under sections 84 and 85 of the ESI Act, 1948; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) The Employees State Insurance Corporation has decided to offer an Amnesty Scheme for a period of 6 months from 01.08.2006 to 31.01.2007 for withdrawal of prosecution cases filed under Section 84 and 85 of ESI Act, 1948 on fulfilling the conditions i.e.

(A) Withdrawal of the cases filed against the Insured Persons under Section 84 of ESI Act for giving wrong declaration resulting in excess payment to him/her on (i) refunding to the Corporation entire amount paid in excess to the Insured Persons and (ii) giving an undertaking to the effect that he/she will not repeat wrong declaration in future.

(B) Withdrawal of prosecution cases filed against the employers under Section 85 of ESI Act on (i) payment of entire dues for the period under prosecution in full and compliance in respect of other provision of Section 85 of the ESI Act. (ii) payment of the interest and damages for the period of default by the employers to the Corporation and (iii) furnishing an undertaking to the Corporation to the effect that he/she would be regular in compliance with the provisions of the Act in future or else he/she will forfeit the right to avail of such amnesty scheme.

The Amnesty Scheme has been introduced to settle the cases pending in various Courts and realize the dues of the Corporation held in such court cases.

[English]

#### Prices of Ginger

1555. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ginger prices have fallen steeply in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) As per data supplied by the State Governments, the yearly average prices of fresh variety of ginger in major producing States/centres for the given years/month are given below:—

(Rs. per quintal)

Year/ State (Kozhikode)	Kerala	West Bengal (Kolkata)	Uttar Pradesh (Kanpur)	Haryana (Ambala)	Delhi
2003	1621	2027	1490	1856	2633
2004	3117	3758	2623	2839	4167
2005	2275	2645	2231	2619	4222
2006	900	1063	2460	2300	3200

The prices of ginger have shown fluctuations from State to State and over time due to play of demand and supply factors.

Ginger is a horticultural produce, which is of perishable nature. Ginger is covered under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Under this Scheme, State Governments are required to send specific proposals as and when prices of such commodities fall below the remunerative levels and farmers are likely to incur losses and forced to sell in distress. The Government intervenes in the markets and makes purchase of specific quantity at mutually agreed prices with the concerned State. The losses, if any, are shared on 50:50 basis.

During last three years, the MIS for procurement of ginger had been implemented as under:—

Years	State	Procurement price (Rs. per Qtl)	Qty. allowed for procurement (in MT)
1	2	3	4
2003-04	Mizoram	400	15,000

1	2	3	4
2004-05	Mizoram	500	5,900
2005-06	Mizoram	500	6,400

During the current financial year, so far, no proposal from any State Government has been received for procurement of the ginger under MIS.

#### Taking Over of IFP Slipway

1556. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for taking over of Integrated Fisheries Project (IFP) Slipway to Cochin Port;

(b) if so, whether any discussion has taken place with the State Government;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Amendment in Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995

1557. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposes to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the telecom licensing agreement to provide TV programmes on computers;

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



(c) whether the provision of TV programmes on computers would have impact on TV manufacturing companies and Cable Operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has not received any proposal from TRAI in this regard.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Committee Report on Suicide of Farmers**

1558. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee appointed by the Government to probe the causes of growing suicide cases by farmers has submitted its report.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has not constituted any committee exclusively to probe the causes of growing suicide cases by farmers. At the instance of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), a Fact Finding Team was constituted by the Planning Commission to, inter alia, find out the factors leading to rural distress in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and to study the existing relief packages announced by the State Government, and to recommend necessary measures for addressing the issue of rural distress. The Team has given various recommendations such as provisions for distribution of appropriate seeds, advisory and extension services, waiver of institutional

credit, disciplining unlicensed money lenders, streamlining institutional credit flow, water harvesting and conservation, regional development plans procurement and pricing, value addition of cotton, empowerment of farmer growers, setting up contributory fund and self help groups, and crop insurance.

The Prime Minister alongwith Agriculture Minister visited the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra during 30th June to 1st July, 2006 and announced a detailed package of assistance to the affected districts which, inter alia, contains provision for ex-gratia assistance from the Prime Ministers National Relief Fund, debt relief to farmers, enhanced credit flow, interest waiver, assured irrigation facilities, seed replacement and cropping intensity, watershed development, horticulture development, micro irrigation, extension services, and subsidiary income opportunities. Actions are underway for implementation of the package. The PMO as well as Ministry of Agriculture is regularly reviewing the progress of implementation to ensure that the benefit of the announced package reaches the needy farmers fully and expeditiously.

In pursuance of the directives of the PMO, a Planning Commission team alongwith officials of the Government of Kerala visited Wayanad district of the State from 7th to 11th June, 2006, to study the problems pertaining to agricultural distress in the district and suggest remedial measures. The team submitted its report to the Planning Commission which is being examined.

#### **Sea Erosion in Karnataka**

1559. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any comprehensive plan to prevent sea erosion in Karnataka is pending with the Union Government for approval; and

(b) if so, the time by which the plan is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The Government of

Karnataka submitted a proposal for an estimated cost of Rs.135.95 crore in March, 2002 for inclusion in the proposed National Coastal Protection Project (NCP). As the NCP has been planned for seeking external funding, an approach paper on coastal protection prepared by Ministry of Water Resources has been forwarded to Asian Development Bank (ADB) by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). ADB has approved administering technical assistance to the Government of India for technical study on "Integrated Coastal Management and Related Investment Development".

#### **Number of Tiger Reserves**

1560. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of tigers in the reserves are far below the numbers on records of different estimating agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, agency-wise and number-wise;

(c) whether the Government has initiated action against filing of false data and utilisation of related financial resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) There is a report of disappearance of tigers from the Sariska Tiger Reserve, and a decline in tiger population in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve from 35 in 2001-02 to 26 in 2005 as reported by the State (Rajasthan). While no further reports of decline in tiger population in tiger reserves has been received from States, the ongoing All India Estimation of tiger, copredators and prey animals using the refined methodology approved by the Tiger Task Force, would provide the factual status of tiger population in the country including National Parks, Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves.

(c) and (d) The Tiger reserves have been assessed by a panel of independent experts based on 45

parameters using the format of the World Commission on Protected Areas of the International Union for Conservation of Native and Natural Resources (IUCN). The assessment reports have been peer reviewed by the IUCN, which would be placed before the Parliament.

#### **Capital Formation Trends in Agriculture**

1561. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any study to comprehend the capital formation trends in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether the indices representing capital formation in agriculture sector are healthy enough in comparison to that in the other sectors; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to accelerate the capital formation trends in agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Trends of capital formation including that in agriculture are worked out and released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). According to their data during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05, gross capital formation in agriculture as a percentage of total gross capital formation (at constant 1999-2000 prices) in the economy stood at low levels between 10 and 8 percent, compared to 45 and 47 percent in manufacturing sector while 45 and 46 percent in the services sector.

(c) Among the major policy initiatives taken to accelerate the Capital Formation in agriculture sector include:

- Under the scheme "Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization", agricultural markets, marketing infrastructure and other support services are developed on the model of public-private partnership by inducing large investments from both private and cooperative sectors.

Assistance is provided to States to amend their Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act to create a lawful space for private sector in market development and contract farming.

- Encouraging private sector investment particularly in areas like agricultural research, human resource development, post harvest management and marketing.
- Completion of all ongoing irrigation projects, restoration and modernization of irrigation infrastructure including drainage.
- Development of modern scientific storage facilities and ensuring better returns to the farmers.
- Setting up agro-processing units in the producing areas.
- Operation of comprehensive credit package aiming at doubling the credit flow to the farmers in three years. Its major components include restructuring of loans for providing credit relating relief to farmers and One Time Settlement Scheme for settling the old and chronic loans of small and marginal farmers and investments in new agriculture related projects.

#### **Request for Road Construction**

1562. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received requests from certain States including Andhra Pradesh for environmental clearance for construction of certain roads in forests;

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

(c) the measures proposed to be taken for according early clearance in the matter?

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

(b) The details of the proposals received from the various States and Union Territories for construction/strengthening of the roads passing through forest areas alongwith the status is as follows:—

Sl. No.	Details of Proposals	Date of clearance/ information sought
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#### **I. Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

Construction of a road from Joginder Nagar to Shastri Nagar, Great Nicobar Island by Andaman and Nicobar Public works Department.	Information sought from the UT Administration for appraisal
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#### **II. Madhya Pradesh**

2. NABARD road Dharampuri Tarapur Mandav road major district in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh	Environment Impact Assessment report sought for appraisal.
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(c) The clearance to the above projects are accorded within the time frame as stipulated under Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, after receipt of requisite information.

#### **Flood Control Schemes of Kerala**

1563. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala had submitted certain schemes to the Union Government for flood control in the State at an estimated cost of Rs.47.33 crores; and

(b) if so, the time by which the schemes are likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Central Water Commission (CWC), 20 schemes amounting to Rs.32.79 crore were received by CWC from Government of Kerala in February, 2000 for inclusion in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Ministry of Water Resources. The schemes were technically examined in CWC and it was observed that 19 schemes were each costing less than Rs.3.00 crore. Hence, as per the instructions of Planning Commission, these schemes were not found eligible for inclusion in X Plan and the scheme namely "Protection of both banks of Karamana river" amounting to Rs.5.80 crore was recommended to Planning Commission for its inclusion in CSS for Xth Plan which was cleared by the Standing Finance Commission (SFC) along with the schemes of other States. The Planning Commission, however, in its internal meeting on 08.03.2004 did not recommend the scheme for approval of Full Planning Commission to avoid proliferation of new CSS in Xth Plan. This was informed by CWC to the State Government of Kerala in the month of April, 2004. The CWC also informed vide letter dated 31.01.2005 that the schemes received from Government of Kerala may be treated as returned back.

[Translation]

#### Authority for Watershed Programmes

1564. SHRI HARIŞINH CHAVDA :  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a separate authority for watershed programmes;
- (b) if so, the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom;
- (c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (d) the logic behind setting up of the separate authority in addition to the existing watershed programmes?

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

(b) The Authority is likely to focus on removing the problems of farmers in dryland areas.

(c) An initial expenditure of Rs.3.5 Crores per year likely to be incurred for setting up of the Authority.

(d) The Authority is likely to be an expert body to provide the much-needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of country's dryland and rainfed agriculture. It is proposed to be an advisory and Policy making and monitoring body. The Authority will look into all aspects of sustainable and holistic development of rainfed areas, including appropriate farming and livelihood system approaches and issues pertaining to landless and marginal farmers, who constitute the large majority of inhabitants of rainfed areas. The Authority will coordinate and bring convergence within and among agricultural and watershed development programmes being implemented in rainfed areas of the country.

[English]

#### Environmental Clearance to Vallarpadam Terminal

1565. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal is awaiting environmental clearance from the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not giving speedy environmental clearance to the project; and
- (c) the time by which the clearance will be given?

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

(b) and (c) The project pertaining to development and operation of an International Container Transhipment Terminal at Kochi by M/s Cochin Port Trust was placed before the Expert Committee for Infrastructure Development and Miscellaneous Projects on 25th January, 2006. Committee has sought additional information from Cochin Port Trust on 6.2.2006 and 10.2.2006. The Cochin Port Trust has not submitted the requisite information.

[Translation]

#### Survey of Lakes/Rivers

1566. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey in regard to polluted big lakes and rivers has been conducted by the Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to clean the surveyed lakes/rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry is implementing a National Lake Conservation Plan for conservation of degraded lakes and National River Conservation Plan for abatement of pollution in the identified polluted stretches of rivers in the country. Under the National Lake Conservation Plan, the Ministry in September, 2003 conducted a study through the National Institute of Ecology on 'Survey and compilation for identification of lakes in India for conservation'. A report on compilation of lakes in the country has been prepared and 62 lakes identified for conservation under this plan.

Under the National River Conservation Plan, a survey on proposals for inclusion of additional towns/rivers during the X and XI Plan, was also conducted through Alternate Hydro Energy Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee during 2003-04. The report submitted by the Institute recommends inclusion of pollution abatement

schemes in 73 towns in addition to the schemes already approved under the ongoing river conservation plan

(c) The lake/river conservation programmes taken up under National Lake Conservation Plan and National River Conservation Plan include pollution abatement works namely, interception and diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation and crematoria. Other measures include in-situ lake treatment like dewatering, desilting, bioremediation etc. besides lake/river front development and catchment area improvement in the identified polluted stretches of rivers and prioritized lakes.

[English]

#### Eucalyptus Trees

1567. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of advantages and disadvantages of Eucalyptus trees;

(b) whether these trees cause severe damage to cultivable and non-cultivable land;

(c) if so, whether any scientific assessment has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) The genus Eucalyptus having numerous species has an edge over other species due to its fast growing characteristics and multifarious utilities in providing timber, fuel wood, pulp and other value-added products. Moreover, it is a more efficient user of water in production of biomass per unit compared to indigenous species.

(b) to (e) Different scientific assessments have not come to any definite conclusion. It has been emphasized

to have site specific selection of Eucalyptus species while undertaking plantations.

[Translation]

**Tribal Rights in Reserved/Protected  
Land under Forest Area**

1568. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any  
survey of the reserved and protected land under forest  
area in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons living in these forest  
areas as per the survey conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN  
MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Forest Survey of India, an  
organization under the Ministry of Environment and Forests  
carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country  
on a biennial basis. The details of area under Reserved  
and Protected forests as per the State of Forest Report,  
2003 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No survey exclusively in respect of persons  
living in Reserved and Protected forests has been carried  
out. However, the demographic details in respect of forest  
land are maintained by the respective State/Union Territory  
Governments.

**Statement**

*Reserved and Protected Land under Forest Area in  
the country as per State of Forest Report-2003*

State/UT	Recorded Forest	Protected Forest
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	50,479	12,365

1	2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	10,178	9,536
Assam	18,060	0
Bihar	693	5,779
Chhattisgarh	25,782	24,036
Delhi	78	7
Goa	237	822
Gujarat	14,155	395
Haryana	249	1,158
Himachal Pradesh	1,896	33,043
Jammu and Kashmir	2,551	17,643
Jharkhand	4,387	19,185
Karnataka	29,550	3,585
Kerala	11,098	170
Madhya Pradesh	58,734	35,587
Maharashtra	49,217	8,196
Manipur	1,467	4,171
Meghalaya	1,112	12
Mizoram	7,909	3,568
Nagaland	308	508
Orissa	26,329	15,525
Punjab	44	1,137
Rajasthan	11,860	17,652
Sikkim	5,452	389
Tamil Nadu	19,388	2,183

1	2	3
Tripura	3,588	664
Uttar Pradesh	11,078	2,425
Uttanchal	23,827	10,673
West Bengal	7,054	3,772
Andaman and Nicobar	2,929	4,242
Chandigarh	31	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	199	5
Daman and Diu	0	1
Lakshadweep	0	0
Pondicherry	0	0
Total	399,919	238,434

[English]

#### Rainwater for Drip Farming

1569. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to conserve rainwater by constructing artificial dams using water inflated rubber walls for drip farming on the pattern of China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds estimated/allocated therefor;

(d) whether any subsidy to farmers is proposed therefor;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has no proposal to conserve rainwater by constructing artificial dams using water inflated rubber walls for drip farming on the pattern of China.

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Withdrawal of Advertisements from Radio and Television

1570. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Advertising Standard Council of India (ASCI) has directed some companies to withdraw their advertisements from the radio, television and hoardings;

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

(c) whether the Government has identified all such companies which mislead the people with their advertisements;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (e) Government does not have any control over Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) which is a self-regulatory body of the advertising industry and as such no details of complaints made to ASCI are available with the Government. ASCI has a Consumer Complaints Council (CCC) Comprising of people from various walks of life who examine complaints received on misleading, dishonest, or indecent advertisements both in print media and electronic media and takes action on the same.

### National Zoological Laboratory Centres

1571. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of National Zoological Laboratory Centres (NZLC) in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up NZLC in other States including Rajasthan also;
- (c) if so, the time by which such laboratories would be set up;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any Committee has been constituted for this purpose by the Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) There are no National Zoological Laboratory Centres in the country, nor the Government is proposing to set up such a centre in the States including Rajasthan.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government has not received any proposal so far, for setting up National Zoological Laboratory Centres in the country.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[English]

### Production of Maize

1572. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the production of maize has fallen in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken to increase the production of Maize?

THE MINISTER OF 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. Barring the years 2002-03 which was drought affected and 2004-05 in which rainfall was 13% less than normal, production of maize has shown a rising trend. Production of maize in the country for last five years is given in the table below:

(Million Tonnes)	
Year	Production
2001-02	13.16
2002-03	11.15
2003-04	11.98
2004-05	14.17
2005-06*	15.09

\*4th advance estimates.

State-wise details for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of Maize, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM). Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seeds, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacterial, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc., to encourage farmers to grow maize. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and front line demonstrations through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).



**Statement**

State/UT	Maize Production ('000 Tonnes)				
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	1457.0	1486.0	2477.0	2064.0	3058.0
Arunachal Pradesh	52.5	56.4	54.5	55.0	#
Assam	14.0	14.0	14.0	13.9	14.0
Bihar	1488.3	1349.8	1473.5	1465.7	1424.0
Chhattisgarh	69.7	122.6	135.0	131.7	106.0
Goa	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	#
Gujarat	884.6	792.6	831.9	412.5	602.0
Haryana	47.0	29.0	41.0	40.0	34.0
Himachal Pradesh	768.2	483.3	729.6	736.0	629.0
Jammu and Kashmir	538.1	465.1	532.6	492.3	493.0
Jharkhand	209.2	241.0	300.0	286.0	229.0
Karnataka	1451.7	1343.0	1209.9	2512.0	2651.0
Madhya Pradesh	1680.5	1494.4	1866.2	1252.6	1249.0
Maharashtra	587.1	744.0	752.0	753.0	1119.0
Manipur	10.1	8.5	7.5	8.9	#
Meghalaya	25.2	25.9	25.9	24.0	#
Mizoram	16.7	14.9	20.3	15.7	#
Nagaland	55.0	80.0	80.3	83.5	#
Orissa	46.7	42.4	78.8	106.0	102.0
Punjab	449.0	310.0	459.0	422.0	403.0
Rajasthan	1480.9	871.1	2070.5	1262.6	1102.0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Sikkim	54.4	53.2	57.1	58.2	#
Tamil Nadu	118.0	191.6	251.0	294.7	369.0
Tripura	2.1	2.2	2.2	3.0	#
Uttar Pradesh	1516.0	836.4	1318.5	1494.0	1077.0
Uttanchal	51.0	38.0	68.0	44.0	44.0
West Bengal	86.4	55.3	126.5	139.6	174.0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	#
Delhi	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.2	#
Others	NA	NA	NA	NA	212.0
All India	13160.2	11151.7	14984.3	14172.0	15091.0

\*4th Advance Estimates

#Included in Others

NA : Not Applicable.

#### Price of Cereals

1573. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Ministry for increasing the Minimum Support Price of cereals for the Kharif Season of 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action contemplated thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) had requested higher Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of cereals for the

Kharif season of 2006-07, than those recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), which are given below:

(Rs. per quintal)

Crop/Name	MSP suggested by Government of Andhra Pradesh
Paddy Common	640
Grade-A	670
Jowar Hybrid	700
Bajra	700
Maize	600
Ragi	660

(c) The Government of India, after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which are considered important for fixation of support prices, has recently fixed the Minimum Support Prices of Kharif crops of 2006-07 Season, including cereals, which are as follows:

(Rs. per quintal)

Crop Name	MSP Fixed
Paddy Common	580
Grade A	610
Jowar Hybrid	540
Maldandi	555
Bajra	540
Maize	540
Ragi	540

#### Constitution of National Farmers Welfare Fund

1574. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to constitute a 'National Farmers Welfare Fund' to extend the relief and rehabilitation measures to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration to constitute a separate National Farmers Welfare Fund. However, a comprehensive credit policy was announced by the

Government on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for doubling of agricultural credit flow in next three years and provisions of debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities. Actions are underway for revamping the cooperative credit structure as well as introducing modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana). The Government has also decided to launch a special rehabilitation package to mitigate the distress of farmers in 31 identified districts in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala, registering high incidence of farmers' suicide. The package in respect of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has already been announced which, inter alia, contains provisions for ex-gratia assistance from the Prime Ministers National Relief Fund debt relief to farmers, enhanced credit flow, interest waiver, assured irrigation facilities, seed replacement and cropping intensity, watershed development, horticulture development, micro irrigation, extension services, and subsidiary income opportunities. On this pattern the Government is finalizing the package for the other three States.

#### Funds for Lal Bagh Botanical Garden

1575. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to increase funds for the proposed conservation and management of Lal Bagh Botanical Gardens, Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for improvement of facilities in the Lal Bagh Botanical Garden, Bangalore has been received from the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture, Government of Karnataka State for assistance under the scheme on 'Assistance to Botanical Gardens for ex-situ conservation of Rare, Endangered and Threatened (RET) species'. The proposal is not in accordance with the

prescribed guidelines of the scheme. The State Government is being advised to revise the proposal in accordance with the laid down parameters.

#### Import of Cattle from Australia

1576. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh had imported some cattle from Australia;

(b) if so, whether said cattle are languishing in a quarantine centre in Chennai for some time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to give approval for release of cattle immediately so that the State Government can go ahead with its cattle breeding programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. During April 2002, a total number of 201 breeding cattle were imported by Andhra Pradesh (160 Nos.) and West Bengal (41 Nos.) from Australia. During the post import quarantine in India, some animals tested positive for exotic diseases i.e. Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) and Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF). India is free from these diseases. Therefore, the Government of Australia was approached for deportation of the animals. The exporting country refused to take back the animals. The Government took a decision to euthanise the infected animals. However, in the meantime National Cattle Commission and Bharatiya Prani Mitra Sangh filed a PIL in the High Court of Madras on 19-9-2002. The Madras High Court passed a stay order on 19-9-2002 and the elimination process was kept in abeyance. The High Court also passed an order on 7-4-2003 to release 46 animals that tested negative. But this was stayed by the Supreme Court by order dated 6-5-2003 in SLP filed by the Government. The matter is sub

judice. Therefore, there is no question of releasing the animals from the quarantine station.

#### Supply of Ethanol

1577. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether chemical industry of Maharashtra and in other parts of the country is not getting adequate supply of ethanol for their use;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association (ICMA) has been bringing the shortage of ethanol in the country to the notice of the Government from time to time;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome the short supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (e) The alcohol based chemical industry in Maharashtra as also in other parts of the country is facing shortage of ethanol on account of lower production of sugar in the major sugarcane producing States and increase in demand of the alcohol based industry. Further, the Gasohol programme of 5% blending of ethanol with petrol launched in some States/UTs by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has increased demand for ethanol. The Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association (ICMA) has written to the Government regarding shortage of ethanol in the country. The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for retention of status quo with regard to blending of ethanol. Industrial Alcohol required for alcohol based industry is freely imported. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has also requested the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) for reduction in the customs duty on industrial

alcohol to enable the chemical industry to import industrial alcohol at a reasonable cost.

[Translation]

#### Protection of Wild Animals

1578. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for setting up of a separate Department in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for protection of wild animals is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal to have two separate Departments, viz. Department of Environment, and Department of Forests and Wildlife as a follow-up of the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

(c) No time frame for a final decision can be given.

#### Revival of Sindri, Ramagundam and Namrup Plants

1579. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO :  
SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN :  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA :  
SHRI FURKAN ANSARI :

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

(a) whether the Government has taken decision to revive Sindri (Jharkhand), Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh) plants of Fertilizer Corporation of India and Namrup Fertilizers Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) The Government is exploring the possibilities of revival of the closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited including Sindri and Ramagundam fertilizer plants. The Namrup Fertilizer Plant of BVFCL have not been closed down.

(b) and (c) Since the matter is at exploration stage the details are not yet worked out.

[English]

#### Computerisation of FCI

1580. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Management Information System for Foodgrains in Food Corporation of India Limited (FCI) is being computerized;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targets fixed for the computerization of FCI during 2005-06 alongwith the achievements made there under;

(d) the allocation made and expenditure incurred thereon during the said period; and

(e) the time by which computerization of Management Information System for foodgrains in FCI is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Integrated Information System for Foodgrains Management (IISFM) project has been approved at a total cost of Rs. 97.66 crores for computerizing the depot and district level stock accounting.

(c)	Target	Achievements
	Stock accounting information to be made operational at FCI Headquarters/ district and depot level.	Stock accounting module completed at all the District Offices of the FCI. Data feeding commenced in 355 depots (348 owned + 7 hired) in 2005-06.
(d)	Allocation made 2005-06	Expenditure
	15.00 crores	15.00 crores

(e) The Integrated Information System for Foodgrains Management (IISFM) project is targeted to be completed in 2006-07.

#### Investment in Agricultural Research

1581. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to make huge investments in the strengthening of agricultural research in the country;

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

(c) the details of agricultural research institutes functioning in the country and the quantum of assistance to be provided to them;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take the help of foreign expertise in agricultural research; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) The Government have accorded the approval to the World

Bank assisted National Agricultural Innovation Project with an outlay of Rs. 1200 crore approximately for a period of six years. The allocation for the current financial year is Rs.100 crore.

(c) Under ICAR, there are 95 Agricultural Research Institutes conducting research on Crops, Horticulture, Natural Resource Management, Animal Science, Fisheries and Agricultural Engineering etc. and are located in various parts of the country. The Plan BE for 2006-07 of DARE/ICAR is Rs. 1350 crore.

(d) and (e) The Governments of India and United States of America have jointly agreed for launching of a Indo-US Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture focused on promoting Education, Teaching, Research, Service and Commercial Linkage. The priority areas for future cooperation are:-

(i) Human Resources and Institutional Capacity-Building

— Education, learning resources, curriculum development and training.

(ii) Agri-Processing and Marketing

— Food processing

— Use of by product and bio-fuels

(iii) Emerging Technologies

— Biotechnology

(iv) Natural Resource Management

— Water Management

The allocation for the current financial year is Rs. 5 crore.

#### Upper Indravati Project

1582. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation made for Upper Indravati Project in Orissa for the year 2006-2007;

(b) whether the State Government has approached the Union Government/foreign agencies for funds; and

(c) if so, the time by which the assistance is likely to be released to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) JBIC (Japan) loan assistance of 3744 million Yen was provided during 1.1.1989 to 20.1.99 for implementation of Left Bank Canal System (RD 15 Km. to 52 Km.) of Upper Indravati Irrigation Project of Orissa. At present, there is no proposal for foreign assistance from Government of Orissa for Upper Indravati Irrigation Project.

The Upper Indravati Project has been included in Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme of Government of India in 1996-97. So far Rs.189.3070 crore has been released to the project for its early completion. Proposal for further release of Grant would be considered on receipt of the same from Government of Orissa.

[Translation]

#### New Advertisement Policy of SAIL

1583. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and its associated companies have framed a new policy to place advertisements with print and electronic media;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received complaints in this regard; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Monitoring of Ground Water Level

1584. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP :

SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is assisting the State Governments in survey, planning and development of ground water resources, monitoring the ground water level; and

(b) if so, the assistance provided to State Governments including Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a subordinate office of Ministry of Water Resources, carries out ground water surveys and exploration, keeping in view the needs of the States. The scientific data generated through these ground water surveys and exploration is provided to the user agencies in the States, which helps them in planning ground water development schemes.

(b) The year-wise details of ground water surveys and exploration carried out in the country and in Andhra Pradesh are given below:—

Sl.No.	Activity	Year		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ground Water Management Studies			
	Country-wide (lakh sq. km.)	2.07	2.12	1.97

1	2	3	4	5
	Andhra Pradesh (lakh sq. km.)	0.18	0.16	0.13
<b>2.</b>	<b>Ground Water Exploration (No. of wells drilled)</b>			
	Country-wide	1339	1347	785
	Andhra Pradesh	83	73	72

[Translation]

**Promotion of Agricultural Education**

1585. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any funds have been sanctioned by the Government for promotion and development of agricultural education during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds sanctioned for said purpose by the Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan have not been properly utilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Rs. 200.00 crore have been sanctioned during the current financial year for strengthening and development of agricultural education for the following components:-

(Rs. in crores)

1.	Human Resource Development	10.00
2.	Civil Works	20.00
3.	Equipments	120.00
4.	Experiential learning	50.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>200.00</b>

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

**Protection of Undisclosed Information**

1586. SHRI SURESH KURUP :  
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY :

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

(a) whether there is a Committee to consider the steps to be taken by the Government in the context of the provisions of Article 39.3 of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement for the protection of undisclosed information in respect of agro-chemicals and pharmaceuticals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the protection of undisclosed information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) and (b) An Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is looking into the steps to be taken by the Government in the context of the provisions of Article 39.3 of the TRIPS Agreement for the



protection of undisclosed information in respect of agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals. The Committee has heard the views of most of the stakeholders. However, because of divergent views, no final decision has been taken by the Committee.

(c) In view of reply to part (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

#### **Women in Environment Conservation**

1587. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether women organisations in the country have requested the Government for their greater involvement in the role of environment preservation and forest development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) As per the records of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, no request appears to have been received from any women's organization for greater involvement of women in the role of environment preservation and forest development. The Ministry has appropriate sensitivity to the capability and potential of women's contribution to the environment and forestry sectors. One of the major schemes namely National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is implemented in a decentralized mode through Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at Forest Division level, and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. The NAP guidelines stipulate upto 50% members of the FDA's General Body and its Executive Committee will be women. Likewise the percentage of representation of women in the Executive Body of JFMCs is also prescribed. The Ministry has set up a Center on 'Role of women in Environmental Conservation and Protection' during 2005-06 under the Environment Information System (ENVIS) Scheme to develop a comprehensive database on various facets of

environment involving role of women, and to disseminate the same to the concerned users.

[Translation]

#### **National University in M.P.**

1588. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to open a national level agriculture university in Madhya Pradesh to impart education conforming to international standards; 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. Agricultural education being a State subject, opening of agricultural universities falls within the purview of the concerned State Governments.

[English]

#### **Amendment in Workman Compensation Act, 1923**

1589. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to make amendment in Workmen compensation Act. 1923 in view of the recent judgement by Hon'ble Supreme Court that no compensation is payable for death due to heart attack at workplace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had received any suggestions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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) No, Sir.

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

#### Beedi Workers

1590. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received various representations from the Beedi Majdoor organizations and also from public representatives in regard to the problems faced by the beedi workers in various parts of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) Representations from the Organisations/Associations of Beedi workers and also from public representatives in regard to the problems of beedi workers are received from time to time from various parts of the country including Uttar Pradesh regarding issue of Identity Cards, scholarships, medical facilities, etc.

(c) The necessary action/steps are taken to redress the grievances of the beedi workers. However, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has been implementing welfare schemes for the beedi workers and their family members through out the country including Uttar Pradesh in the sphere of Health, Education, Housing Recreation and Water Supply under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund. There are 18 dispensaries and one 10-bed hospital in Gursahaiganj (Uttar Pradesh), to cater to the basic health care of eligible beedi workers and their families. For specialized treatment like, heart, kidney, cancer diseases,

patients are referred to recognized speciality hospitals and the cost of treatment is reimbursed upto certain limit. The number of beneficiaries and expenditure incurred during last three years under Health, Education and Housing for beedi workers in Uttar Pradesh under above Welfare Fund is as follows:

(Expenditure figures are in Rs. in lakh)

		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Health	Expenditure	191.82	246.17	235.96
	Beneficiaries	257608	264485	240044
Education	Expenditure	88.68	117.21	157.73
	Beneficiaries	13634	15394	19693
Housing	Expenditure	13.92	24.49	24.29

#### Cultivation of Mustard

1591. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of land brought under mustard cultivation in the country particularly in Rajasthan, State-wise;

(b) whether any Central scheme has been launched to assist the farmers cultivating mustard; and

(c) if so, the funds provided to the mustard cultivators under the scheme since its inception, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The total area under mustard cultivation in the country during 2005-06 was 70.74 lakh ha. The State-wise area coverage under mustard including the State of Rajasthan during 2005-06 is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) Government of India is implementing a

Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) w.e.f. 1.4.2004 in 14 major oilseeds growing States with a view to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds including mustard in the country. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of *rhizobium* culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds.

In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

The State-wise funds provided for implementation of development programmes on oilseeds including mustard, pulses, oil palm and maize from 2004-05 to 2006-07 under ISOPOM are given in the enclosed statement-II.

#### Statement-I

##### State-wise Area Coverage under Mustard Crop during 2005-06

State	Area (Lakh hectare)*
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	0.06
Bihar	0.85
Chhattisgarh	0.57
Gujarat	3.38
Haryana	7.02
Karnataka	0.05

1	2
Madhya Pradesh	8.09
Maharashtra	0.13
Orissa	0.17
Punjab	0.49
Rajasthan	35.59
Tamil Nadu	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	5.62
West Bengal	4.21
All India	70.74

\*IV Advance Estimates as on 15.07.2006.

#### Statement-II

##### State-wise funds provided for development of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize during 2004-05 to 2006-07 under ISOPOM

State	Funds Released (Rs. in lakhs)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	3559.97	4816.50	2750
Assam	4.00	3.00	30
Bihar	145.00	245.00	490
Chhattisgarh	625.00	400.00	425
Gujarat	1883.00	1850.00	1950
Goa	10.00	16.50	33
Haryana	497.00	434.00	375
Himachal Pradesh	40.00	75.50	75

1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	85.00	142.50	302
Karnataka	2155.00	1800.00	1900
Kerala	5.00	7.50	15
Madhya Pradesh	2925.00	2400.00	2500
Maharashtra	1040.00	2739.00	1850
Mizoram	107.00	90.00	180
Orissa	455.00	500.00	525
Punjab	52.50	87.50	175
Rajasthan	2000.00	2840.00	2450
Tamil Nadu	990.00	1245.00	1345
Tripura	5.00	7.00	40
Uttar Pradesh	785.00	1065.00	1115
West Bengal	260.00	450.00	475
All India	17628.47	21214.00	19000

\*Allocation.

#### Revival Plan for HAL

1592. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has announced any revival plan for Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement containing the details is enclosed.

(c) Rs.137.59 crores have been allocated for the rehabilitation of Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL)

#### Statement

#### Rehabilitation Package of HAL

(A) Rehabilitation package as approved by the Government Cost of Scheme (Elements of Expenditure)

(Rs. in crores)

(a) One time settlement with Banks/ Financial Institutions and PSU, as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

(i) One Time Settlement with SBI 25.80

(ii) One Time Settlement with Canara Bank 35.00

(iii) One Time Settlement with IDBI 3.90

(iv) One Time Settlement with SICOM 1.18

(v) One Time Settlement with Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited. (PHL) 2.50

(vi) One Time Settlement with Bharat Dynamite Limited. (BDL) 1.76

(vii) Part payment to ONGC 6.78

Total 76.92

(b) Statutory Dues (Provident Fund Rs.13.86 crores and Income Tax Rs.2.81 crores) 16.67

(c) Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) 34.00

(d) Working capital requirement for starting new Products in Pen-G facilities 5.00

(e)	Upgradation of formulation facilities as per revised Good Manufacturing Practice. (GMP)	5.00
	Total	137.59
		(Rs. in crores)

**Means of Finance**

(a)	Interest free loan pending sale of land by HAL	56.96
(b)	Funds from Government of India	
1.	Share Capital	23.31
2.	Grant/Interest Free Loan	23.32
3.	Grant for VRS (including payment of terminal benefits of Rs.8.90 crores)	34.00
	Total amount	137.59

**Items for Write off/ Conversion /Exemption****(B) From Government of India (GOI). (Rs. in crores)**

(a)	Write off of loans and interest on past loans extended by Government of India—	259.43
	(Amount as per books of accounts of HAL is Rs.111.25 crores as on 31.3.03. However as per the records of Pay and Accounts Office this amount comes to Rs.259.43 crores as on 31.3.2005 due to non-incorporation in the books of Pay and Accounts Office of the effects of earlier capital restructuring Schemes approved by the Government in previous years.	
(b)	Exemption from payment of capital gains tax on sale of land.	6.56
(c)	Exemption from provisions of Sec. 241(1) of Income Tax Act (Write off should not be treated as income)	

(d)	Exemption from Stamp Duty and Registration fees of Rs.27.00 lakhs for increase in authorised capital from Rs.50.00 crores to Rs.100.00 crores (to be approved by Government of India, on the recommendations of the State Government.	Nil
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(e)	Waiver of interest/penalty or delayed payment of Income Tax.	1.58
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		267.57
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(C)	From others.	(Rs. in crores)
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(a)	Waiver of interest/penal interest by banks/Financial institutions and others	87.00*
(b)	Waiver of property tax dues by Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation	02.00**
(c)	Waiver of entire compound and Penal Interest by ONGC (Payment of part principal Amount Rs.6.78 crores included in cost of scheme)	Not quantified***
(d)	Waiver of interest and penalties on arrears of Sales Tax by Maharashtra Government	Not quantified***
(e)	Waiver by Employees Provident Fund Organisation of damages on delayed payment of Provident Fund and Pensioners contributions	14.34
	Total	103.24

Note: 1\* Banks/financial institutions and other institutions have agreed to waive off interest/penal interest.

**Note: 2\*\*** Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation is actively considering waiver of property tax dues.

**Note: 3\*\*\*** ONGC agreed to accept Rs.6.78 crores as down payment and balance Rs.22.11 crores in 5 annual instalments with 5 years moratorium which HAL will be able to pay after rehabilitation. ONGC has also agreed to waive the entire compound and penal interest.

**Note: 4\*\*\*\*** Under the Standard Package of Government of Maharashtra for Rehabilitation of Sick Companies Scheme, 1990 all Companies situated in Maharashtra are permitted to pay arrears of Sales Tax in 5 equal instalments with concessional rate of interest and are eligible for waiver of penal charges for delayed payment of sales tax, on the condition that the scheme for rehabilitation of the sick Company has been approved by the BIFR. HAL will apply to Government of Maharashtra after approval of the Rehabilitation Package by BIFR.

#### **Scheme for Coconut Farmers**

1593. DR. P.P. KOYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new welfare schemes being implemented by the Coconut Development Board to support the coconut farmers in view of the growing competition from countries like Sri Lanka etc.;

(b) whether any subordinate office of the Coconut Development Board is functioning in Lakshadweep where most of the people depend on coconut products; and

(c) if so, the details of the welfare scheme available for the farmers and the cooperatives?

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

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) For the benefit of coconut farmers, the Coconut Development Board (CDB) is implementing various schemes viz. expansion of area under coconut, management of disease affected palms, technology demonstration programme, dissemination of information and improvement of productivity by providing financial assistance for production and distribution of quality planting materials and laying out demonstration plots. The Board also provides financial support for processing and product diversification, value addition and market research and promotion of value added products of coconut under Technology Mission on Coconut (TMOC). Coconut Development Board has invested an amount of Rs.11.40 crores during the last four years (2002-03 to 2005-06) on the above programmes.

In addition to the above measures, to protect the coconut farmers from growing competition from the countries like Sri Lanka, the import duty of desiccated coconut has been enhanced from 30% to 60.2%. Coconut and Coconut Products are also included in the sensitive list in South Asia Foreign Trade Agreement (SAFTA) and are thus protected from reduction of import duties.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the Board is implementing the above schemes in Lakshadweep through the Department of Agriculture of UT Administration of Lakshadweep.

Under the new scheme namely High Value Agriculture in UT of Lakshadweep, a provision of Rs.5.40 crores has been made during X Five Year Plan. The scheme is funded under on going schemes of Coconut Development Board, National Horticulture Board and National Horticulture Mission with enhanced scale of subsidy up to 50% of the cost of Projects.

#### **Procurement of Poor Quality Foodgrains**

1594. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms have

been fixed to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are procured by the Government agencies;

(b) if so, whether the said norms have been/are being flouted with impunity in the procurement of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the number of officers booked for violating FAQ norms alongwith the action taken against them during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the off-take under Public Distribution System (PDS) has been very low due to the procurement of poor quality foodgrains; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken to ensure strict compliance of the FAQ norms?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes Sir, Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms are fixed by the Government to procure good quality foodgrains.

(b) No Sir, Prescribed specifications are strictly adhered to during procurement of foodgrains. However, during inspection by various authorities in stray cases some quantities of foodgrains are found procured not conforming to specifications prescribed for the particular procurement season for which immediate remedial measures such as, replacement of stocks etc. are taken. The officials found indulging in such activities are immediately taken to task and suitable disciplinary action initiated against them promptly.

(c) Details of officers/officials of Food Corporation of India found responsible for procurement of poor quality of foodgrains including other irregularities during the last three years is as under:—

S. No.	Nature of penalty imposed	2003	2004	2005	2006 upto June
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Dismissal/removal/compulsorily retired	56	37	44	34

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Reduction in rank	66	39	30	02
3.	Reduction in time scale of pay	420	361	313	130
4.	Withholding of increment	146	168	118	83
5.	Recovery from pay of loss caused to FCI	964	1346	886	515
6.	Withholding of Promotion	12	06	05	02
7.	Censure	427	489	307	132
	Total	2091	2446	1703	898
8.	Warning/exoneration/cases closed	375	412	248	103
	Grand Total	2466	2858	1951	1001

Besides CBI has also registered three cases against 83 category I/II/III officers/officials and 330 Rice Millers of Punjab in January, 2006 for procurement of poor quality rice kharif 2004-05.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Pushar Dam Project-II

1595. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any revised Environment Report, prepared for Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage II - Pushar Dam Project, has been received by Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Radio Stations by Private Sector**

1596. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had conducted any study of the existence of Radio Station under Prasar Bharati with the entering of private companies in the field;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of private companies allowed to set up their Radio Stations so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However Audience Research Units of AIR conduct Radio Programme Listenership for different radio channels on yearly basis. All India Radio network comprises of 223 stations with 358 transmitters and covers 99.13% (of the country) by population and 91.42% by area. The entry of Pvt. Broadcasters has only small effect on the listenership of AIR because the existing Pvt. Radio Channels cover only 3.3% by area and 9.3% by population of the country.

(c) So far 42 private companies have been allowed to set up their FM radio stations.

#### **Restoration of Sugar quota**

1597. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has raised the matter of restoration of the monthly allocation of sugar for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) card holders;

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

(c) whether the authorized sugar factories do not supply the monthly sugar allocation sanctioned by the Union Government to the States for distribution under Public Distribution System; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A reference was received from the Government of Maharashtra requesting to allot their 100% monthly levy sugar quota which is 13946.00 M.T. The State Government has been informed that since, the levy percentage has been reduced to 10% of the domestic production, the availability of sugar for levy allocation is varying depending upon the levels of domestic production. Therefore, it has not been possible to supply levy sugar as per the levy quota to each State/U.T. Every month, a quantity of 8000 MT of levy sugar is being released regularly to the Government of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) Those sugar factories to whom the monthly levy allotment orders are issued generally supply levy sugar as per allotment orders for distribution in the Public Distribution System. Whenever any sugar factory fails to supply levy sugar and the matter is brought to the notice of the Department, appropriate action is initiated against such sugar factory.

#### **Production of Wheat and Pulses**

1598. SHRI B. MAHTAB :

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :



(a) the target set for production of wheat and pulses during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the achievements made therein so far; and

(c) the total land under cultivation of wheat and pulses, 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 targets of production are set annually. The State-wise details of targets, achievements and area under cultivation of wheat and pulses for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 of the Tenth Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed statement I and II.

### Statement

#### State-wise Targets, Achievements and Area under Cultivation of Wheat

Area: (000 Hectares), Production: ('000 Tonnes)

State	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06*		
	Production			Production			Production			Production		
	Target	Achievement	Area	Target	Achievement	Area	Target	Achievement	Area	Target	Achievement	Area
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	10.0	14.0	11.0	10.0	7.0	12.0	10.0	5.0	9.0	Not Available	7.0	11.0
Arunachal Pradesh	6.0	6.3	4.1	6.0	6.3	4.2	7.0	8.7	4.3	-do-	#	#
Assam	120.0	78.0	69.0	120.0	73.0	70.0	110.0	68.1	63.9	-do-	71.0	68.0
Bihar	4800.0	4040.6	2130.9	4800.0	3688.9	2076.8	5450.0	3263.4	2027.6	-do-	3660.0	2038.0
Chhattisgarh	100.0	98.6	92.8	100.0	108.6	106.1	110.0	82.4	96.6	-do-	91.0	102.0
Gujarat	1550.0	856.6	435.6	1550.0	2036.5	759.5	1600.0	1805.5	727.4	-do-	2473.0	916.0
Haryana	9600.0	9188.0	2267.0	9600.0	9114.0	2315.0	9700.0	9058.0	2322.0	-do-	8878.0	2308.0
Himachal Pradesh	600.0	495.6	359.4	600.0	498.0	361.0	650.0	684.0	362.0	-do-	679.0	363.0
Jammu and Kashmir	475.0	401.9	244.2	475.0	459.4	254.7	440.0	474.4	248.4	-do-	444.0	248.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jharkhand	100.0	104.0	64.0	100.0	118.0	75.0	127.0	150.0	63.0	-do-	84.0	58.0
Karnataka	225.0	147.7	246.9	225.0	96.2	232.0	250.0	179.0	242.0	-do-	145.0	212.0
Madhya Pradesh	8800.0	4923.4	3381.6	8800.0	7364.6	4091.1	9100.0	7176.6	4136.2	-do-	5958.0	3693.0
Maharashtra	1450.0	984.0	760.0	1450.0	778.0	665.0	1200.0	1016.0	756.0	-do-	1452.0	1053.0
Meghalaya	7.0	4.7	2.7	7.0	1.5	0.9	7.0	1.6	0.9	-do-	#	#
Nagaland	13.0	17.0	8.0	13.0	20.0	10.0	17.0	13.0	8.2	-do-	#	#
Orissa	10.0	5.8	4.6	10.0	7.5	5.1	12.0	5.0	4.0	-do-	5.0	3.0
Punjab	15500.0	14175.0	3375.0	15500.0	14489.0	3444.0	16000.0	14698.0	3482.0	-do-	14493.0	3468.0
Rajasthan	6750.0	4878.0	1800.7	6750.0	5875.8	2103.0	6600.0	5706.6	2010.1	-do-	5865.0	2124.0
Sikkim	12.0	8.9	6.3	12.0	8.1	5.7	12.0	8.3	5.7	-do-	#	#
Tamil Nadu		0.0	0.0	0.0			0.0			-do-	#	#
Tripura	3.0	1.8	0.9	3.0	5.1	1.2	3.0	2.8	1.1	-do-	#	#
Uttar Pradesh	26080.0	23612.4	9094.0	26080.0	25566.7	9150.1	26000.0	22513.9	8999.8	-do-	23574.0	9164.0
Uttaranchal	900.0	750.0	411.0	900.0	745.0	397.0	800.0	803.0	394.0	-do-	645.0	402.0
West Bengal	850.0	887.4	405.4	850.0	985.7	425.7	1200.0	841.5	400.1	-do-	838.0	367.0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.0	1.4	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.6	-do-	#	#
Delhi	30.0	79.7	19.9	30.0	102.3	29.1	90.0	71.0	18.0	-do-	#	#
Others		NA	NA		NA	NA	0.0	NA	NA	-do-	119.0	49.0
All India	78000.0	65760.8	25195.7	78000.0	72156.2	26594.7	79500.0	68636.9	26382.9	75530.0	69481.0	26647.0

Note : State-wise break-up of targets is not available for the year 2005-06.

NA : Not Applicable

# : Included in Others

**Statement-II****State-wise Targets, Achievements and Area under Cultivation of Pulses**

Area: (000 Hectares), Production: ('000 Tonnes)

State	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06*		
	Production			Production			Production			Production		
	Target	Achievement	Area	Target	Achievement	Area	Target	Achievement	Area	Target	Achievement	Area
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	730.0	1061.6	2099.9	730.0	1239.0	2185.0	770.0	1019.0	1803.8	1300.0	1377.0	1782.0
Arunachal Pradesh	6.0	7.7	7.3	6.0	7.4	65.8	6.0	6.8	6.5	9.0	#	#
Assam	60.0	60.0	111.0	60.0	64.0	115.0	60.0	61.4	107.6	66.0	35.0	62.0
Bihar	600.0	560.9	697.8	600.0	562.6	691.3	600.0	466.9	657.9	730.0	482.0	655.0
Chhattisgarh	465.0	365.7	781.8	465.0	580.7	955.1	465.0	367.8	932.2	480.0	452.0	944.0
Goa	10.0	7.5	9.4	10.0	9.2	9.8	10.0	9.4	10.4	12.0	#	#
Gujarat	555.0	327.2	697.7	605.0	622.4	832.6	620.0	479.3	710.2	510.0	580.0	807.0
Haryana	505.0	82.9	126.6	505.0	143.1	199.0	505.0	146.0	184.2	270.0	128.0	206.0
Himachal Pradesh	14.0	16.7	33.6	14.0	9.0	29.3	14.0	18.1	32.3	25.0	10.0	29.0
Jammu and Kashmir	24.0	14.0	28.8	24.0	13.3	27.6	24.0	15.1	30.7	30.0	14.0	27.0
Jharkhand	240.0	133.5	165.7	240.0	135.0	266.0	240.0	160.0	273.0	165.0	167.0	296.0
Karnataka	750.0	693.6	2060.6	750.0	569.2	1874.3	780.0	792.0	2106.0	1130.0	869.0	1922.0
Kerala	30.0	6.8	8.8	30.0	5.0	6.0	30.0	2.9	3.4	20.0	2.0	1.0
Madhya Pradesh	2900.0	2375.5	4137.5	3000.0	3488.0	4585.4	3135.0	3429.2	4519.7	3450.0	3230.0	4279.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Maharashtra	2150.0	2058.1	3569.8	2150.0	1960.0	3446.1	2250.0	1664.0	3384.0	2275.0	1802.0	3390.0
Manipur	12.0	2.6	5.4	12.0	3.2	6.3	12.0	3.0	7.9	5.0	#	#
Meghalaya	3.0	3.3	4.6	3.0	3.5	4.7	3.0	3.6	2.6	5.0	#	#
Mizoram	10.0	5.0	4.6	10.0	4.5	5.2	10.0	4.8	3.7	6.0	#	#
Nagaland	12.0	28.0	30.0	12.0	33.5	33.5	12.0	25.2	31.6	36.0	#	#
Orissa	600.0	194.4	548.7	700.0	272.7	714.8	710.0	249.6	642.5	380.0	297.0	724.0
Punjab	95.0	33.9	43.3	95.0	39.4	47.9	95.0	31.7	39.6	60.0	27.0	35.0
Rajasthan	1750.0	484.5	1802.9	1750.0	2278.4	3860.9	1795.0	1337.4	3571.1	1550.0	844.0	3409.0
Sikkim	10.0	6.6	7.1	10.0	6.8	7.1	10.0	6.6	6.9	6.0	#	#
Tamil Nadu	355.0	182.2	527.4	355.0	200.8	537.0	355.0	245.6	599.3	470.0	278.0	705.0
Tripura	6.0	5.5	8.8	6.0	5.2	8.4	6.0	5.5	8.9	6.0	#	#
Uttar Pradesh	2300.0	2202.0	2677.7	2450.0	2400.3	2698.4	2575.0	2375.0	2803.7	2460.0	2206.0	2742.0
Uttaranchal	25.0	29.1	46.6	25.0	29.0	42.0	25.0	28.0	45.0	32.0	36.0	61.0
West Bengal	170.0	167.6	241.3	170.0	211.7	251.9	170.0	167.1	225.7	200.0	204.0	272.0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4.0	0.6	1.3	4.0	0.4	0.7	4.0	0.4	0.7	3.0	#	#
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.0	6.0	6.5	2.0	5.1	6.0	2.0	5.4	6.5	5.0	#	#
Delhi	1.0	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.8	0.1	1.0	0.3	0.3	2.0	#	#
Daman and Diu	2.0	1.0	1.3	2.0	1.1	1.3	2.0	1.2	1.3	1.0	#	#
Pondicherry	4.0	0.7	2.0	4.0	0.9	2.6	4.0	1.2	3.8	1.0	#	#
Others		NA	NA		NA	NA		NA	NA	0.0	72.0	83.0
All India	14400.0	11125.0	20496.2	14800.0	14905.2	23458.1	15300.0	13129.5	22763.0	15700.0	13112.0	22431.0

NA : Not Applicable

# : Included in Others

[Translation]

**Pending Proposals for Development  
of Animal Husbandry**

1599. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States whose proposals for development of animal husbandry are pending with the Union Government at present; and

(b) the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN) : (a) and (b) Proposals have been received from the States of Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland and West Bengal for the development of animal husbandry. Funds will be released based on the viability of these proposals, availability of funds and utilization of funds released to the concerned States in the past.

**Gosikhurd Irrigation Project**

1600. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any decision to provide assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for Gosikhurd Irrigation Project; and

(b) if so, the assistance provided to State Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The Government of India is providing financial assistance Under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to States for completion of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of completion on the basis of proposal submitted by State Government.

Gosikhurd Project has been included in AIBP since 1996-97 and upto 2005-06, Rs.219.1957 crore has been released to Government of Maharashtra as Loan/Grant. Proposal for release of Grant for the year 2006-07 is awaited from the State.

[English]

**Market Risk Stabilisation Fund**

1601. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up a Market Risk Stabilisation Fund jointly by Union and State Governments and financial institutions to protect the farmers from price fluctuations; 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) The National Commission on Farmers in its Report titled "A Draft National Policy for Farmers" released on 13th April, 2006, recommended, inter-alia, that Market Risk Stabilisation Fund should be established jointly by Central and State Governments, and also financial institutions, to protect farmers during periods of violent fluctuations in prices.

The said Commission is to submit its Final Report in October 2006. A view on the setting up of the Fund would emerge after the examination of the final report of the Commission.

**Use of Fly Ash**

1602. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of fly ash in construction of houses affects the environment adversely;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed/ taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Investigations conducted by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have confirmed that concentration of radon in rooms built with fly ash bricks is far less than the limits of 1000 becquerels per cubic metre set by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. In addition Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has allowed the use of fly ash as construction material.

[Translation]

#### Environmental Clearance to Projects

1603. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals submitted by the Government of Chhattisgarh to the Union Government for the environmental clearance to developmental projects after November 1, 2000;

(b) the present status of these proposals;

(c) whether a number of industries requiring environmental clearance are running without the said clearance in Chhattisgarh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The details of the proposals submitted by the Government of Chhattisgarh after November 1, 2000

for environmental clearance and their present status is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) According to the information obtained from Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, none of the projects of the Government of Chhattisgarh is running without environmental clearance.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### Statement

*The details of the proposals submitted by the Government of Chhattisgarh after November 1, 2000 and their present status of clearance*

S. No.	Name of the project	Status of the project
1.	2X250 MW Thermal Power Plant at Korba (East), Korba, Chhattisgarh of M/s. Chattisgarh State Electricity Board.	Environmental clearance accorded.
2.	2X300 MW Thermal Power Plant at Korba (West), Korba, Chhattisgarh of M/s. Chattisgarh State Electricity Board.	-do-
3.	Barima I Bauxite Mining Project of M/s. Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation, Distt. Sarguja.	-do-
4.	Barima III Bauxite Mining Project of M/s. Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation, Distt. Sarguja.	-do-
5.	Barima II Bauxite Mining Project of M/s. Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation, Distt. Sarjuna.	Environmental clearance is not required as the production from the mine has ceased.

[English]

### Prices of G.M. Seeds

1604. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI

SHRI IQBAL AHMAD SARADGI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exorbitant prices are being charged by international seed majors for genetically modified crop seeds including Bt. Cotton;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to evolve any mechanism for regulating their prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of GM Seeds to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) Some complaints have been received from Andhra Pradesh about the exorbitant trait value being charged by Bt. Seed companies. Government of Andhra Pradesh has initiated proceedings before Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission in this regard. MRTP Commission has directed the seed companies, through an interim order, not to charge trait value of Rs.1250/- per 450 gms. of Bt. Cotton seeds. Companies have been further directed to re-fix the trait value taking into consideration the trait value being charged in countries like China. Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) under the Ministry of Environment and Forests has so far released 62 cotton hybrids with Bt. technology which, besides Monsanto, includes Bt. Cotton hybrids based on technology developed by Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Bt. technology imported from China. This is expected to encourage competition among companies and bring down the prices of Bt. Cotton seeds. Further, shortage of Bt. Cotton seeds has not been reported.

### Notified Forest Area

1605. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the

Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any notified forest area in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to preserve the said forest area in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Yes, there are notified forest areas in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The details are as follows:

(i) Reserved Forests	50479 Sq. Kms.	Notified area
(ii) Protected Forests	12,365 Sq. Kms.	Notified area
(iii) Un-classed Forests	977 Sq. Kms.	Un-Notified area

State Total Forests 63,821 Sq. Kms.

(c) The following activities are being taken to preserve and protect the forest areas in Andhra Pradesh.

- (i) Flying Squad Parties of Forest Department are patrolling the forests against any encroachments or destruction, and poaching.
- (ii) Forests are being managed through people's participation - Joint Forest Management (JFM) and Community Forest Management (CFM).
- (iii) Measures to prevent and control forest fires, improved mobility communication, strengthening of infrastructure, survey and demarcation etc are some of the works taken up under various Centrally Sponsored/State Sector Schemes to preserve and protect the forests.

### Assessment of Cost Production

1606. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted an assessment of the cost of production of wheat, paddy, sugarcane and cotton in the country;

(b) if so, the details of average cost of production of the said products during the last three years; and

(c) the names of States which had maximum and minimum cost of production of the said products during the above 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) and (b) Through implementation of "Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India", Government assesses from time to time the cost of production of various principal crops including wheat, paddy, sugarcane and cotton. A statement showing their

costs in the major States of India during 2001-02 to 2003-04 is enclosed.

(c) As per the cost of cultivation study, The maximum and minimum cost of production of wheat, paddy, sugarcane and cotton in the major States during the period 2001-02 to 2003-04 is as under:

Name of Crops	States with	
	Maximum cost of Production	Minimum cost of Production
Wheat	Madhya Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh
Paddy	West Bengal	Punjab
Sugarcane	Maharashtra	Karnataka
Cotton	Maharashtra	Gujarat

**Statement**

*Cost of production of Wheat, Paddy, Sugarcane and Cotton in major States*

(Rs./Quintal)

Name of Crops	Name of States	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
Wheat	Uttar Pradesh	454.65	507.65	482.78
	Punjab	455.61	493.80	504.24
	Haryana	475.97	477.81	506.72
	Madhya Pradesh	590.81	654.13	568.11
	Rajasthan	464.62	482.15	499.37
Paddy	West Bengal	499.67	549.06	545.77
	Uttar Pradesh	447.337	528.88	440.56
	Punjab	392.91	498.12	442.56
	Andhra Pradesh	538.35	543.71	488.83



1	2	3	4	5
	Orissa	433.05	539.53	468.35
Sugarcane	Uttar Pradesh	64.36	61.49	55.64
	Maharashtra	63.44	70.12	77.90
	Tamil Nadu	57.52	66.34	63.71
	Karnataka	50.76	53.07	66.46
	Andhra Pradesh	73.55	71.68	65.24
Cotton	Gujarat	2282.46	1954.30	1566.88
	Maharashtra	2204.61	2365.52	2152.45
	Andhra Pradesh	1744.76	1617.76	1720.17
	Punjab	2621.62	2447.74	2140.28

**Note:** The cost of production shown above is the cost of production (C2) that includes all the expenses in cash and kind including rent paid for leased-in land and imputed value of wages of family labour, rental value of owned land and interest on fixed capital.

[Translation]

#### Facilities to Beedi Workers

1607. SHRI FURKAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lakhs of beedi workers working in the country particularly in Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal are deprived of the basic amenities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure proper housing, health care, potable drinking water supply and other basic amenities to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has been implementing welfare schemes for the beedi workers and their family members through out

the country including Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. The schemes include among other things running of hospitals and dispensaries, scholarships to school/college going children, financial assistance for construction of houses, reimbursement of cost of treatment of major/minor surgeries, etc. There are 16 Nos. of Static-cum-Mobile Medical Units located in various parts of West Bengal and one 50-bedded Central Hospital at Dhuliyan, Distt. Murshidabad for rendering free treatment to the Beedi Workers and their family members. In Karma Region, 21 nos. of dispensaries and one 100 bedded General Hospital and one 50 bedded T.B. Hospital are running in different parts of Bihar and Jharkhand States. For specialized treatment like, heart, kidney, cancer diseases, patients are referred to recognized speciality hospitals and the cost of treatment is reimbursed upto certain limit. The number of beneficiaries and expenditure incurred during last three years under Health Education and Housing for beedi workers under above Welfare Fund is as follows:—

(Bihar and Jharkhand States)

(Expenditure figures are in Rs. In lakh)

		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Health	Expenditure	285.30	345.54	391.24
	Beneficiaries	248088	341500	362852
Education	Expenditure	59.76	124.17	134.84
	Beneficiaries	7837	20915	22484
Housing	Expenditure	6.71	9.98	3.31

(West Bengal)

(Expenditure figures are in Rs. In Lakh)

		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Health	Expenditure	66.35	94.72	159.48
	Beneficiaries	398696	442977	498082
Education	Expenditure	382.10	451.48	500.67
	Beneficiaries	44196	52862	57878
Housing	Expenditure	73.68	99.87	119.27

[English]

**Special Hospital for Heart Patients  
UnderESIS**

1608. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has recieved any project proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for special hospital for heart patients under Employees State Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

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

**Upgradation of Tamil Nadu  
Agricultural University**

1609. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration for upgrading the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sanctioned funds for this purpose and also under other Centally Sponsored Schemes in agricultural sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and for the current year so far, scheme-wise?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) A statement showing funds sanctioned to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University under the scheme of Strengthening and Development of Agricultural Education and other schemes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Funds Allocated during last three years to  
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Last 3 Years	2006-07
1	2	3	4
1.	Strengthening and Development of Agricultural Education	870.50	471.50

1	2	3	4
2.	Rural Awareness Work Experience	18.00	8.00
3.	Centre of Advance Studies	64.46	25.50
4.	All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Agrometeorology	34.48	11.62
5.	(AICRP) on Weed Control	50.58	12.30
6.	(AICRP) on Cropping System Research	108.52	42.64
7.	(AICRP) on Water Management	131.29	52.08
8.	(AICRP) on Dryland Agriculture	96.53	35.72
9.	(AICRP) on Saline water	51.63	20.00
10.	(AICRP) on Groundwater utilization	33.38	22.00
11.	(AICRP) on Network on Organic Farming	17.97	3.82
12.	(AICRP) on Climate Change	28.71	11.92
13.	(AICRP) on Soil Test Crop Response	44.86	22.20
14.	(AICRP) on Micro Secondary Nutrients	63.62	23.36
15.	(AICRP) on Long Term Fertilizer	28.85	9.26
16.	(AICRP) on Biofertilizer	29.79	11.85
17.	(AICRP) on Tropical fruit	96.53	21.01
18.	(AICRP) on Subtropical Fruit	22.96	6.51
19.	(AICRP) on Arid Zone Fruit	48.56	9.22
20.	(AICRP) on Spices	26.98	10.30

1	2	3	4
21.	(AICRP) on Betelvine	18.68	12.09
22.	(AICRP) on Cashew	22.66	12.98
23.	(AICRP) on on Palms	121.26	52.22
24.	(AICRP) on Mushroom	14.64	13.40
25.	(AICRP) on Tuber Crops	34.75	13.36
26.	(AICRP) on Vegetable	67.64	15.27
27.	(AICRP) on Floriculture	66.45	15.08
28.	(AICRP) on Farm Implement and Machinery	172.56	62.3
29.	(AICRP) on Renewable Sources of Energy	104.34	46.92
30.	(AICRP) on Ergonomics and Safety in Agriculture	44.73	19.52
31.	(AICRP) on Post Harvest Technology	144.16	61.48
32.	(AICRP) on Pearl Millet	30.00	10.47
33.	(AICRP) on Small Millets	51.17	16.83
34.	(AICRP) on Rice	196.06	76.15
35.	(AICRP) on Maize	27.27	9.35
36.	(AICRP) on Forage	64.83	23.67
37.	(AICRP) on Sorghum	76.94	27.49
38.	(AICRP) on Under Utilized Crops	25.59	9.80
39.	(AICRP) on Nematode	31.95	13.19
40.	(AICRP) on Pesticide Residue	26.03	0.00
41.	(AICRP) on Acarology	50.57	12.17
42.	(AICRP) on Biological Control	37.56	8.13

1	2	3	4
43. (AICRP) on Sugarcane		29.55	9.05
44. (AICRP) on Jute and Allied Fibres		17.94	6.02
45. (AICRP) on Cotton		87.60	30.26
46. (AICRP) on Sunflower		62.10	16.28
47. (AICRP) on Castor		40.60	11.43
48. (AICRP) on Sesame		55.72	20.32
49. (AICRP) on Soyabean		30.47	12.07
50. (AICRP) on Groundnut		87.50	26.93
51. (AICRP) on Aliyamagar		37.15	11.65
52. (AICRP) on Mullarp		116.48	29.74
53. (AICRP) on Pigeon Pea		121.17	38.40
54. National Seed Project on Breeder Seed Production		35.21	13.92
55. National Seed Project on Seed Technology Research		47.99	14.41
56. National Seed Project on Vegetable		24.75	10.04
57. Seed Production in Agril Crops and Fisheries		384.25	220.75
58. Ad-hoc Research Projects		60.75	18.00
59. Krishi Vigyan Kendras		1276.05	712.85
60. National Agricultural Technology Projects		1750.00	0.00
Total		7563.32	2564.80

**Setting up of National Biotechnology  
Regulatory Authority**

1610. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken final decision to set up a National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority as recommended by the Task Force on Agricultural Biotechnology;

(b) if so, the time by which notification in this regard is proposed to be issued;

(c) the Ministries amongst which coordination is necessary to make the Authority an effective body;

(d) the reasons for delay in the constitution of the Authority; and

(e) the steps being initiated to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (e) On the basis of recommendations of the Task Force on Application of Biotechnology in Agriculture, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has formulated a proposal for establishment of National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority (NBRA), which is under consideration of the Government. The Authority is proposed to be headed by an eminent biotechnologist, and will have representatives from the concerned Ministries like Ministry of Environment and Forests, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Agriculture Research and Education, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Department of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Law and Justice etc. Subject matter specialist and Non-governmental Organisations will also be represented in the proposed NBRA.

**Environmental Clearance to Shopping Malls**

1611. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Deputy Commissioner (South-West) has completed public hearing in the matter of granting environmental clearance to Vasant Kunj shopping malls;

(b) whether the Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs) and local residents are against the construction of Vasant Kunj shopping malls;

(c) whether the said malls are being constructed under 'funnel area'; and

(d) the details of the recommendations made by Deputy Commissioner (South-West) in the matter?

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

(b) In the public hearing held on 19-20 June, 2006, representatives of many of the RWAs and local residents have expressed their reservations against the construction of Vasant Kunj Shopping Malls.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the EIA Notification, the panel conducting the public hearing is authorised to record the proceedings and forward it to the Regulatory Authority viz. Ministry of Environment and Forests without necessarily drawing any conclusions or recommendations. MoEF has received the proceedings of the public hearing conducted by Deputy Commissioner (South-West Delhi) in the matter without specific recommendations.

#### **Increase in Freight Charges**

1612. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the Government's consideration to increase the freight charges on Chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its financial impact on the financial condition of the poor farmers?

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) In respect of urea, freight subsidy is paid for transportation of urea from manufacturing units to block headquarters in the form of equated freight, which consists of primary freight and secondary freight. Primary freight is towards transportation from plant gate to warehouse/field godowns and secondary freight is for transportation of urea from warehouse/field godowns to block headquarters. Under the policy provisions of New Pricing Scheme for urea units, there is provision for revision in rates of primary freight on account of rail freight revisions and annual increase/decrease in the wholesale price index of diesel for the road component.

In respect of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers, the freight for movement up to block level is paid as part of the normative delivered price worked out for various P&K fertilizers covered under the Concession Scheme. Fertilizer Association of India alongwith manufacturers/importers of P&K fertilizers have represented for increase in the freight component due to recent hike in rail/road freight. The Government is examining the issue to increase the normative delivered price of P&K fertilizers to cushion the impact of increase in the rail freight.

As the urea and the decontrolled P&K fertilizers are made available to farmers at statutorily notified maximum retail price (MRP) or indicative MRPs, the revision in freight has no financial implications for the farmers.

#### **Desertification in Andhra Pradesh**

1613. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has introduced/proposes to introduce any mechanism to check desertification in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP)

Scheme, which aims at regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands. The scheme, thus, helps in checking desertification. The scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. As on 31.03.2006, 715 FDA projects have been operationalised in the country to treat a total project area of 9.24 lakh hectares through 23,750 JFMCs. In Andhra Pradesh 32 FDA projects to treat an area of 47,400 hectares through 1455 JFMCs have been approved, as on 31.3.2006.

[Translation]

#### Implementation of Article 21-A

1614. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any petition was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court for abolition of child labour for implementation of Article 21-A of the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has issued direction to some State Governments for the implementation of the said Article; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government and respective State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Writ Petition was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court by an NGO seeking declaration of constitutional law that Article 21-A of the Constitution completely prohibits all forms of child labour.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued notices to the State Governments/UTs to file their reply in the matter.

(d) The Union Government has filed an affidavit in the Hon'ble Court. The Government is committed to eliminate child labour in all its forms beginning with children working in hazardous occupations/processes.

[English]

#### Availability of Vaccine for Bird Flu

1615. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :

SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA" :

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether High Security Animal Disease Laboratory of Indian Veterinary Research Institute at Bhopal has developed a vaccine against bird flu;

(b) if so, whether the Government was imported said vaccine;

(c) if so, the amount spent thereon during each of the last three years and the current financial year; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure adequate availability and affordability of the new vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF 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) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fishery imported Avian Influenza vaccine during 2005-06 for Rs.56.70 lakhs. No vaccine was purchased during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05.

(d) The steps have been initiated for availability of indigenous vaccine.

[Translation]

#### Financial Assistance to Prasar Bharati

1616. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to impose cess on the purchase of TV sets to provide financial assistance to Prasar Bharati;

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

(c) the amount likely to be provided to Prasar Bharati as financial assistance annually through the said collection?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c) A committee under the chairmanship of Secretary I&B was constituted on 30.03.2005 by the Government for suggesting a viable capital and financial structure of Prasar Bharati to strengthen its functioning. The Committee has dealt and deliberated on the restructuring options available and submitted its Report to the Government, which inter-alia, also include a suggestion for introduction of license fee at an ad-velorem rate of 5% / 10% on all the television sets at the point of production, collected through Excise Department. The Report is currently before the Group of Ministers (GoM), constituted by the Government to examine the various options pertaining to functioning of Prasar Bharati. Providing any sort of financial assistance to Prasar Bharati, including the issue of license fee would depend on the decision of GoM.

#### Vehicular Pollution

1617. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Honourable Supreme Court has issued any instructions on 29th April, 1999 to check/impound the vehicles emitting smoke;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Government has taken any steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Production of Foodgrains

1618. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of foodgrains in the country;

(b) whether the production rate is lower than other similar countries while the cost of production is higher;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) As per the 4th Advance Estimates released on 15th July 2006, the total production of foodgrains is estimated at 208.3 million tonnes in 2005-06.

(b) Following table shows the production rate (productivity) of cereals and pulses in nearby developing countries in 2005:

Countries	Productivity (Kg./Hectare)	
	Cereals	Pulses
1	2	3
India	2367	612
China	5171	1887
Indonesia	4312	940

1	2	3
Thailand	2723	860
Bangladesh	3551	792
Pakistan	2563	756
Sri Lanka	3438	911
Myanmar	3689	951
World	3263	843'

Source: FAO website.

It may be seen from the above table that the productivity of cereals and pulses in India is the lowest among the countries shown in the table. Country-wise comparable costs of production are not available.

(c) and (d) The productivity in a country depends, inter-alia, on rainfall, nature of soil, temperature, use of fertilizers, quality seeds and appropriate technology. In order to increase over-all productivity and production of cereals and pulses under specific crop based systems, Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals under the scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) are under implementation in the country as Centrally sponsored scheme. The Government is also implementing a Centrally sponsored scheme i.e. "Integrated scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM)" from 1st April 2004 to increase their production and productivity.

[English]

#### Food and Nutritional Security

1619. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is still facing major nutritional problems resulting in acute starvation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study on household food and nutritional security for tribal, backward and hilly areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the adequate quantity of food and to improve the situation particularly in the above areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Although the nutrition scenario over the last five decades has improved significantly, malnutrition/under nutrition is widely prevalent in the country. Chronic under nutrition among children, anaemia among high risk groups namely infants, pre-school children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women in particular and Vitamin A and Iodine deficiencies are still prevalent. However, no starvation death has been reported due to malnutrition.

(c) and (d) The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau of Indian Council of Medical Research has conducted surveys on Diet and Nutrition of the tribal population living in the Integrated Tribal Development Project areas in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, and West Bengal in the year 1998-99.

(e) For increasing overall availability of cereals, the Central Government has been implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme under Macro Management of Agriculture. A separate Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz., Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is also under implementation for increasing productivity of these crops. National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Technology Mission are under implementation for increasing availability of horticultural produce in the country. Tribal, backward and hilly areas are also included under relevant schemes.

For improving nutritional status, the National Nutritional



Policy and National Plan of Action for Nutrition are under implementation in the country.

[Translation]

### **Dairy Development in Madhya Pradesh**

1620. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the Government of Madhya Pradesh under the centrally sponsored scheme Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production and Intensive Dairy Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on the proposals; and

(d) the time by which said amount 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The scheme-wise details of the proposals received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production" and Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP) are as under:

#### **i. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production**

Out of the 14 proposals received from the State Government this Department approved four projects for Bhopal, Jabalpur, Indore, Gwalior and Ujjain Milk Unions at a total cost of Rs.804.23 lakh with a central share of Rs.637.49 lakh and organizational share of Rs.166.74 lakh during the years 2004-05 and 2005-

06 to be implemented over a period of three years in the districts of Betul, Dhar, Gwalior, Bhind, Datia, Morena, Balaghat, Mandsaur, Dewas, Ratlam, Bhopal, Sehore and Shajapur. A sum of Rs.61.67 lakh and Rs.193.98 lakh as central share was released to the State Government during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. Out of it the MP State Cooperative Dairy Federation Limited has reported an expenditure of Rs.56.54 lakh. The Utilisation Certificate in this regard is still awaited.

The remaining ten proposals received from the State Government during end of July, 2006, for the district unions of Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Indore and Ujjain covering the districts of Morena, Chhindwara, Betul, Sehore, Shajapur, Narsingharh, Rajgarh, Seoni, Indore and Mandsaur prepared at a total estimated cost of Rs.3232.57 lakh have been examined in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and the State Government has been asked to provide certain additional information and also to complete the ongoing projects in physical and financial terms before new proposals are considered.

#### **ii. Intensive Dairy Development Programme (IDDP)**

Out of the eight proposals received from the State of Madhya Pradesh five proposals covering the districts of Guna, Narsinghpur, Chattarpur, Khargaon, Satna, Rewa, Jhabua, Balaghat and Chhindwara have been approved with a total outlay of Rs.1743.38 lakhs and Rs.1338.53 lakhs has already been released by Government of India up to 31.3.06, out of which an amount of Rs.439.34 lakhs is lying unspent with the State Government. The balance amount will be released after receiving the utilization certificate of the funds already released and physical progress of the projects from the State Government. As regards the remaining three proposals covering the districts of Neemuch, Harda Badwani, Sheopur, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Vidisha and Raisen, the State Government has been asked to complete the earlier approved projects by preparing a time bound action plan and

report achievements made in respect of these project before any new project is taken up.

**Titles Registered with Registrar of Newspapers of India**

1621. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of titles registered with the Registrar of Newspapers of India as daily, weekly, fortnightly, monthly etc. in the country category-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether all these titles are in circulation currently;

(c) if so, whether these titles are kept confidential; and

(d) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) 62,851 titles have been registered with Registrar of Newspapers for India as on 28.7.2006. A detailed statement is enclosed. Registrar of Newspapers for India does not maintain data regarding state of publication of these titles.

(c) The details of titles registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India are available on its website [www.rni.nic.in](http://www.rni.nic.in).

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*The Titles Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India as on 28th July, 2006  
(States/U.Ts. and Periodicity wise)*

	Daily	Tri/Bi- Weekly	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Quarterly	Bi-Monthly Half Yearly	Annual	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	0	20	16	13	2	2	0	58
Andhra Pradesh	489	8	717	467	1164	134	123	45	3147
Arunachal Pradesh	4	1	4	0	2	2	0	0	13
Assam	57	11	191	69	111	27	25	12	503
Bihar	378	33	655	161	247	69	39	3	1585
Chandigarh	46	1	86	33	170	43	29	5	413
Chhattisgarh	109	1	218	29	58	16	11	7	449
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daman and Diu	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	5
Delhi	467	54	1545	1165	3635	949	676	138	8629
Goa	15	0	17	14	35	10	6	2	99
Gujarat	264	12	1365	288	706	91	135	16	2847
Haryana	154	9	419	225	277	61	33	11	1189
Himachal Pradesh	14	0	69	29	58	29	9	5	213
Jammu and Kashmir	110	4	252	51	48	11	14	4	494
Jharkhand	47	0	64	26	71	15	4	1	228
Karnataka	589	12	671	488	1181	155	128	34	3258
Kerala	242	8	220	214	1125	144	123	35	2111
Lakshadweep	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	5
Madhya Pradesh	554	8	2483	210	780	141	138	32	4346
Maharashtra	824	47	2529	638	1984	573	416	267	7278
Manipur	55	3	17	12	42	9	11	5	154
Meghalaya	5	4	33	7	17	5	4	1	76
Mizoram	44	14	36	7	24	6	5	0	136
Nagaland	5	0	9	1	1	2	0	1	19
Orissa	135	4	234	134	381	165	59	21	1133
Pondicherry	8	1	10	4	31	18	8	1	81
Punjab	145	13	488	176	414	57	59	11	1363
Rajasthan	483	22	1156	1464	569	142	117	32	3985
Sikkim	1	2	27	1	1	2	3	1	38
Tamil Nadu	412	53	528	395	1793	196	207	37	3621
Tripura	24	2	59	9	13	3	1	1	112
Uttaranchal	196	7	542	106	145	43	38	15	1092

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Uttar Pradesh	1142	24	5423	1054	1648	460	201	74	10026
West Bengal	196	11	800	767	1193	762	361	53	4143
Total	7220	369	20860	8265	17938	4343	2985	871	62851

[English]

#### Bifurcation of Services

1622. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to bifurcate the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

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

(c) the stage at which the above proposal stands at present; and

(d) the mechanism proposed/evolved to accommodate the employees under the new scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to have two separate Departments, viz. Department of Environment and Department of Forests and Wildlife as a follow-up of the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

(c) and (d) The proposal is under formulation.

[Translation]

#### Assistance for Loss of Crops

1623. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the existing norms for providing assistance from relief funds for loss of crops due to flood and heavy rains to 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) : Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned with matters relating to heavy rains and floods and also the norms of expenditure for assistance from relief funds in the wake of natural calamities viz. Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). As per the existing norms of expenditure for assistance from relief funds for damage to crops due to natural calamities, assistance towards input subsidy is admissible to small and marginal farmers for crop loss of 50% and above @ Rs. 1000/- per hectare for rainfed areas, Rs.2500/- per hectare for areas with assured irrigation and Rs.4000/- per hectare for perennial crops. Assistance for input subsidy is also admissible at the above rates to other farmers in case of severe calamity occurring for second consecutive year (or subsequent year) and subject to the condition that the subsidy will be payable at appropriate rate per hectare upto 2 hectares only, irrespective of the size of holding.

[English]

#### Persons Registered In Employment Exchanges

1624. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :  
SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

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

(a) the total number of employment exchanges functioning at present in the country; State-wise;

(b) the names of trades and the number of persons

including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/ Other Backward Castes registered thereunder with each exchange during each of the last three years, category-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the total number of persons benefited therefrom during the last three years, employment exchange-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (c) State-wise details of the number of employment exchanges at present and the number of placements made by the employment exchanges during 2003, 2004 and 2005 are given in the enclosed statement-I

(b) State-wise and category-wise job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on 31st December 2002, 2003 and 2004 were as given in the enclosed statement-II.

It is estimated that out of the total jobseekers, around 72.5% were those having general qualifications, 10.7% were having production related experience, 8.7% were having professional, technical and related experience, and around 6.5% were with clerical experience.

**Statement**

S. No.	State/UT	Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.2005 (In actual Number)	Number of Placements effected during (In thousands)		
			2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31	3.7	2.4	1.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	@	0.4	@

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	52	0.6	0.2	0.4
4.	Bihar	37	0.6	0.1	@
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	1.6	0.9	2.2
6.	Delhi	14	0.4	0.3	0.1
7.	Goa	1	0.3	0.2	0.3
8.	Gujarat	42	64.9	64.9	92.9
9.	Haryana	61	4.3	3.4	3.5
10.	Himachal Pradesh	15	1.3	1.0	1.7
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	@	0.3	@
12.	Jharkhand	33	8.6	2.8	2.7
13.	Karnataka	40	2.9	1.6	1.7
14.	Kerala	86	7.3	7.5	9.7
15.	Madhya Pradesh	58	1.9	1.6	1.7
16.	Maharashtra	46	14.0	12.8	15.0
17.	Manipur	11	@	—	0.3
18.	Meghalaya	11	@	@	@
19.	Mizoram	3	0.3	@	—
20.	Nagaland	7	0.2	@	@
21.	Orissa	40	1.8	2.4	2.0
22.	Punjab	46	3.2	2.7	2.1
23.	Rajasthan	42	2.3	3.4	7.7
24.	Sikkim*				
25.	Tamil Nadu	34	18.9	13.2	15.3
26.	Tripura	5	0.7	0.3	0.2

1	2	3	4	5	6
27. Uttranchal		23	1.8	2.4	2.1
28. Uttar Pradesh		84	2.6	1.7	1.6
29. West Bengal		75	9.3	10.1	7.3
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		1	0.4	0.4	0.1
31. Chandigarh		2	0.5	0.3	0.2
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1	—	②	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
33. Daman and Diu		2	②	②	②
34. Lakshadweep		1	0.1	②	—
35. Pondicherry		1	0.4	0.3	0.7
Total		947	154.9	137.7	173.2

Note :

② Figures less than 50.

\*No exchange is working in the State.

Total may not tally due to rounding off.

**Statement-II**

*Number of Jobseekers in respect of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes applicants on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as on*

(In Thousand)

S. No.	State/UT	2002			2003			2004		
		Scheduled Caste	Schedu- led Tribe	Other Backward Classes	Scheduled Caste	Schedu- led Tribe	Other Backward Classes	Scheduled Caste	Schedu- led Tribe	Other Backward Classes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	601.6	166.6	975.4	600.2	151.8	934.2	566.8	152.9	916.8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.4	12.7	0.2	0.3	11.9	0.2	0.9	12.1	0.2
3.	Assam	98.1	179.5	213.2	102.0	177.1	210.8	102.8	192.5	227.6
4.	Bihar	237.5	23.4	483.9	238.0	21.0	548.9	209.2	17.6	522.1
5.	Chhattisgarh	85.1	141.5	117.1	98.2	166.4	125.0	103.4	178.5	127.5
6.	Delhi	158.9	24.6	24.6	169.7	25.7	29.7	89.6	9.2	18.4
7.	Goa	2.5	—	7.9	2.4	0.3	7.8	2.4	1.0	8.1
8.	Gujarat	185.4	107.2	10.3	184.4	124.0	11.5	175.6	112.2	18.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9.	Haryana	149.2	1.4	16.5	153.6	@	20.0	158.6	@	22.9
10.	Himachal Pradesh	176.8	24.8	46.3	179.8	26.3	42.2	177.3	23.2	43.5
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.5	2.2	1.1	5.1	2.1	1.2	5.7	2.2	1.3
12.	Jharkhand	152.7	217.6	263.1	173.9	273.3	279.1	197.0	256.9	306.2
13.	Karnataka	306.3	72.7	41.9	293.7	68.8	44.0	269.8	63.6	46.7
14.	Kerala	496.6	30.2	1565.8	506.9	29.2	1640.3	528.0	30.9	1644.8
15.	Madhya Pradesh	285.9	179.0	214.7	305.5	393.4	240.8	307.6	289.1	249.8
16.	Maharashtra	656.5	162.5	788.7	680.3	168.2	804.6	693.5	166.9	802.7
17.	Manipur	6.2	99.8	0.7	6.4	130.7	0.3	6.6	134.9	0.4
18.	Meghalaya	0.1	29.3	0.2	0.1	27.6	0.1	0.1	28.6	0.2
19.	Mizoram	—	44.8	—	@	36.3	—	—	41.5	—
20.	Nagaland	0.2	34.4	@	0.2	41.9	@	0.2	43.3	—
21.	Orissa	122.8	86.0	53.6	126.6	90.1	56.7	160.4	106.9	70.5
22.	Punjab	156.2	@	5.8	148.3	—	8.4	146.8	—	6.5
23.	Rajasthan	120.0	66.5	91.4	147.2	90.1	128.0	139.3	91.8	166.4
24.	Sikkim*									
25.	Tamil Nadu	1103.7	13.7	2497.7	1148.4	13.8	2534.7	1074.1	13.8	2424.4
26.	Tripura	60.1	60.3	9.8	62.5	62.4	10.5	64.7	65.4	11.9
27.	Uttanchal	52.8	9.4	18.0	47.9	10.2	19.6	48.6	9.2	20.6
28.	Uttar Pradesh	389.9	5.0	285.4	431.9	5.5	345.3	412.6	5.0	351.6
29.	West Bengal	723.1	142.5	141.5	779.7	154.2	158.2	796.5	160.2	167.9
(B) Union Territories										
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	0.7	1.0
31.	Chandigarh	0.6	0.6	1.1	16.3	0.1	1.2	14.4	0.1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.2	0.9	—	0.2	0.9	—	0.2	0.9	—
33.	Daman and Diu	0.6	0.6	—	0.2	@	—	0.6	0.6	—
34.	Lakshadweep	—	6.4	—	—	6.4	—	—	6.4	—
35.	Pondicherry	15.3	0.1	29.3	18.0	0.1	28.8	16.8	0.1	26.6
Total		6351.0	1946.8	7905.1	6627.9	2309.9	8231.9	6470.0	2218.4	8205.3

Note :

@ Figures less than 50.

\*No exchange is working in the State.

Total may not tally due to rounding off.

#### Use of Mercury

1625. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the advanced countries have banned the use of mercury which is scientifically considered to contain highly toxic substances of hazardous nature;

(b) if so, whether import of mercury in India has more than doubled in the past five years, as India has become the largest user of mercury;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Parad Shivlings which are traded freely and installed at homes for worship contain more than 30 per cent mercury by weight;

(e) if so, whether India proposes to have a re-look on this issue and initiate steps to phase out mercury consumption in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) A decreasing trend has been observed in the import of mercury in India since the year 2003-04.

(d) No conclusive data on mercury content in Parad Shivlings are available.

(e) to (g) No such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry as no conclusive data on adverse impacts on human health due to Parad Shivlings are available.

#### Agricultural Survey

1626. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quinquennial agricultural survey are conducted on time;

(b) if so, when was the last survey conducted by the Government; and



(c) the major findings of the survey and how the Government has attempted to incorporate those findings in its programmes?

THE MINISTER OF 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 conducts the quinquennial Agriculture Census in the entire country. The last Agriculture Census was conducted with reference year 2000-01. The results of the Census are used as appropriate in designing and implementation of the developmental programmes in the agriculture sector.

#### DTH Service

1627. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan's Directo-to-Home (DTH) service has been further delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to break the monopoly of cable operators in the country by launching DTH service; and

(d) if so, the cities in which DTH service would be launched and the time by which it is likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. It is intended to cover areas which are not covered by Terrestrial Transmission.

(d) Doordarshan's DTH service called DD Direct + was launched on 16th December 2004. This is a free to air service, with 34 channels which can be received with

the help of small dish receive units and its signals are available throughout India (except Andman and Nicobar Islands).

#### Rajjuvenation of Canal Irrigation System in Tamil Nadu

1628. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is providing any assistance to the Government of Tamil Nadu for restoration and rejuvenation of canal irrigation system in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken to further promote the irrigation system in the State?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) The Government of India in 2004-05 launched a programme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies directly linked to agriculture. Assistance has been provided to the Government of Tamil Nadu by the Government of India under above programme as per details given in the following table.

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of water bodies	Estimated cost in Rs. crore	Addi- tional potential (in ha.)	Centre share in Rs. crore
1.	Sivagangai	8	1.222	153.23	0.458
2.	Villupuram	38	9.372	1178.15	3.5145

The Government of India launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 in order to assist State Governments to complete ongoing irrigation projects. So far, Rs.20.00 cre has been released to the Government of Tamil Nadu for one project namely Water Resource Consolidation Project.

### Pollution in Rivers

1629. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the level of pollution in rivers is increasing each year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to include more rivers, which are currently not under National River Conservation Plan for pollution abatement schemes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (d) While the pollution loads generated by the ever increasing urban population in the cities/towns located on the banks of rivers exert pressure on the Water Quality, various pollution abatement works taken up under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) go towards mitigating the pollution levels in rivers. With the completion of the works of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I (1985-2000) as well as projects undertaken under GAP Phase-II (1995 onwards), notwithstanding the substantial increase in the pollution load of the river Ganga over the past years, its water quality has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality.

Schemes of pollution abatement of rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) are presently under implementation in 160 towns spread over 20 States covering 34 rivers of the country. Inclusion of more rivers under NRCP from time to time would depend upon the availability of fund in the XI Plan, feasibility of the proposals received from the State Governments and State Governments' commitment to provide the matching share, being 30% of the total project cost.

### Development of Fisheries in W.B.

1630. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for development of fisheries in West Bengal particularly in hilly areas has been received by the Government; and

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

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

(b) The Government of West Bengal had sought Central assistance in 2006-07 for development of 2000 ha water area and 185 units ornamental fish and 150 units under Jhora fisheries involving total cost of Rs.383.72 lakhs. The proposal has been examined as per guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture implemented through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) set up in the State. As per terms of reference of the scheme, Utilization Certificates and physical progress report of funds released earlier, availability of State matching share, audited statement etc. are mandatory and accordingly State Government has been advised to do the needful.

### Allocation for R&D of New Crop Varieties

1631. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for research and development of high yielding crop varieties during the last five years;

(b) the steps taken to promote public-private participation in biotechnology sector for achieving sustainable growth in agricultural sector;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up special venture capital fund for biotechnology and develop a suitable regulatory framework for promoting biotechnology crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The funds allocated for research and development activities of crops including high yielding varieties during last five years (2001-2002 to 2005-2006) are as follows:—

- |      |  |   |                         |
|------|--|---|-------------------------|
| (i)  | Indian Council of<br>Agricultural Research | — | Rs.1077.33 Crores       |
| (ii) | Department of<br>Biotechnology             | — | Approx.<br>Rs.60 Crores |

(b) A number of biotechnology schemes are in place in various departments to promote public-private participation in various sectors viz. Home Grown Technology (HGT) in Information, Forecastings and Assessment Council (TIFAC) of Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) in Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and small Business Innovation and Research Initiative (SBIRI) in DBT.

The Small Business Innovation and Research Initiative (SBIRI) in supporting existing private industrial units to promote their indigenous product and Research and Development (R&D) activities. Indian Council of Agricultural Research is supporting private sector for the availability of bioagent cultures. Transgenic material developed by private sector is also being tested by public institution specially Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutes and State Agricultural Universities.

(c) and (d) The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has informed that no proposal is under consideration of DBT for setting up of special venture capital fund for biotechnology. The harmonization of regulatory framework for agriculture sector is under consideration by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

#### Productivity of Rice

1632. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the per hectare yield of rice has declined since 2003;

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

(c) the reasons for the failure of Macro Management scheme aimed at increasing the productivity of rice in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) The per hectare production (yield) of rice for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 is shown in the table below:

Year	Yield of Rice (Kg/Hectare)
2002-03	1744
2003-04	2078
2004-05	1984
2005-06*	2093

\*4th advance estimates

It may be seen from the above table that the yield of rice was fluctuating. It was low in 2002-03 and 2004-05. The year 2002-03 was drought affected and in the year 2004-05 rainfall was 13% less than the normal which reduced the yield.

(c) In order to increase productivity and production of rice under specific crop based system, Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice under the scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) is under implementation in the country since October 2000 as Centrally sponsored scheme. The fact that the all-India yield of rice had gone up from 1901 Kg./ Hectare in 2000-01 to 2078 Kg./ Hectare in 2003-04, and stands at 2093 Kg./ Hectare in 2005-06 indicates that the scheme has not failed and is showing favourable results.

**Increase in Farm Income**

1	2	3	4	5
	Punjab	19944.64	18803.72	16714.76
	Uttar Pradesh	11602.47	11201.68	11494.94
Paddy/ Rice	Andhra Pradesh	12447.50	11841.90	16918.73
	Haryana	17716.31	16354.62	14797.29
	Punjab	18350.95	21135.61	16293.65
	West Bengal	6672.73	7137.45	5736.83
Jowar	Karnataka	1213.68	833.21	777.85
	Maharashtra	2591.69	1856.05	5735.29
Bajra	Gujarat	1826.14	5527.89	2787.58
	Uttar Pradesh	5039.80	5527.89	4792.93

1633. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the States producing rice, wheat, jowar and bajra alongwith the quantity produced during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there have been any improvement in the net income per hectare from the said crops; and

(c) if so, the extent 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 States producing rice, wheat, jowar and bajra and the State-wise quantities produced during the last three years are shown in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The gross return over all the expenditures per hectare for the crops rice, wheat, jowar and bajra in the major States for three years is shown below:

(Rs./Hectare)

Crop	State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
Wheat	Haryana	18583.00	18212.79	18729.93

Note: Gross return is the difference between gross value of output and cost of cultivation (all expenses in cash and kind including rent paid for leased-in land-  $A_2$  cost).

It may be seen from the above table that the gross returns show a mixed trend during the years 2000-01 to 2002-03 for which data are available.

**Statement**

(Million Tonnes)

State/UT	Rice			Wheat			Jowar			Bajra		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	8953.0	9601.0	11692.0	7.0	5.0	7.0	742.0	516.0	562.0	148.0	81.0	86.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Arunachal Pradesh	154.6	135.0	#	6.3	8.7	#						
Assam	3880.0	3470.7	3430.0	73.0	68.1	71.0						
Bihar	5447.8	2472.2	3417.0	3688.9	3263.4	3660.0	1.5	3.8	6.0	1.6	1.3	5.0
Chhattisgarh	5567.6	4383.3	5012.0	108.6	82.4	91.0	7.6	4.4	6.0			
Goa	170.7	145.2	#									
Gujarat	1277.0	1238.2	1331.0	2036.5	1805.5	2473.0	173.6	207.5	171.0	1599.9	1084.7	1066.0
Haryana	2790.0	3023.0	3210.0	9114.0	9058.0	8878.0	26.0	26.0	24.0	1006.0	749.0	679.0
Himachal Pradesh	120.6	122.0	109.0	498.0	684.0	679.0				0.2	0.2	
Jammu and Kashmir	504.2	492.2	518.0	459.4	474.4	444.0	NR	3.6		10.0	9.6	8.0
Jharkhand	2310.0	1657.0	1558.0	118.0	150.0	84.0	2.0	1.7		3.0	2.0	
Karnataka	2550.3	3547.0	4351.0	96.2	179.0	145.0	781.1	1435.0	1454.0	191.5	267.0	412.0
Kerala	570.0	667.1	635.0				1.1	0.3				
Madhya Pradesh	1750.3	1169.0	1656.0	7364.6	7176.6	5958.0	954.5	630.6	628.0	284.0	241.5	725.0
Maharashtra	2835.0	2164.0	2433.0	778.0	1016.0	1452.0	2888.0	3624.0	4342.0	896.0	1126.0	1143.0
Manipur	381.2	435.9	#									
Meghalaya	200.7	193.7	#	1.5	1.6	#						
Mizoram	114.6	104.1	#									
Nagaland	248.0	259.8	#	20.0	13.0	#	5.0	4.0	#	5.0	4.0	
Orissa	6733.7	6466.0	6753.0	7.5	5.0	5.0	6.4	5.5	6.0	1.7	1.6	2.0
Punjab	9656.0	10437.0	10193.0	14489.0	14698.0	14493.0				8.0	7.0	5.0
Rajasthan	164.8	150.4	153.0	5875.8	5706.6	5865.0	527.4	265.9	170.0	6657.0	3002.2	2159.0
Sikkim	21.2	21.6	#	8.1	8.3	#						
Tamil Nadu	3222.8	5062.2	6127.0				246.0	252.1	359.0	172.3	124.3	118.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Tripura	516.6	545.1	#	5.1	2.8	#						
Uttar Pradesh	13018.8	9555.6	11130.0	25566.7	22513.9	23574.0	313.9	252.3	242.0	1119.9	1223.9	1246.0
Uttaranchal	569.0	572.0	590.0	745.0	803.0	645.0						
West Bengal	14662.3	14884.8	14864.0	985.7	841.5	838.0	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.2		
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	30.9	29.2	#									
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22.3	23.4	#	1.0	1.1	#	0.4	0.4	#			
Delhi	11.1	14.3	#	102.3	71.0	#	4.1	10.5	#	4.6	5.6	#
Daman and Diu	3.9	4.0	#									
Pondicherry	67.0	65.7	#				0.1	0.1	#	0.4	0.4	#
Others	NA	NA	1877.0	NA	NA	119.0	NA	NA	6.0	NA	NA	4.0
All India	88526.0	83131.7	91039.0	72156.2	68636.9	69481.0	6681.3	7244.3	7977.0	12109.3	7931.3	7658.0

\*4th Advance Estimates

# Includes in Others

NA : Not Applicable, NR: Not Reported

Blank spaces indicate negligible/ no production

#### **Persons Engaged in Various Sectors**

1634. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made any survey to find out the percentage of persons engaged in agricultural, industrial and service sectors during 2005-06 in the country;

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

(c) the average annual income earning of each of the above sectors in various States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the income particularly in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey for which results are published pertains to the year 1999-2000. As per this

survey, State-wise and Industry-wise distribution of workers on usual status basis was as given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Industry-wise average wage/salary earnings per day received by the regular/salaried employees of age 15-59 years during 1999-2000 were as given in the enclosed statement-II. State-wise details are not available.

(d) Apart from the quality employment being created in the normal growth process, Government have recently launched the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which provides for at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household in the rural areas and whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. This will help improve the income/earnings of the workers in rural areas.

**Statement-I**

*Percentage distribution of usually working persons by broad industry division*

S. State Name		Rural			Urban		
No.		Agriculture	Industry	Services	Agriculture	Industry	Services
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	78.8	6.4	14.8	9.5	20.2	70.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	83.4	2.8	13.7	8.7	0.4	90.9
3.	Assam	67.7	4.3	28.1	6.0	7.7	86.3
4.	Bihar	80.6	6.6	12.8	10.9	22.2	67.0
5.	Goa	28.7	17.2	54.1	1.8	16.5	81.8
6.	Gujarat	79.8	7.3	12.9	9.4	25.1	65.4
7.	Haryana	68.5	7.7	23.7	9.1	22.5	68.4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	73.6	4.0	22.4	11.0	8.0	81.0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	76.3	4.2	19.4	13.2	8.4	78.5
10.	Karnataka	82.1	6.2	11.7	10.8	24.1	65.0
11.	Kerala	48.3	14.3	37.6	9.5	20.5	70.0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	87.1	4.4	8.5	15.4	20.0	64.6
13.	Maharashtra	82.6	5.0	12.3	5.7	23.7	70.7
14.	Manipur	75.3	8.0	16.7	28.3	11.4	60.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Meghalaya	86.5	1.4	12.1	1.3	3.8	94.9
16.	Mizoram	85.5	1.3	13.3	30.3	5.3	64.4
17.	Nagaland	79.7	0.7	19.6	8.4	6.2	85.4
18.	Orissa	78.2	8.6	13.2	13.0	21.0	66.0
19.	Punjab	72.6	5.9	21.5	8.7	22.5	68.9
20.	Rajasthan	77.7	5.7	16.6	12.9	20.4	63.7
21.	Sikkim	60.8	3.3	35.9	2.1	9.0	88.9
22.	Tamil Nadu	67.9	14.4	17.7	8.9	28.6	62.5
23.	Tripura	45.7	4.0	50.3	2.7	3.7	93.6
24.	Uttar Pradesh	76.2	7.9	15.8	9.0	25.5	65.6
25.	West Bengal	63.6	16.9	19.5	3.0	26.5	70.4
<b>(B) Union Territories</b>							
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	65.0	3.5	31.6	15.3	12.2	72.4
27.	Chandigarh	66.1	10.2	23.8	1.6	17.7	80.6
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	55.2	19.8	25.0	8.1	54.1	37.8
29.	Daman and Diu	34.2	42.3	23.5	11.9	15.0	73.1
30.	Delhi	7.5	26.0	66.4	1.7	24.4	74.0
31.	Lakshadweep	53.6	3.4	43.0	24.5	4.6	70.8
32.	Pondicherry	59.9	13.8	26.4	5.4	33.2	61.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>76.3</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>67.9</b>

Note : 1. Industry includes Mining and Quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas, water supply and construction.

2. Services include Trade, Hotel and Restaurant, Transport, Financial Services, Public adm., education and communication services etc.



**Statement-II**

*Average Wage/Salary earning (Rs.0.00) per day received by regular Wage/Salaried employees of age 15-59 years by sector (industry) of work*

Industry division/group	NIC Code	Average wage/salary earnings per day (Rs.)	
		Rural	Urban
Agriculture	(01-05)	65.88	137.90
Mining and Quarrying	(10-14)	140.16	257.16
Manufacturing	(15-27)	77.66	96.58
Manufacturing	(23-37)	96.41	165.40
Electricity, Gas and Water	(40-41)	197.54	246.86
Construction	(45)	104.66	133.59
Trade	(50-55)	64.90	100.27
Transport and Storage etc.	(60-64)	112.29	162.04
Services	(65-74)	155.69	263.87
Services	(75-93)	177.18	206.43
Private hhs. with emp. persons	(95)	49.25	49.38
Others	(99)	320.00	998.61

NIC – National Industrial classification.

**National Policy on Flood Control**

1635. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any National Policy on Flood Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures adopted to save the lives and properties continuously being affected by the floods?

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

(c) Flood Management being a State subject, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own priorities out of their State plan funds which are made available to them through Planning Commission. Safety measures in the form of construction of embankments, anti erosion works, raised platforms are being constructed by the State Governments to protect the lives and properties of the people residing near the river banks against the floods.

Besides, Central Water Commission is responsible for issuing flood forecasts at 173 stations on the major rivers in the country as a result of which the people in the flood prone areas are evacuated during the floods and shifted to safer places.

**FM Channels**

1636. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of FM channels functioning in the country, at present;

(b) the revenue earned by the Government through these FM channels, State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals pending with the Government for starting new FM channels; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) Two FM

channels of AIR called FM Rainbow and FM Gold are functioning. There are 16 Stations, which are originating programmes as FM Rainbow channel, and four Stations originating FM Gold type programmes. In addition, there are 70 Local Radio Stations, 16 Non-Local Radio Stations, 25 Vividh Bharati and 30 relay centres transmitting programmes over FM transmitters. Thus a total of 161 transmitters are functioning in FM mode. On the Private side, 27 nos. of Private FM Channels are functioning in the country. The revenue earned by Government and Private FM Stations are given in the enclosed statement I and II respectively.

(c) and (d) Proposals for 16 nos. of AIR FM transmitters are pending while Letters of Intent for 239 Private FM Channels have been issued. Out of this, 237 nos. of FM Channels are scheduled for commissioning by the end of next financial year.

**Statement-I**

**State wise Revenue from FM Stations  
of Air during 2005-06**

Amount (Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No. States		
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.3388
2.	Assam	0.2525
3.	Bihar	1.3212
4.	Chhattisgarh	0.1689
5.	Delhi	1.2243
6.	Goa	0.112
7.	Gujarat	0.9888
8.	Haryana	0.1509

1	2	3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.0254
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.2371
11.	Jharkhand	1.8637
12.	Karnataka	2.3399
13.	Kerala	2.3695
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1.8913
15.	Maharashtra	2.043
16.	Meghalaya	0.07
17.	Mizoram	0.0411
18.	Manipur	0.1213
19.	Nagaland	0
20.	Orissa	0.2966
21.	Punjab	0.6563
22.	Rajasthan	1.1012
23.	Tamil Nadu	9.2017
24.	Tripura	0.1938
25.	UT- Daman	0.0106
26.	UT- Karaikal	0.4801
27.	UT- Chandigarh	1.5357
28.	UT- Port Blair	0.2954
29.	Uttar Pradesh	2.0515
30.	Uttanchal	0
31.	West Bengal	0.8669
Total		33.2538

**Statement-II***Revenue Earnings as on 2nd August, 2006*

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	State	Phase I Channels			Phase II Channels	
		License Fee under Phase I	Migration Fee	License Fee under Phase II	OTEF for 6 Functional Channels	Total Revenue for Running Channel
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17,362,500	40,046,663	3,554,851	256,000,300	316,964,314
2.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Chandigarh UT	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Delhi	458,392,303	666,756,657	11,782,500	0	1,136,931,460
8.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Gujarat	100,550,843	87,813,875	0	0	188,364,718
10.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Karnataka	317,078,460	141,970,016	19,539,701	216,000,000	694,588,177
15.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	107,585,064	47,506,962	0	0	155,092,026
17.	Maharashtra	1,752,317,451	1,063,366,492	13,200,037	0	2,828,883,980
18.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Orissa	10,474,000	0	0	0	0	10,474,000
22. Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0
24. Rajasthan	0	0	1,221,512	117,000,000	118,22,1512	
25. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
26. Tamil Nadu	481,120,786	236,568,347	697,542	80,000,800	798,387,475	
27. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
28. Uttar Pradesh	220,245,319	120,527,500	5,252,063	0	346,024,882	
29. West Bengal	62,505,765	94,244,518	0	0	156,750,283	
Total	3,527,632,491	2,498,801,030	55,248,206	669,001,100	6,750,662,827	

[Translation]

#### Dams/Wells for Farmers in Hilly Areas

1637. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has been constructing dams and wells for the benefit of farmers in various hilly areas having barren land;

(b) if so, the number of dams and wells constructed by the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of funds allocated for as well as spent on construction of wells and dams 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) to (c) Planning Commission is implementing Hill Area

Development Programme (HADP) and Western Ghat Development Programme (WGDP) for integrated development of certain designated hill areas from Fifth Five Year Plan. Under these programmes Special Central Assistance (SCA) is provided to the States in the ratio of 90:10 (90% grant and 10% loan) to supplement their efforts in achieving the objectives of integrated development on compact watershed basis. Check Dams, Wells and Ponds are constructed under these programmes. The details of Special Central Assistance (SCA) released during last three years (2003-06) are as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)

S. States	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
No.			
1	2	3	4
5			
<b>HADP</b>			
1. Assam	50.66	51.11	46.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Tamil Nadu	22.10	22.10	19.89
3.	West Bengal	22.33	22.33	20.10
Total		95.09	95.54	85.99

**WGDP**

1.	Maharashtra	20.86	21.06	18.95
2.	Karnataka	15.57	15.57	14.01
3.	Kerala	13.13	13.13	11.82
4.	Tamil Nadu	10.99	10.99	9.86
5.	Goa	2.86	2.93	2.89
Total		63.41	63.68	57.53

In addition, a Central Sector Scheme namely "On Farm Water Management for increasing crop production in Eastern India" was launched in March, 2002 by Ministry of Agriculture covering the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram.

Under the scheme assistance was provided to the farmers for construction of shallow tube wells with pump sets, construction of dug wells, low lift irrigation points and distribution of pumps sets. The funding pattern of the scheme was 20% contribution from farmers, 50% as Banks Loan and remaining 30% as Central subsidy. The funds provided by Government of India under the scheme during last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	States	2003-04	2004-05	2006-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	3.00	4.38	1.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Bihar	11.18	5.40	0.50
3.	Jharkhand	4.04	4.32	2.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	3.29	4.12	5.00
5.	Orissa	6.60	3.05	1.00
6.	Uttar Pradesh	40.22	17.95	12.50
7.	West Bengal	4.67	4.41	1.50
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.00	2.48	0.20
9.	Manipur	3.00	2.50	1.00
10.	Mizoram	3.00	1.39	0.30
Total		82.00	50.00	25.00

This scheme is discontinued as per direction of Planning Commission with effect from 01.04.2006.

**Prices of Agricultural Inputs**

1638. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of agricultural inputs have doubled during the last three years;

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

(c) the action being taken by the Government to control/reduce the price of such agricultural inputs; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to provide remunerative prices to the farmer for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) Increase in the prices of agricultural inputs, as revealed by the Index of Prices Paid (IPP) by farmers for intermediate input consumption, since 2002-03 is indicated below:

(Base Year: 1991=100)

Year	Index
2002-03	253.2
2003-04	259.1
2004-05	271.1*

\*Provisional

Among the major steps taken to control/reduce the price of inputs are, provision of grant of subsidy for agricultural mechanization, production and distribution of seeds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Macro Management of Agriculture; 50 per cent subsidy on the cost of foundation seed under Seed Village Programme; Seed distribution subsidy; reduction of interest rate on loans to the farmers at a rate of 7 per cent as compared to 9 to 12 per cent or even higher just a year ago.

(d) The Government's price policy for agricultural commodities seeks to ensure remunerative prices to the growers. The Government, after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors, announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies.

[English]

#### Village Grain Banks in Kerala

1639. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States included in the 'Village Grain Scheme'; and

(b) the number of grain banks that have since been started in the country, State-wise particularly in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER

OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) All the States/UT's were invited to send their proposals for the establishment of Grain Banks in February, 2006. The Government of Haryana, Mizoram, Goa and National Capital Territory of Delhi are not interested in the scheme.

(b) After the transfer of the scheme from Ministry of Tribal Affairs to Department of Food and Public Distribution, the revised scheme was approved in February, 2006 and since then 3962 Village Grain Banks have been sanctioned as per enclosed statement during 2005-06 and 2006-07 for their establishment in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tripura, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Sikkim. No proposal has so far been received from the Government of Kerala.

#### Statement

##### Village Grain Banks Scheme

State-wise the number of Grain Banks for establishment during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

S. State No.	No. of Banks sanctioned
2005-06	
1. Andhra Pradesh	1214
2. Orissa	240
3. Chattisgarh	262
4. Madhya Pradesh	926
5. Jharkhand	583
6. Tripura	13
7. Meghalaya	44
Total	3282
2006-07	
1	2
1. Uttar Pradesh	500

1	2	3
2.	Assam	100
3.	Sikkim	80
Total		680

[Translation]

#### Prices of DAP and Urea

1640. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the prices of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and urea have gone up during June and July;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding black marketing of fertilizers;

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

(e) The step taken by the Government to reduce the prices and check the black marketing of fertilisers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (e) There is no change in the Maximum Retail Prices of DAP and urea since 12.03.2003. The present MRP of urea is Rs.4830 per MT and the indicative MRP of DAP is Rs.9350 per MT. Under Clause 21 of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, it is mandatory to print the MRP on the containers of all kinds of fertilizers. No person can charge the price higher than the printed on the bag. Any person violating the mandatory provisions of FCO is liable to be prosecuted for administrative / punitive action under provisions of FCO and ECA. The State Governments are the enforcement

agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offenders who indulge in any kind of malpractices.

[English]

#### National Alliance against Hunger

1641. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted the National Alliance Against Hunger (NAAH);

(b) if so, the constituents and the objectives thereof;

(c) the measures suggested by the NAAH for food and nutrition security and food fortification and hunger mapping; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) A list showing the members of National Alliance Against Hunger (NAAH) is given in the enclosed statement. The objectives of the Alliance are to mobilize political will, technical expertise and financial resources to reduce hunger in the country.

(c) and (d) Two meetings of the National Alliance Against Hunger (NAAH) have been held so far. These meetings were exploratory in nature. MSSRF and WFP have volunteered to prepare a concept paper on hunger mapping and also it was decided that state level alliances against hunger on the lines of NAAH be created. The Government has initiated various measures to improve the nutritional and health status of the population in the country viz. Nutrition Education, adoption of National Nutrition Policy in 1993 and a National Plan of Action for Nutrition

(1998), supplementary feeding programmes and programmes for prevention of Specific Micronutrient Deficiency disorders.

**Statement**

*List of Members of the National Alliance against Hunger (NAAH) constituted in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution)*

S. No.	Name of members	Status
1	2	3
1.	Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution	Chairman
2.	Financial Secretary	Member
3.	Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	Member
4.	Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Research and Education	Member
5.	Secretary, Department of Family Welfare	Member
6.	Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development	Member
7.	Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	Member
8.	Secretary, Department of Rural Development	Member
9.	Secretary, Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	Member
10.	A representative from Planning Commission	Member
11.	Director General, National Informatics Centre	Member

1	2	3
12.	WFP Representative and Country Director	Member
13.	FAO Representative to India	Member
14.	Directors, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.	Member
15.	SEWA Ahmedabad	Member
16.	A representative of Micro Nutrient Initiatives, New Delhi	Member
17.	Joint Secretary (IC), Department of Food and Public Distribution	Member Secretary

**Regional Disparities in Agricultural Development**

1642. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the eastern and north eastern regions have lagged behind in agricultural development;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons 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) Data in the following table show the normal (average of 5 years from 1999-2000 to 2003-04) productivity and production of foodgrains and oilseeds in major States of eastern and north eastern regions vis-a-vis the other:

State	Productivity (kg./hectare)	Production ('000 Tonnes)
1	2	3
<b>Foodgrains</b>		
<b>Eastern Region</b>		
Bihar	1650	11633.0



1	2	3
West Bengal	2326	15346.7
<b>North-Eastern</b>		
Assam	1443	4032.3
Tripura	2183	554.9
<b>Northem Region</b>		
Punjab	3972	24726.7
Uttar pradesh	2135	42642.0
<b>Western Region</b>		
Maharashtra	861	11157.5
Rajasthan	1045	12050.1
<b>Oilseeds</b>		
<b>Eastern Region</b>		
Orissa	440	133.4
West Bengal	880	519.9
<b>North-Eastern</b>		
Assam	501	154.0
Nagaland	1082	53.4
<b>Northern Region</b>		
Haryana	1369	737.3
Uttar Pradesh	818	1050.5
<b>Western Region</b>		
Gujarat	1016	2875.7
Rajasthan	951	2863.5

As may be seen from the above table, in the case of foodgrains, the productivities of eastern and north-eastern region states are not lagging behind that of the northern

and western regions states. However, in the case of oilseeds the trend is mixed. The productivity and production depend, inter-alia, on rainfall, temperature, nature of soil, use of fertilizers, quality seeds, appropriate technology and managerial skills of farmers, which vary from region to region.

(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.

#### National Wildlife Board

1643. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the National Wildlife Board was held recently; and

(b) if so, the agenda discussed and decision arrived thereat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The third meeting of the National Board for Wildlife was held on 19th June, 2006. The important agenda items are at Annexure. The summary record of the discussions held at the meeting is yet to be accorded formal approval.

#### Statement

1. Action for Protecting Peacock
2. Action for Protecting Lions

3. Conservation of India's Red Jungle Fowl
4. Conservation of Important Wetlands
5. Legal Powers to Army Personnel
6. Raising Ecological Task Force
7. Funds for Awareness

**Statement**

The recommendations of the Committee broadly are as follows:

1. Formulation activities to be continued in Gurgaon, Rishikesh and Chennai. In Hyderabad unit the formulation activities are to be restarted.
2. The plant and machinery and other infrastructure in all these units need to be upgraded to schedule M requirements.
3. The bulk drug production in Hyderabad and Rishikesh has to be taken up from the third year of the revival. Hence the up-gradation / replacement of machinery to meet the GMP requirements to be started immediately.
4. The bulk drug production will be from the penultimate stage to start with. The IDPL management may decide production from basic stage at the appropriate time and stage depending upon the marketing conditions and availability of appropriate technology.
5. Based on the above premise, the projected capacity utilization, profitability and cash generation have been worked out at a level which will ensure financial self-sustenance for the company as a whole. The pay-back will be in the 5th year of the commencement of project production.
6. IDPL may also explore the possibility of toll manufacturing / 3rd party manufacturing of formulation and bulk drugs which would augment the resources of the company.
7. The extra vacant land and other extra infrastructure facility like the vacant quarters, guest houses etc., which may not be used in the immediate future may be leased out to augment the resources.
8. On the above lines, the total funds requirement

[Translation]

**Rehabilitation of Indian Drugs and  
Pharmaceuticals Limited**

1644. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether the Government has set up an Expert Committee to study techno-economic feasibility for rehabilitating of Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL);

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government on the recommendations?

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

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) Government has accepted the recommendations of the Expert Committee. IDPL has been asked to submit Draft Rehabilitation Scheme for consideration of the Government.

- for up-gradation of plant and machinery and infrastructure in respect of bulk drug and formulation division as a whole amounts to Rs.151 crores.
9. The two wholly owned subsidiaries namely BDOCL and IDPL (TN) to be merged back with the holding company as these are not financially and administratively independent of the parent company. They do not have their own marketing set up and their products mainly cater to the need of the parent company.
  10. Improvement of technology of production of bulk drugs by importing intermediates would need to be adopted to reduce the cost of the product.
  11. Reorganisation of formulation development facilities to develop new formulations of the latest drugs would have to be created.
  12. Technology / collaboration for new drugs would have to be acquired.
  13. New technologies for future production would need to be identified.
  14. The progress of implementation of action plan is to be monitored through different task force.
  15. The existing Balance Sheet needs to be cleaned up by writing off Government loans amounting to Rs.1970 crores and negotiating with the bankers / other trade creditors towards reduction of interest liability due on their outstanding. The asset side of the Balance Sheet also need to be adjusted by updating the realistic value of the assets.
  16. The Government of AP and Uttaranchal would be required to waive off penal charges in addition to actual demand charges in respect of dues of APSEB, UPSEB, AP Water Board and UP Water Board.
  17. Since the Rishikesh Plant will be modernized with significant capital additions, the Government of Uttaranchal may recognise the same and allow excise and other tax benefits under the Government of India Industrial Policy of the year 2001.
  18. The total cost of the Revival Plan is as follows:
    - (a) Investment of up-gradation of infrastructure / plant and machinery Rs.151 crores.
    - (b) Expenditure during construction including man power cost will be Rs.20 crores.
    - (c) Investment of funds towards initial working capital will be Rs.33 crores.

Total cash infusion - Rs.204 crores
  19. Write off concessions
    - (a) Government of India loan and interest thereon including VRS fund Rs.1970 crores
    - (b) Interest on Loans from Banks and other PSUs Rs. 810 crores

Total Concession - Rs.2780 crores

Apart from this Rs.1.5 crores waiver of excise duty on Ethyl Alcohol lying in the stores of BDOCL Plant is to be allowed by the State Government.
  20. Total cost of the revival
 

Cash Infusion – Rs. 204crores

Concession – Rs. 2780 crores

Total – Rs. 2984crores
  21. Mode of Financing
 

The Committee is of the view that the cash infusion of Rs.204 crores may be provided as one time interest free loan to IDPL which the company would repay within a period of seven

years by sale of excess vacant land available in the units of Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu and Gurgaon. Government may also consider converting a portion of the loan included in the Rs.1970 crores into grant / equity as mentioned above.

[English]

#### Diversion of Forest Land

1645. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether diversion of deep/fringe forests for industrial and commercial purposes poses serious threats to wildlife; and

(b) if so, the precautionary measures proposed/taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Diversion of bio-diversity rich forest land for industrial and commercial purposes does have an impact on the wildlife.

(b) To avoid adverse impacts on wildlife and their habitat due to diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes, the following measures are taken:

- (1) The diversion of forest land, rich in wildlife, for industrial and commercial purposes, is permitted only in unavoidable circumstances.
- (2) As assessment of the impact of such diversion on wildlife and their habitat is made by the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden of the State. The recommendation of the Chief Wildlife Warden is given due consideration while examining the proposals.
- (3) Diversion of areas, falling under National Parks and Sanctuaries, for non forestry purposes, requires approval of the Standing Committee of

the National Board for Wildlife. Site inspection by the experts are also done, wherever necessary, before recommending such diversion.

- (4) As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, all cases requiring diversion of land from National Parks and Sanctuaries, need approval of the Hon'ble Supreme Court also.

[Translation]

#### Plight of Contract Labour

1646. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the plight of the contract labourers is reported to have been pitiable and they are made to do the work of permanent employees;

(b) if so, the reasons for the vast difference in the nature of facilities being provided to permanent employees and contract labourers; and

(c) 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) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 has been enacted with a view to improve the service conditions of contract labour. Specific complaints, received in this regard, are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this law.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the terms and conditions of licence issued to contractors under Rule 25(2)(v)(a) of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Central Rules 1971, the contract labour who perform the same or similar kind of work as that of the regular employees of an establishment, have to be granted the same wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other service conditions as that of regular employees. Disputes in this regard can be raised before the authority specified

under the said rule for resolution. Besides, periodical inspections are also conducted by the inspecting officers in Central Sphere and prosecutions, for violation of the said rule, are launched, wherever considered necessary.

[English]

#### **Scheme for Seed Production Technology**

1647. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for transfer of seed production technology to farmers to help them to produce better quality seeds themselves;

(b) if so, the details of the said scheme;

(c) whether any training programme is being implemented for effective transfer of seed production and processing technology;

(d) if so, whether the Government has ever evaluated the said programme keeping in view of the large scale suicides by the farmers;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government for effective implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) Sir, Seed Village Programme has been introduced during 2005-06 in the country for transfer of seed production technology to farmers, to enable them to produce better quality seeds and to improve the stock of farm saved seeds for enhancing crop production/productivity.

(b) to (f) Following assistance is provided under Seed Village Programme:

- (i) **50% subsidy on the cost of foundation seed** used by the farmers upto half acre per farmer.
- (ii) **Training of farmers** participating in the programme at the rate of Rs.15,000/- per group of 50-150 farmers in seed production technologies from preparation of land to harvesting and post harvest processing.
- (iii) **Assistance for purchase of seed storage bins** at the rates of 25% for small and marginal farmers and 33% for SC/ST farmers for 10 quintal and 20 quintal capacity bins.

The Seed Village Programme, essentially indented to **empower the farmers** to produce quality seed in their own lands under the guidance and assistance of the implementing agencies, has evoked positive response from many States. During the 2005-06 an amount of Rs.1476.99 Lakhs have been released to various State/ implementing agencies and for the current year an allocation of Rs.1349.49 Lakhs is available for implementation of the programme.

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have produce 172000, 2920 and 24000 quintals seeds of different crops respectively under the Seed Village Programme during 2005-06.

[Translation]

#### **Strengthening of Poultry Farming in Madhya Pradesh**

1648. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal under centrally sponsored scheme involving the cost of 170 lakh rupees to strengthen the poultry farming in the State particularly in Gwalior and Jabalpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which said proposal is likely to be approved and amount 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 Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted proposals seeking financial assistance of Rs.170.00 lakhs under centrally sponsored scheme 'Assistance to State Poultry/ Duck Farms' to strengthen its farms at Gwalior and Jabalpur.

It will be possible to take up the above mentioned proposals only after receipt of utilization certificate for an amount of Rs.213.73 lakhs released to the State in respect of five poultry farms during the period 2001-02 to 2004-05.

[English]

#### Funds for Research Work

1649. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the research work undertaken and the amount spent by the Government thereon in agriculture particularly for sugarcane, wheat and various kinds of fruits in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to undertake any new research work for other foodgrains also; 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 ICAR has carried out research activities to increase agricultural production in various states through improvement of crop, animal and fish genetic resources, natural resource management, disease diagnostics and management in crops, livestock and fisheries, development and utilization of improved farm machinery, post harvest technology and human resource development. The funds for research are allocated institution and project-wise and not state-wise. In sugarcane, wheat and various fruits crops, the research

efforts have focused on development of improved varieties/ hybrids with specific traits and the suitable production, protection and post-harvest technologies which involved an approximate expenditure under plan funds of Rs.721.00 lakhs on sugarcane, Rs.620.00 lakhs on wheat and Rs.2483.00 lakhs on various fruits crops during 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Research work for development of improved varieties/hybrids, production, protection and other technologies for increasing quality and production of other foodgrains, is already going on. This includes, coarse cereals, minor millets, pulses etc.

[Translation]

#### Payment of Bonus on Procurement

1650. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has procured wheat from the farmers after making payment of bonus price in addition to payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to give bonus to farmers on the procurement of paddy and agricultural genes also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An incentive Bonus of Rs.50/- per quintal on wheat over the MSP of Rs.650 per quintal was announced on 21.4.2006 for the entire Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07.

(c) to (e) A proposal to purchase foodgrains at a rate higher than the MSP has been formulated in the Department of Food and Public Distribution to ensure that the required quantity of foodgrains are procured to meet

the commitments under the TPDS and other foodgrains based welfare schemes.

#### **Land Acquired for Bokaro Steel Plant**

1651. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the total land acquired for Bokaro Steel Plant and the area out of it transferred in favour of Non-Governmental Organisations and educational institutes;

(b) whether the land has been allotted to beneficiaries on lease basis during the last three years;

(c) if so, the year-wise details thereof alongwith the lease period;

(d) the criteria adopted in allotment of land;

(e) whether the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1894 have been violated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)/ Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has acquired 31,287 acres of land out of which 21,278 and 217,149 acres of land (Total 238,427 acres of land) have been allotted on lease to Non-Governmental Organisations and Educational Institutions respectively.

(b) to (d) During last three years, only one plot measuring 133 Sq.m. has been allotted on lease basis for 33 years (w.e.f. 22.12.2003) to Shri Sarfuddin Ansari under a specially advertised scheme exclusively for displaced persons whose names were sent by the Government of Jharkhand for employment in BSL.

(e) No Sir, provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1894 have not been violated.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Protection of Wildlife Sanctuaries**

1652. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to raise a special ecological task force to protect wildlife sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry also proposes to fund some organisations to carry out awareness programmes and ecological projects for protection and conservation of forest wealth;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the criteria made to fund such organizations?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Greening India Scheme implemented by this Ministry provides financial support to the State Forest Departments through Central Forest Development Agencies to raise awareness about quality planting material and tree planting. Similarly, financial assistance is also given to scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations and individuals who have adequate experience in the field of research for various research projects related to wildlife management and conservation including awareness programmes. Credibility of the organization, past experience, expertise confirming to the prescribed guidelines of the Ministry are some of the criteria adopted for selection.

#### **Setting Up of Manufacturing Unit by Japanese Pharma Companies**

1653. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pharmaceutical companies from

Japan has shown interest in the Indian Pharmaceutical sector particularly in contract manufacturing, collaborative research and marketing of drugs;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether said companies are setting up of its manufacturing unit at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to attract foreign companies in Indian Pharmaceutical sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : (a) to (d) The Office of Drug Controller General(India) has received applications from one pharmaceutical company, M/s Eisai Co. Ltd. from Japan to market their drugs in the country. The Indian Company is by the name of Eisai Pharmaceutical India Pvt. Ltd. and is the 100% subsidiary of Eisai Co. Ltd. Japan. The Company was incorporated in October, 2004 in India. As per the information provided by M/s Eisai, the firm is likely to set up its manufacturing unit in Indore or Visakhapatnam in the next two years.

(e) The Government has been encouraging foreign investment in pharmaceutical sector through Drug policies/ Industrial policies announced from time to time. 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permissible in pharma sector.

#### **CADP In Orissa**

1654. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Centrally sponsored scheme viz. Command Area Development Programmes is in operation in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details of the activities undertaken during 2004-05 and 2005-06 and the objectives of the programme;
- (c) the number of irrigation projects so far com-

pleted under the programme and the hectares of land covered; and

- (d) the names of new projects included and the names of projects excluded under the programme during 2006-07?

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

(b) In the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 the activities like - i) Survey, Planning and Design ii) construction of field channels; iii) construction of field, intermediate and link drains; iv) crop demonstration; v) reclamation of water-logged areas; and vi) training of farmers and functionaries were undertaken by the State with the objectives to bridge the gap between irrigation potential created and that utilized through micro level infrastructure development and efficient farm mwater management.

(c) So far, four projects were deleted from the Programme after completion of Command Area Development activities in 2003-04 covering an area of 79390 hectares.

(d) No proposal has been received from the State Government for inclusion of new projects and exclusion of projects during 2006-07 under the programme.

#### **Supply of Rails by SAIL**

1655. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a huge quantity of rails supplied to Railways by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was found to be cracked;
- (b) if so, the details of the annual supply of rails by SAIL to Railways;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for the defects in the rails supplied to Railways; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ being taken thereon?



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

(b) to (d) does not arise.

#### Production of Apples

1656. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the annual quantum of production of apples recorded in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to substantially increase the production of apples in the country;

(c) if so, the areas/places identified for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The annual production of apple in the country is 17.39 lakh MTs. The State-wise breakup of apple production is as under:—

S.No.	State	Production (in lakh MTs)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.095
2.	Himachal Pradesh	5.276
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	10.933
4.	Uttaranchal	1.085
5.	Others	0.001
Total		17.390

(b) to (d) In order to substantially increase the production of horticulture crops including apple in the apple growing States in country, this Ministry of Agriculture,

is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim" since 2001-02. The scheme was further extended to three other contiguous hilly States namely Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal during the year 2003-04.

The scheme is being implemented in a Mission Mode addressing the issues related to development of horticulture such as, production and productivity, post harvest management, marketing and processing in an end to end approach. The scheme is being implemented on cluster approach with area differentiated strategies to increase the production and productivity of horticulture crops.

#### Polluting Paints

1657. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set any norms/limits for the use of lead in paints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether violations of such limits have been noticed in the recent past;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) As per the information made available by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published number of standards on paints in which limits for lead content is specified. The standards specify lead content ranging from < 0.03% to <1.0% by mass in different types of paints.

(c) to (e) The ISI certification of paint is voluntary in nature. No violation of any norms/limits for lead has been noticed in the paint samples of BIS Licensees drawn and tested by BIS.

### Regional Food Bank

1658. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to establish Regional Food Bank under the administrative control of SAARC Food Security Reserve Board;

(b) if so, the present status of the said proposal alongwith the objectives thereof;

(c) whether the modalities for the establishment of Regional Food Bank have been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Regional Food Bank is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) The 12th SAARC summit held in Islamabad, Pakistan recommended establishment of a Regional Food Bank with a view to make full use of such a mechanism. It has been decided to replace the existing SAARC Food Security Reserve (SFSR) with SAARC Food Security Bank (SFSB).

(b) to (e) The Concept Paper on SAARC Food Security Reserve Bank (SFSB) prepared by India, was considered during the Tenth Meeting of the SAARC Food Security Reserve Board (SFSR), held at Dhaka, in October 2004 and revised on the basis of comments received by the member countries. The 13th Summit held in Dhaka in November 2005 decided that the already existing SAARC Food Security Reserve Board may meet early to consider the revised Concept Paper prepared by India. Following this, an Inter-Governmental Expert Level Meeting may be convened to elaborate an Agreement for the establishment of a Regional Food Bank. This may than be submitted for consideration by the meeting of the SAARC Food/

Agriculture Ministers. India has offered to hold the 11th Meeting of the SAARC Food Security Reserve Board and the dates are yet to be announced.

The objectives of the SAARC Food Security Bank (SFSB) would be:

- (i) to act as a Regional Food Security Reserve;
- (ii) to provide regional support to national food security efforts;
- (iii) to improve agricultural trade facilitation measures; and
- (iv) to foster inter-country partnerships.

To maintain disease free output, the Bank would enable countries to collaborate on issues relating to trans-boundary diseases, management of environment and on sustainable improvement in food productivity in each country.

### Development of Improved Breeds of Milch Cattle

1659. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGÉ PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the institutes which have developed/improved breeds of milch cattle; and

(b) the names and the milk yield capacity of the said cattles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) The National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Project Directorate on Cattle, Meerut in collaboration with Military Farms and Kerala Livestock Development Board have developed improved crossbred strains of cattle.

(b) The crossbred cattle strains have been named

as Karan Swiss, Karan Fries, Frieswal and Sunandini. The location yield of above breeds is given below:—

Breed	Milk Yield Capacity
<b>Karan Swiss</b>	
(i) Average milk production (kg/305 days)	3316 Kg
(ii) Maximum location milk yield recorded (kg/356 days)	8239 Kg
<b>Karan Fries</b>	
(i) Average milk production (kg/305 days)	3393 Kg
(ii) Maximum location milk yield recorded (kg/305 days)	8338 Kg
<b>Frieswal</b>	
(i) Average milk production (kg/300 days)	3072 Kg
(ii) Maximum location milk yield recorded (kg/315 days)	3398 Kg
<b>Sunandini</b>	
(i) Average milk production (kg/305 days)	3265 Kg
(ii) Maximum location milk yield recorded (kg)	5837 Kg

[English]

#### Release of Bt. Cotton

1660. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has ever conducted

any study before the release of different varieties of Bt. Cotton commercially;

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

(c) whether the Government has also conducted any study regarding its affect on soil fertility;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to educate the farmers about the benefits and its bad effect on human health?

THE MINISTER OF 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 protocol approved by the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) of the Department of Biotechnology, various environmental safety assessments of Bt. Cotton hybrids are done before their release for commercial cultivation. The approved protocol includes studies relating to pollen escape/ out crossing, aggressiveness and weediness of Bt. Cotton, effect on non-target organism, risk assessment of accumulation of Bt. gene in soil, impact of Bt. gene in soil micro flora, study to evaluate food safety, confirmation of absence of 'terminator gene' and baseline susceptibility studies.

(c) and (d) Studies conducted by the Department of Biotechnology to assess the possible risk of accumulation of Bt. gene in soil and impact of Bt. protein on soil micro-flora have revealed that Bt. protein was not detected in soil samples and there was no significant impact on soil microbial population. Trials conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Department of Biotechnology have indicated that Bt. Cotton does not have any harmful effects on environment, non-target organisms soil micro-flora, animal and human health.

(e) Public Awareness Campaigns including workshops and training programmes are organized in Bt. Cotton growing States about the issues associated with Bt. Cotton cultivation.

[Translation]

### Pasture Development in Madhya Pradesh

1661. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh relating to Pasture Development Scheme to encourage pasture development in the State;

(b) if so, the details and estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the action being taken on the proposal and the time by which the amount 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal envisages development of grassland in 530 hectares of land at an estimated cost of Rs.391.28 lakhs.

(c) As per guidelines of the Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme, the State Government should utilize the Central grant released earlier up to 2004-05 before the Department considers their new proposal. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has been advised to refund the Central grant of Rs.40 lakhs released in 1992-93 and lying unutilized, before consideration of the new proposal.

[English]

### Employment Exchanges

1662. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :  
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Employment Exchanges are losing their relevance due to recruitment through the competitive examinations;

(b) if so, the whether the Government proposes to recruit skilled C and D categories employees through the employment exchanges;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of C and D categories recruitments made through employment exchanges during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken for restructuring these employment exchanges to improve their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The competitive examinations are held only for recruitment to a few category of posts in the Central/State Governments. For all other categories including the skilled C and D for which the vacancy notification is recieved the job seekers from live register are nominated for consideration.

(c) Placements made through Employment Exchanges for the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Computerisation of Employment Exchanges is being done gradually by State/ UTs to provide better and efficient services to both job seekers and employers.

### Statement

(In thousands)

S. No.	State/UT	Employment Exchanges as on 31.12.2005 (In actual Number	Number of Placements effected during (In thousands)		
			2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31	3.7	2.4	1.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	0	0.4	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	52	0.6	0.2	0.4
4.	Bihar	37	0.6	0.1	@
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	1.6	0.9	2.2
6.	Delhi	14	0.4	0.3	0.1
7.	Goa	1	0.3	0.2	0.3
8.	Gujarat	42	64.9	64.9	92.9
9.	Haryana	61	4.3	3.4	3.5
10.	Himachal Pradesh	15	1.3	1.0	1.7
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	@	0.3	@
12.	Jharkhand	33	8.6	2.8	2.7
13.	Karnataka	40	2.9	1.6	1.7
14.	Kerala	86	7.3	7.5	9.7
15.	Madhya Pradesh	58	1.9	1.6	1.7
16.	Maharashtra	46	14.0	12.8	15.0
17.	Manipur	11	@	—	0.3
18.	Meghalaya	11	@	@	@
19.	Mizoram	3	0.3	@	—
20.	Nagaland	7	0.2	@	@
21.	Orissa	40	1.8	2.4	2.0
22.	Punjab	46	3.2	2.7	2.1
23.	Rajasthan	42	2.3	3.4	7.7
24.	Sikkim*				
25.	Tamil Nadu	34	18.9	13.2	15.3
26.	Tripura	5	0.7	0.3	0.2
27.	Uttaranchal	23	1.8	2.4	2.1

1	2	3	4	5	6
28.	Uttar Pradesh	84	2.6	1.7	1.6
29.	West Bengal	75	9.3	10.1	7.3
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	0.4	0.4	0.1
31.	Chandigarh	2	0.5	0.3	0.2
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	—	@	—
33.	Daman and Diu	2	@	@	@
34.	Lakshadweep	1	0.1	@	—
35.	Pondicherry	1	0.4	0.3	0.7
Total		947	154.9	137.7	173.2

Note :

@ Figures less than 50.

\* No exchange is working in the State.

Total may not tally due to rounding off.

[Translation]

#### Guidelines for Environmental Clearance

1663. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending for environmental clearance for leasing out mining areas in order to set up industries based on mining;

(b) the reasons for their pendency;

(c) whether any guidelines have been set for giving clearance in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Three hundred and fifty five proposals relating to grant of environmental clearance for mining of major minerals with lease area of more than 5 hectare are pending with the Ministry of Environmental and Forests.

(b) The reasons for their pendency inter-alia include large influx of proposals as a follow-up of the directions issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court / High Courts and submission of inadequate information/data along with the proposal.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 1994 as amended from time to time has prescribed guidelines and procedures for submission of applications in the prescribed format along with requisite documents, procedure for conduct of public hearing and environmental appraisal of projects through a multi disciplinary Expert Committee constituted for the purpose.

(e) The EIA Notification has prescribed a time limit of 90 days, from the date of receipt of requisite information, for appraising the project and 30 days thereafter for communicating the decision thereon.

#### Shortage of Fodder

1664. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :  
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of fodder in various parts of the country particularly in drought affected States;

(b) if so, whether milk production is also getting affected due to shortage of green and dry fodder in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the per capita availability of fodder for the animal in the country;

(e) the shortfall between demand and supply of fodder recorded during the last three years and the current financial year; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to meet the gap and increase the production of green and dry fodder in the country?

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

(b) to (d) Milk production is affected by shortage of fodder. On an average, 7.5 Kg. of fodder per milch animal per day is available in the country.

(e) and (f) The shortfall during the last three years and in the current year stands at about 62% in green fodder and 22% in dry fodder. The Government of India is implementing following schemes to enhance overall fodder production and to reduce gap between the demand and supply.

(i) Central Fodder Development Organization comprising of seven Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration and one Central Fodder Seed Production Farm for production of high yielding varieties of fodder seeds, training and demonstration on fodder production and also Central Minikit Testing Programme for distribution of fodder seed minikits.

(ii) A new Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme with four components viz., establishment of Fodder Block Making Unit (25% Central subsidy), Grassland Development including grass reserves (100% Central grant), Fodder Seed Production (75% Central grant on procurement of fodder seeds) and Biotechnology Research Projects (100% Central grant).

Central assistance is provided to the States to supplement their efforts for fodder development.

[English]

### Equal Pay for Equal Work

1665. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether women and children working in various sectors are getting equal pay for equal work;

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

(c) whether any complaints have come to the notice of the Government with regard to non-implementation of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has given any directive regarding equal pay for equal work; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the said directive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) to (d) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides equal pay for equal work for both men and women. The enforcement of Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 in the Central Sphere lies with the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) whereas for the State's Sphere, the enforcement of the Act lies with the respective State Government. No notice or complaint has been received so far by the Central Government regarding non-implementation of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

(e) The Supreme Court in the case of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. Vs. workmen - (AIR 1967 SCC 1948) held that Article 39 of the Constitution under Directive Principles of the State Policy says that State shall direct its policy towards securing equal pay for equal work for

both men and women and Article 43 thereof enjoins on the State to endeavour to secure, by a suitable legislation or economic organization or any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, living wage conditions of work, ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of major and cultural social opportunities.

Subsequently, there have been several judgements wherein the Hon'ble Court, inter alia, held that the principle of equal pay for equal work is a facet of right to equality enshrined under Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution. Later, in another judgement, the Hon'ble Court held that the application of the doctrine of equal pay for equal work as enshrined in Article 14 and 39 of the Constitution depends upon the conditions of the service, etc. Thus, for the application of the doctrine, the post held should be identical.

(f) Central Government is regularly monitoring the implementation of the Act by the respective State Governments. Instructions are issued by the Central Government from time to time to the State Governments for effective enforcement of Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

### Management of Protected Areas

1666. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to give priority to the management of the protected areas in the eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether the Government is focusing on encouraging the people living in deep forests to shift to the fringes voluntarily; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Management of protected areas is a priority of the Government in Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) Government encourages the voluntary relocation of people from the core areas of protected areas

to fringe areas in the interest of wildlife conservation. Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries', and 'Project Tiger', financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for rehabilitation of the displaced families.

#### Training for PDS Personnel

1667. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme to provide training and research facilities for strengthening and upgrading the skills of personnel engaged in the implementation of Public Distribution System had been launched;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government provides any financial and physical assistance to the States under the said scheme;

(d) if so, the details of the assistance so provided to each State during each of the last three years; and

(e) the number of persons benefited therefrom during the said period, State-wise?

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

Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments under the Central Plan Schemes for "Training Research and Monitoring" as under:

- (i) not more than Rs.50,000/- for conducting each training programme consisting of not less than 20 participants for 5 days duration.
- (ii) for conducting seminars, workshops and national level lectures etc; and
- (iii) one time assistance of not more than Rs.1.5 lakh to all the States for purchase of a Computer with accessories to establish an effective link between the District Food and Civil Supply Office and the Directorate of Civil Supplies of States with the NIC network.

The training is imparted to the functionaries of various levels in the State Food and Civil Supplies Departments and State Agencies like State Civil Supplies Corporation, Consumer Cooperatives, etc. to improve the management of supplies of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System. Recently members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), NGOs and Vigilance Committees have also been included for training purposes.

(d) and (e) The assistance provided to State Governments/UT Administrations during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement-I

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the State/UT	Amount Released	Purpose	No. of personnel's trained
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2003-04	Tamil Nadu	Rs.7,500/-	Towards balance payment for three training programmes conducted in May, 2003	—
2.	2003-04	Dadar Nagar Haveli	Rs.82,800/-	For purchase of compute with accessories	—



1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	2003-04	Mizoram	Rs.90,000/-	For conducting two training programme	55
4.	2003-04	West Bengal	Rs.45,000/-	For conducting one training programme	23
			Rs.67,000/-	For conducting the seminar on PDS	67
5.	2003-04	Rajasthan	Rs.5718/-	Towards balance payment for purchase of one computer	—
6.	2003-04	Lakshadweep	Rs.1,01,982/-	For purchase of one computer with accessories	—

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the State/UT	Amount Released	Purpose	No. of personnel's trained
1.	2004-05	Bihar	Rs.4,50,000/-	For conducting ten training programme	200
2.	2004-05	Gujarat	Rs.45,000/-	For conducting one training programme	20
3.	2004-05	Mizoram	Rs.10,000/-	Balance payment towards two training programmes conducted in 2003-04	
4.	2004-05	West Bengal	Rs.45,000	For conduction one training course	60
			Rs.5,000	Balance payment towards one training programmes in 2003-04	—
			Rs.5,879	Balance payment towards one seminar in 2003-04.	—

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the State/UT	Amount Released	Purpose	No. of personnel's trained
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2005-06	Rajasthan	Rs.36,000/-	For purchase of one computer	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
			Rs.38,250/-	For conducting one training programme	17
2.	2005-06	Andhra Pradesh	Rs.5,40,000/-	For conducting twelve training programme	324
3.	2005-06	Mizoram	Rs.2,00,000/-	For conducting four training programme	350
4.	2005-06	Haryana	Rs.1,35,000/-	For conducting three training programme	71
5.	2005-06	Nagaland	Rs.1,35,000/-	For purchase of one computer	—
			Rs.27,000/-	For conducting one training programme	12*
6.	2005-06	Punjab	Rs.44,500/-	For conducting one training programme	20*
7.	2005-06	West Bengal	Rs.1,35,000/-	For conducting three training programme	75*
			Rs.5000/-	Balance payment towards one training programme	
8.	2005-06	Sikkim	Rs.1,80,000/-	For conducting four training programme	120*
9.	2005-06	Tamil Nadu	Rs.11,50,000/-	Training courses for officials/officers of the State Governments involved in PDS	853*
10.	2005-06	Bihar	Rs.50,000/-	Balance payment towards earlier training programmes	—
11.	2005-06	Gujarat	Rs.11,25,000/-	Training courses for members of village/city vigilance committee	9375*

\*These figures are based on the proposals received from the State Governments/UT Administration.

#### Credit from Cooperative Sector

(a) whether approximately 40 per cent of the credit in the country comes from the cooperative sector;

1668. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of the said credit provided to the farmers as soft loans?

THE MINISTER OF 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) Share of Cooperative Sector in the total credit flow to agriculture (during the period 01 April 2005 to 31 March 2006) is 23.66%. The agency wise detail of credit flow is as under:—

Agency	Amount	%Share
(i) Pub. Sec. CBs	Rs.89,626.00 Cr.	(59.91%)
(ii) Pvt. Sec. CBs	Rs.16,525.39 Cr.	(10.49%)
(iii) Coop. Banks	Rs.37,252 Cr.	(23.66%)
(iv) RRBs	Rs.14,076.16 Cr.	(8.94%)
Total	1,57,479.57 Cr.	

(c) Crop loan constituted 88% of total credit flow to agriculture from the Cooperative Banks during the period 01 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. Government has decided to provide crop loan upto a principal amount of Rs.3 lakh at 7% rate of interest effective from Kharif 2006-07.

#### **Task Force for Rural Cooperative Credit System**

1669. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up any Task Force to study the existing rural cooperative credit system of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force has made its recommendations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time frame fixed for giving its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF 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) 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. The main recommendations made by the Task Force are:—

- (i) Special financial assistance of Rs.14,839 crore to wipe out accumulated losses and strengthen their capital base. The likely share of the Centre, State Government and the cooperative credit institutions in the assistance has been estimated at 53%, 31% and 16% respectively.
- (ii) Institutional restructuring to make way for democratic, member driven, autonomous and self reliant institutions.
- (iii) Radical changes in the legal framework to empower Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to regulate cooperative credit structure.
- (iv) Qualitative improvement in personnel in all tiers and at all levels.
- (v) State Government to make legislative amendments to enable RBI to exercise its regulatory powers under the Banking Regulations Act. The Task Force has suggested the draft Model Cooperative Law.
- (vi) The State Governments should formally agree to participate in the revival package. The Scheme is to be kept open for a period of two years for the State Governments to decide on the participation. Release of funds should be linked to the progress by the State Government in actually implementing the revival package.

(vii) Since legislative amendments may take time, the State Governments should in the meanwhile, enter into an appropriate MOU with the RBI, agreeing to desist from interfering directly or indirectly in the financial management of these banks.

(viii) All cooperative banks should be brought on par with the commercial banks as far as regulatory norms are concerned.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Foodgrains for World Food Programme

1670. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

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

(a) whether the Union Government is allocating foodgrains to schemes administered by international organisations in the country such as the World Food Programme;

(b) if so, the names of the agencies to whom the allocations were made during the last two years and current year alongwith the rates thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the extent to which the said schemes have benefited the Below Poverty Line families in the country?

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

(b) Foodgrains have been allocated to World Food Programme (WFP) for their project/programmes in India during the last two years and the current year. The allocations of wheat and rice have been made at the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) fixed for BPL families i.e. Rs.415/- and Rs.565/- per qtl. respectively.

The allocations made during the last two years and the current year are shown below:—

(Figures in tonnes)

Year	Allocation	
	Wheat	Rice
2004-05	70,000	10,000
2005-06	70,000	10,000
2006-07	70,000	10,000

A statement showing the State-wise break-up, as reported by WFP, of the quantities actually lifted/utilized by the WFP is enclosed.

(c) As reported by the WFP, the foodgrains allocated are utilized by them for distribution to the poorest of the poor, mainly in tribal areas. WFP activities target those most vulnerable to food insecurity - women and children, as well as scheduled tribes and castes mostly in the eight State of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Jharkhand.

WFP's primary activities are support to Integrated Child Development Schemes (ICDS) of the Government of India, Food-for-Education and Food-for-Work.

Under WFP's support to ICDS, the specific nutritional requirements of pregnant and lactating women, Local Anganwadi Centres and children were covered through the distribution of nutritious/fortified blended foods.

The Food-for-Education activity provided fortified biscuits to children from tribal districts, ensuring that girls were able to attend school; and its aid also complements Mid-day-Meal-Scheme by providing a nutritious mid-morning snack of fortified biscuits to primary schoolchildren in tribal schools.

The Food-for-Work activity focused on the creation of rural infrastructure and community assets, equally benefiting women and men that enable the hungry poor in tribal communities to create and preserve assets that enhance income-earning opportunities, boost agricultural production and improve their livelihood base.

**Statement**

*State-wise break-up of the foodgrains lifted/utilized by WFP during the last two years and during the current year*

Figures in tonnes\*

State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07*	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
Chhattisgarh	4,846	300	6,289	500	653	340
Gujarat	1,205	300	1,788	100	248	6
Jharkhand	—	4,656	400	3,220	—	1,710
Madhya Pradesh	18,715	—	8,587	—	909	—
Orissa	6,656	4,938	19,107	3,354	1,329	2,950
Rajasthan	8,272	—	10,033	—	971	—
Tamil Nadu	59	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	2,200	—	650	—	640	—
Uttaranchal	8,902	—	11,721	—	2,206	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,855</b>	<b>10,191</b>	<b>58,575</b>	<b>7,174</b>	<b>6,956</b>	<b>5,006</b>

\*Upto July 2006.

[Translation]

**Promotion of Agro Forestry and  
Fruits Producing Units**

1671. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote agro forestry and fruits producing units in the country particularly in West Bengal, Jharkhand and backward areas of other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;

(c) the funds provided for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (d) The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission (NHM) during X Five Year Plan in the country, including West Bengal and Jharkhand. Under this scheme

districts, namely Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Hoogly, Purulia, Bankura, North 24-Parganas, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Paschim Midnapore and Puruvilla of West Bengal and Palamu, Chhatra, Latehar, Dumka, Deoghar, Ranchi, Lohardaga, Hazaribagh, Saraikela and East Singhbhum of Jharkhand are covered. An amount of Rs.40.35 crore has been released to West Bengal and Rs.30.30 crore to Jharkhand during 2005-06. A total of Rs.559.35 crore have been released under NHM to other States during 2005-06.

In addition, Ministry of Environment and Forest is implementing a National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests lands during X Five Year Plan. Under the programme, promotion of agro-forestry on non-forest land is undertaken as an entry point activity. The scheme is being implemented through two tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. Under this programme, 715 FDA Projects of 28 States have been approved to cover a project area of 9.24 lakh ha. through 23,750 JFMCs.

Government of India is also implementing various Watershed Development Programmes namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPRA), (ii) soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSA), (v) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs), (vi) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vii) Desert Development Programme (DD) and (viii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme (IWDP) in which Agro Forestry is adopted as one of the activity.

[English]

#### Setting Up of Committee of Deep Sea Fishing

1672. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has set up any Empowered Committee on Deep Sea Fishing;

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

(c) whether fishing associations have been included in the Committee;

(d) if so, the details of its constitution; and

(e) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

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 (d) Yes Sir. The Union Government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries. The objective of the Committee is to make recommendations on various issues related to development of marine fisheries in India.

Being an Inter-Ministerial Committee concerned Central Ministries/Departments and Institutions are the members of the Committee. However, the Committee grants hearing to representatives of Deep Sea fishing Industry and the Associations as and when need arises. The composition of the Committee and its terms and reference are furnished in the enclosed statement.

(e) Being a standing Committee, it meets as often as required and makes its recommendations on the issues that are brought up before it.

#### Statement

#### Order

**Subject:— Constitution of Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries - regarding**

It has been decided with the approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs to set up an Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries for making recommendation on various issues related to development of marine fisheries in India.

2. The Composition of the committee will be:—

1. Secretary, Deptt. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Chairperson
2. Adviser (Agri), Planning Commission	Member
3. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, D/o Economic Affairs	Member
4. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
5. Joint Secretary, (Navy), Ministry of Defence	Member
6. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce	Member
7. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Shipping	Member
8. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Communications	Member
9. Joint Secretary (Fisheries), DAH&D	Member
10. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Member
11. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests	Member
12. Director General of Foreign Trade or his representative	Member
13. Director General, Coast Guard or his representative	Member
14. Director General, Fishery survey of India, Mumbai	Member
15. Director General of Shipping or his representative	Member
16. Chairman, M.P.E.D.A., Cochin	Member
17. Fisheries Development Commissioner, DAH&D	Member Secretary

3. Terms of Reference of the Committee would be as follows:

(i) To consider proposals of Indian entrepreneurs for deep sea fishing by acquisition through construction/import of deep sea fishing vessels for issuance of Letter of Permission;

(ii) To prescribe norms for joint venture, development of post harvest technologies, infrastructure and human resource development in the sector; and

(iii) To advice the Government on implementation of any other aspects of Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy as and when referred to it.

4. The committee shall meet as often as required, but not less than once in six months. TA/DA of the members, if any, will be borne by their respective Department/Organisation.

SD.

(P.K. Pattanaik)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

#### Certification on Films

1673. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the touts are active in Censor Board to get certification of films as reported in *Hindustan* dated July 26, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has any check on the activities of these touts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring transparency in the office of Censor Board?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir. The film certification process is very transparent and is based on collective decision of the Examining Committee (EC) or Review Committee (RC) in the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Any complaints are handled promptly in CBFC. There is an effective system in place for film certification. The Examining Committee examines the proposal/film and gives its recommendations, and, in case of any grievance, the applicant can ask for the review of decision of EC in the RC. Moreover, Film Certification Appellate Tribunal is also in place, which can be approached in case of any further grievance.

#### National Rain Fed Area Authority

1674. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Rain Fed Area Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the composition and terms of reference of the said authority?

THE MINISTER OF 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 Cabinet has referred this subject to a Group of Ministers to finalise the structure, objectives and functions of the Authority.

12.00 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of Justice R.S. Pathak Inquiry Authority.
- (2) A copy of the Action Taken Report thereon (Hindi and English versions).

(Interruptions)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4596/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : Sir, on behalf of Shri K. Chandra Sekhar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No.S.O. 1596 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2005, appointing officers mentioned therein to be the Inspectors for the purpose of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, issued under section 14 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4597/2006]

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Taslimuddin, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 425(E) in



Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4598/2006]

(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

## MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report a message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Friday, the 28th July, 2006 adopted the following motion in regard to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do elect four Members of the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancies caused by the retirement of S/Shri Manoj Bhattacharya, Ram Nath Kovind and K. Rama Mohana Rao from the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd April, 2006 and resignation of Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz from the membership of the Committee with effect from 29th January, 2006 and resolves that the House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote, four Members from among the Members of the House to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancies."

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:—

1. Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi
2. Shri Arun Jaitley
3. Shri Chittabrata Majumdar
4. Shri P.G. Narayanan'

(Interruptions)

12.01½ hrs.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Twenty-eighth and Thirtieth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2006-2007):—

- (1) Twenty-eighth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Control systems in India Security Press, Nashik".
- (2) Thirtieth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on "Non-recovery of guarantee fee from Air India and Indian Airlines"

12.02 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Seventh Report

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh) : Sir, I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2005-06) on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject. 'Economic Upliftment of Scheduled Caste Women Through

[Shrimati Krishna Tirath]

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)'.  
(Interruptions)

12.02½ hrs.

#### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 23rd Report of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2005-2006) pertaining to the Ministry of Information Technology

[English]

\*THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, I would like to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 23rd Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology relating to Detailed Demands for Grants 2005-06 concerning the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in pursuance of direction 73A of the Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated September 1, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Information Technology held its meeting on 30th March, 2005 to consider the Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2005-06. In its Eighteenth report presented to Lok Sabha on 21.04.2005 the Standing Committee made 25 recommendations contained in the Report. The Ministry furnished Action Taken Notes on the recommendations contained in the Report on 18.08.2005. The Committee analyzed the Action Taken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and on six recommendations did not accept the replies of the

\*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library See No.LT 4599/2006.

Government and reiterated its view in its 23rd Report presented to Lok Sabha on 20.12.2005.

The Action Taken Notes on these six recommendations have already been furnished to the Committee. Through the said Action Taken Notes, the Committee has been apprised of the status of implementation of the recommendations. A statement of Action Taken on the specific Recommendations/Observations as contained in the 23rd Report of Standing Committee on Information Technology in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 9. Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss.

(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM (Calcutta - North East) : Sir, this is a very important matter and the Minister is not present here.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He should have been present here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I resent his absence; he should have been present here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 16, Shri Dasmunsi.

12.03 hrs.

#### MOTION RE: TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th August, 2006."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 4th August, 2006."

*The motion was adopted.*

*(Interruptions)*

12.03½ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS  
(GENERAL) – 2006-2007

*[English]*

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 2006-07.

*(Interruptions)*

12.03¾ hrs.

AIRCRAFT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006\*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2 o'clock.

12.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at  
Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : The report contains many errors. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Just a minute, let me listen to him.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : How it got leaked out from the Prime Minister's office? Nothing has been mentioned about it. Hon. Prime Minister did not come to the House. Also, he did not apologise for it and the report present is fully.....\* and also baseless...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : I am myself doing it. That word should be deleted from the record.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is alright that you will do it, but the hon. Prime Minister should have come here and told how it got leaked out. How the Report and ATR was placed is an important issue and whole country is watching it...*(Interruptions)*

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 7.8.2006.

\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question you have raised, I am myself saying, it is a matter of importance. I had myself said from the Chair.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Your notice has come to me. It is under my consideration. I will try to give my decision as soon as possible.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Three days passed in as soon as possible. 'As soon as possible' It is a very small issue, neither Pathakji nor the hon. Prime Minister is making a wrong statement.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Government has submitted the Report. You can discuss it in the House. You may give a notice and I shall allow a discussion on it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow a discussion. I am giving my word. I will allow a discussion.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : You will have to allow a discussion, this is an issue involving privilege ... (Interruptions) He must apologise... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : During this period Shri Natwar Singh was never the Minister ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Your Leader has said it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would request you all. I shall certainly allow a discussion. It has been submitted only today. I will see what notices have been received. I will allow a discussion. I am sure the Government will not object to it and even if it objects, I will allow a discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : They are highly diplomatic... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow a discussion. Let me go through the notices.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are saying that the issue you wish to raise is an important issue. You will be able to say it all during the discussion and that will be in a more structured manner.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, on behalf of the Government I would like to say that whatever time you may allot for its discussion, the Government has no objection to discuss and respond to it. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The discussion will definitely be there... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have already stated in this regard

[English] You do not have to listen to them. So long as I am here, I shall allow it.

(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : There are two issues involved. One is, the discussion on the Report...(Interruptions) Secondly, how the leakage has taken place?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am quite conscious of it. Give me a little time to find out.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, three days have already passed.

MR. SPEAKER : We are some time taking off. Let them also take some time off during weekend.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I appreciate your sentiments.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking him to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, I have also given notice about breach of privilege and the information is that Justice Pathak has denied it that this report has been leaked from his office and this report....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is the newspaper report. Let us not take cognizance of it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : 11 Members were expelled from the membership of the Parliament on the basis of Newspaper report.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It was the decision of the House. Why are you referring to me?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : That is alright. We interpreted a rule as per our convenience but this is not fair. The country has taken cognizance of it, you may take it or not. So I would like to know from you that what have you decided in regard to breach of privilege...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot cite single instance.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Prima facie has been fixed. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is also under my consideration. The notice was given at 10 o'clock. I am not a computer. Give me a little time to consider.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have also given a notice regarding breach of privilege. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You must have given one but I have not seen it so far.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I will see what you decide on that breach of privilege notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It will be accepted only after I go through it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : When the meeting of the leaders was being held in the morning I had requested you particularly at that time that the issue was very serious that the Pathak report has been leaked which was discussed in the House on earlier occasion and even today, you made some observation from the Chair...(Interruptions) You might remember it is even there in the proceedings, I do not wish to repeat it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have grown old, but I fully remember it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Leakage of report is a serious issue from your point of view. Chidambaram Saheb also made a statement that he had received only one copy which he sent to the Prime Minister's office. There is also the report of the Chairman of the Pathak Commission that it was not leaked from his office. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not a Member of this House. It will not be consistent with the prestige of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is all on the basis of newspaper reports.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : It manifests that the report\*.....

14.08 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It will not be recorded. Do not record it.

(Interruptions)\*

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : That will be deleted altogether.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I respect your words. We shall hold a discussion in this regard and I will allow everyone to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I seek your support.

(Interruptions)

14.08 hrs.

#### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS-contd

##### (ii) Re: Issue of pesticide contamination of soft drinks

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now we will take up Item No.9. Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss to lay a statement. First, you have to apologize to the House.

\*THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : Sir, first of all, I apologize to the entire House for not being present in the House when my name was called in the morning. I was just entering the House at that time. I would assure you that it will not happen again.

Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay a statement on the issue of pesticide contamination of soft drinks ...(Interruptions)

The Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi has released a press report on 2nd August, 2006 on their web site, in print media as well as electronic media about the studies carried out by them on the presence of pesticide residues in carbonated beverages. The CSE in their report have stated that during 2006 they have analysed 57 samples of 11 soft drink brands, from

\*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library See No.LT 4600/ 2006.

25 different manufacturing plants of Coca-Cola and Pepsi Co., spread over 12 States. These samples were lifted by CSE from September 2005 to March 2006. The CSE study finds pesticide residues in all samples. CSE has found pesticide residues of Organo chlorine pesticides (HCH and its derivatives and Heptachlor) and Organo phosphorous pesticides (Chlopyrifos and Malathion) in the soft drink samples tested and analysed by them.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken note of the studies carried out by CSE as well as its discussion in the print and electronic media on 2nd August, 2006. The CSE has made available a copy of the aforesaid study entitled "Soft Drinks - Hard Truth II", to the Ministry on 04.08.2006. The report of the CSE is being examined.

I would like to inform the House that the standards for soft drinks or "carbonated water" were formulated under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 in the year 1955 for the first time and have been subsequently amended from time to time. These standards for soft drinks have provided that the water to be used in making carbonated water should conform to the standards prescribed for packaged drinking water. These standards also provide microbiological requirements, maximum metal contaminants and declaration of added sugars, various food additives including caffeine, artificial sweeteners and food acids.

The CSE had published another report in the year 2003 on pesticide residues in soft drinks. The matter relating to pesticide residue in soft drinks was examined by a Joint Parliamentary committee (JPC) headed by Shri Sharad Pawar. It was brought out by the JPC that soft drinks consisted of the following ingredients:—

1. Water comprising 86-92% of total volume,
2. Water comprising 5 - 10% of total volume,
3. Concentrate
4. Ingredients other than Concentrate which include Carbon dioxide, acids such citric acid phosphoric acid and malic acid.

The JPC in its report at para 2.179 has reported that due to the manufacturing process, pesticide residues are not substantially contributed from sugar. The observations of the JPC are as follows:—

"2.179 Carbonated water manufacturers have already mentioned before JPC that they have fool proof process to select and treat the sugar and this treatment is uniform world-wide to ensure good quality sugar syrup for the products. These companies are already purifying the sugar syrup with Hot Carbon Treatment Process, which is effective in reducing most of the pesticide residues to below detectable level or below 0.1 ppb levels. The Committee feel that sugar, therefore, cannot be the only source of pesticide residues."

Regarding the concentrate used by the manufacturer in these products the manufacturers stated that the quality of concentrate used in these products are the same as used in other countries around the world and in addition to the concentrate, the food additives used in these products also meet all statutory requirements.

The JPC in its recommendation number 2.181 has recommended as follows:—

"..... The Committee therefore recommend that standards for carbonated beverages, which are best suited for the Indian conditions need to be fixed in the overall perspective of public health. These standards should also be stringent enough. The reason that the other countries have not fixed such limits, should not dissuade our law makers in attempting to do so, particularly when a vulnerable section of our population who are young and constitute a vast national asset are consuming the soft drinks. In committee's view therefore, it is prudent to seek complete freedom from pesticide residues in sweetened aerated waters. 'Unsafe even if trace' should be the eventual goal."

The Committee in its recommendation 2.176 has recommended as follows:—

[Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss]

"..... The Committee are, therefore, of the considered opinion that the water used in manufacturing the soft drinks should be in conformity with the new norms which have already been notified under notification No. GSR 554 (E) dated 18.7.2003 so that the consumers are not deprived of the best standards."

In compliance with the recommendations of the JPC, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken the following steps:—

1. The standards for soft drinks (carbonated water) have been amended making it mandatory to use water conforming to standards prescribed for Packaged Drinking Water under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 in the manufacture of carbonated water. An amendment of the standards of carbonated water was issued vide notification GSR 451 (E) dated 15.7.2004 which came into force on 12.10.2004. It is reiterated that water constitutes 86-92% of the soft drink (carbonated water).
2. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has set up a National Level Expert Committee to advise Central Committee for Food Standards on the issue of pesticide residues. The composition of this Committee is:—
  - (i) Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Director general, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Chairman
  - (ii) Dr. S.K. Khanna, (Retd.), Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow
  - (iii) Dr. N.P. Agnihotri, (Retd.), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi
  - (iv) Dr. G. Thyagrajan, Ex-Director, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad

The terms of reference of this committee are as follows:—

- (i) To guide the Pesticide Residue Sub-Committee

in fixation of MRLs of pesticides in carbonated beverages, fruits and vegetable juices and other finished products;

- (ii) To guide the Pesticide Residue Sub-Committee on technical aspects of fixing MRLs including methodology, toxicity, processing factor, method of analysis, health risks that may be considered for risk analysis, risk management and risk communication as per Codex Working Principles;
- (iii) To guide on monitoring of pesticides in carbonated beverages and other food commodities;
- (iv) To guide on any other matter on which Pesticide Residues Sub-Committee, CCFS, Department of Health may require technical clarification/guidance.
3. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also requested Ministry of Agriculture to provide the requisite residue data in respect of all pesticides registered for use on sugarcane, to enable the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to notify Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in respect of these pesticides. In order to reduce the time taken to fix MRLs my Ministry has streamlined the process of fixation of MRLs.
4. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare commissioned a pilot study of sugar samples in September 2005, in order to establish the methodology of sampling and testing for the same. The report of this study has been received. The pilot study of 200 sugar samples collected from retail and wholesale outlets as well as sugar factories from all regions of the country was entrusted to Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, (BCKVV) Mohanpur, Kolkata which is part of the All India Coordinated Project on Pesticides. This pilot study broadly found absence of pesticide residues in the samples



collected and tested. The data generated by BCKVV is being reviewed by a peer group of 2-3 Pesticides Residues chemists from Government institutions/universities, which have been designated by the National Level Expert Committee. The peer review process is expected to be completed shortly. Based on the findings it was decided by the Expert Committee to undertake a comprehensive multi-centre study using LC-MS-MS which is the most sophisticated equipment available so as to detect even the slightest traces of pesticides and conducted to pre-empt the remotest possibility of even traces of pesticides coming through sugar. The study will be carried out by Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, National Institute of Occupational Health, and National Institute of Nutrition. The National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad and National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad have since taken necessary steps to augment their facilities and have installed LC-MS-MS.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare views the issue of contamination of soft drinks (carbonated water) with utmost seriousness and is committed to protecting the health of the consumers and would take all necessary steps to ensure this.

14.09 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Item No.13 – Matters Under Rule 377.

- (I) **Need to check infiltration on Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Pakistan borders**

[English]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : Indian Government is facing direct infiltration from Bangladesh and Pakistan borders for the last five decades. Government

has even been taking all possible measures to check infiltration, by erecting fences, and scanner have been fixed for close monitoring at the borders. But, till date, we have not been able to succeed in stopping infiltration, the reason is that we have not gone to the roots. Scanner and other electronics measures are successful only if there is electricity. But during load-shedding, when scanner/other electronics measures do not work, infiltration takes place. Construction of fences is an alternative way to stop infiltration but it has been found that shoddy quality of the steel and iron fences are being erected along borders. In the recent past, there was a news in 'The Telegraph' that India-Bangladesh international border has come under Delhi's Scanner, allegation was that poor quality of the steel and iron fences are being erected along with Indo-Bangladesh border in the Karimganj district by a Public Sector, namely, National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) through its contractor. It is sad that a Public Sector like the NBCC has forgotten its responsibilities and playing with lives of the people...(Interruptions)

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to take suitable measures for installation of solar Light System along borders so that infiltration during the load-shedding could be stopped and a CBI inquiry should be initiated against officials of NBCC and its contractors who are involved in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao - Not Present.

(Interruptions)

- (II) **Need to build a bridge near Bodesabara – Doddli in Kanakapura, Karnataka**

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura) : Sir, in my Kanakapura parliamentary constituency a small river 'Suvamamukhi' separates the people of Doddli Munavadi, Kootagalu and Tungani Panchayats more than 70 villages. For their better communication and connectivity there is an urgent need to build a bridge near 'Bodesabara-Doddli' of Kamapura assembly segment.

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

In the same Kanakpura Parliamentary constituency a small river 'Arkavathi' separates people of Hallimadana Halli and chikkamudavadi Panchayats nearly 50 villages. So, there is an urgent need to build a bridge between Dimda Halli and Ganlu.

I urge upon the Government to take these two requests for building up of bridges to connect my people with better facility.

*(Interruptions)*

**(iii) Need to check recurring floods in Barak and Brahmaputra Valleys by de-silting with dredgers**

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIYA (Karimganj) : Sir, the people of Barak Valley and Brahmaputra Valley in Assam have been suffering miserably because of devastating flood, which causes huge losses of properties, crops, even human lives. Sufferings of the affected people due to flood are immense and continue year after year. While generally the people in the State are aware that substantial funds are released from time to time by the Central Government, they do not feel any perceivable result in lessening their sufferings at all. One of the main reasons of flood is accumulation of silt which is common in all rivers in India and to tackle such situations, de-silting by dredgers is considered to be immediate solution and generally followed elsewhere. In the absence of any visible evidence of dredging of any river in Assam, people are unaware whether the Brahmaputra Board, which is the monitoring agency for substantial funds released by Government of India, has already suggested dredging of flooding of rivers in Assam or taken any step that is effective to control recurrence of flood.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Water Resources to be kind enough to throw some light in this respect for satisfaction of huge number of flood affected people of Barak and Brahmaputra Valleys.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri C.H. Vijayashankar

Shri Santosh Gangwar

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to speak, but you people do not allow him to speak. This is not fair. He has given notice for an important issue but you do not allow him to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jual Oram, you do not allow him to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jual Oram, Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan, Shri Ananta Nayak, Shri P. Karunakaran, Adv. Smt. P. Satheedevi.

Now, it is not proper on the part of those hon. Members who have given notice and have remained absent. They will not be allowed in future. I shall keep a note of this.

Shri Rasheed Masood.

*[Translation]*

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir while giving notice under Rule 377 I...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : do not interfere with the hon. Member's right to speak. You are committing gross contempt of Parliament. How can you interfere when the hon. Member is making his submission?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have noticed those names.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

**(iv) Need to give special package for setting up industries in Jahanabad district of Bihar.**

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Jahanabad and Arwal are the two districts most affected by terrorism in my parliamentary constituency. Both these districts were created to tackle the problem of terrorism as it was affected by terrorism. There are no industries in these districts and there is wide spread unemployment. In such a situation the unemployed youth get easily misguided by the terrorists and become terrorist. Owing to scanty rainfall during Monsoon for the last two years agriculture, the only source of employment in the two districts has been paralysed. There has been increase in the incidence of terrorist activities. The internationally acclaimed "Jahanabad Jail Break" is an example of it. There is a need to set up industries on war footing in both the districts to save the unemployed youths from being misguided by the terrorists. Both the districts should be declared as no industry districts under a special package.

Through this House I demand the Government to grant special package for setting up industries by declaring these districts as no industry zones to save them from terrorist activities.

**(v) Need for mining of iron ore explored around Kauthimalai region in Tamil Nadu**

\*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur) : Sir, many years, geologists have identified the existence of quality iron ore around Kauthimalia Hill region near Thiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu. In order to take up the mining work, even a hill road was laid in that mountainous region. In recent times, we find that iron and steel industry in the world market have acquired greater importance becoming more capital intensive, attracting more funds. In India, iron ore is being dug out more in Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Orissa,

Bihar, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. We are likely to get quality iron ore like quality Salem steel which has a special name in the proposed Kauthimalai Hill region. This would enable industrial growth, generating employment opportunities, developing the backward region with more opportunities to earn foreign exchange at this juncture as there is a heavy demand for iron and steel in the international market.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Iron Steel Ministry alongwith the Ministry of Mines to take up the mining of quality iron ore in Kauthimalai that come under my constituency. I impress upon the Government to accord top priority to this venture.

**(vi) Need for proper implementation of the "Food For Work Scheme" in Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Hon. Mr. Speaker Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Rural Development towards the "Food For Work Scheme" going on in my parliamentary constituency, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh. The national funds under the scheme are being grossly misutilized by the local officers. None of the schemes identified under that scheme is defacto implementation and has been going on only on papers.

Therefore, I believe that an inquiry should be commissioned to look into the funds allocated under this scheme. For Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh and a concrete action should be taken by the Central Government for the development of rural India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Adv. Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patel  
– Not present.

Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma – Not present.

Shri Baleshwar Yadav – Not present.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up item No. 14. Shri P. Chidambaram.

(Interruptions)

14.19 hrs.

## GOVERNMENT SECURITIES BILL, 2004

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Item No.14. - Shri P. Chidambaram.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities and its management by the Reserve Bank of India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration." ... (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the law relating to Government Securities and their management by the Reserve Bank of India is laid down in the Public Debt Act, 1944. Over the years, a number of rigidities and deficiencies were noticed in the Public Debt Act and the rules framed thereunder. The procedures provided in the Public Debt Act were time-consuming and some of the provisions had ceased to be relevant to the present context. In the wake of tremendous increase in the volume of public debt, the RBI, agency banks and the treasuries were handicapped in improving customer service. ... (Interruptions)

It was, therefore, considered desirable to enact a new legislation in place of Public Debt Act, 1944 and to repeal the redundant Indian Securities Act, 1920, the predecessor Act to the PD Act. The recommendations of a Committee constituted to examine the entire gamut of the Government securities management was considered for framing the new Bill. ... (Interruptions)

Government Securities Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 21, 2004 and referred to the Standing

Committee on Finance on December 23, 2004. The Standing Committee has agreed that the enactment of this legislation will give greater scope for creation of a liquid Government securities market and also bring forth considerable improvement in the securities transactions. ... (Interruptions)

The Standing Committee recommended five amendments and suggested that the Government may explore the possibility of creating a dedicated fund wherein unclaimed amounts of Government securities could be kept and accruals under which could be utilised for enabling post maturity interest payment in bonafide cases by amending clause 23... (Interruptions)

The Government has examined the Report of the Standing Committee and accepted the recommendations of the Committee regarding the five amendments. On the issue of payment of post maturity interest and creation of a dedicated fund for the purpose, it is proposed to amend clause 23 to enable payment of interest beyond six year limitation. However, it is proposed to delink the issue of payment of interest beyond six years from creation of dedicated fund. Creation of dedicated fund is not supported on the grounds, inter alia, of (i) administrative difficulties in setting up 29 funds (Central Government plus 28 State Governments); (ii) limited balances of unclaimed amounts; (iii) availability of payments beyond 20 year limitation for principal under extant arrangement; and (iv) limited anticipated inflows in future on account of demat... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities and its management by the Reserve Bank of India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru) : Sir, I am happy that this Bill has been brought in the present scenario of increased transactions in securities. *...(Interruptions)* The Public Debt Act, 1944 has become irrelevant in today's increased transactions. *...(Interruptions)* Several rigidities and deficiencies were there in the Public Debt Act, 1944. *...(Interruptions)* That is why I have been asking the hon. Minister in the past to repeal all those laws which were pre-Independent and legislated years back which have become irrelevant to the present needs of the country. *...(Interruptions)* We must bring legislation which are relevant to the present needs where high level transactions have multiplied. *...(Interruptions)* It requires an amendment immediately.

For example, in regard to the securities held by the parents, it had become extremely difficult for the successors to get the claims early. *...(Interruptions)* Now, it has been made easy. *...(Interruptions)* The Reserve Bank of India can decide a claim up to one lakh of rupees and increase the limit to one crore of rupees by the powers given to the RBI through this legislation. *...(Interruptions)* Similarly, earlier individuals, who had securities, were empowered to give a nominee as his successor. But joint holders were not authorised to give a nominee. That has been provided now. *...(Interruptions)* So, the number of litigation will come down substantially. The matter can be settled at the earliest. *...(Interruptions)*

Similarly, if a security were to be held by the parents and if he forgets to inform his children, the children used to lose their right to claim after the lapse of six years, which is on injustice. *...(Interruptions)* But today, through this legislation, they will get that claim even after the lapse of six years. *...(Interruptions)* Today, that has been liberalised. *...(Interruptions)* The banks have to transfer the money to the successor's account automatically. *...(Interruptions)* Some of the salient features of this Bill are; the Reserve Bank of India can easily transfer the securities to his successor's or to others easily as desired by the security holder. *...(Interruptions)* Suppose an individual or a company were to have a security today and they want to

raise liquidity, they can hypothecate or pledge the security and raise the equity. *...(Interruptions)*

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I thoroughly express my displeasure. This is a shameful behaviour. It is a direct attack on parliamentary democracy. I am again, for the last time, appealing to the Members. I am also appealing to the entire House to see whether by this behaviour, the country's image and the Parliament's image is being maintained or not. Do we want destruction of parliamentary democracy in this country?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I want all sections of the House and the country to decide whether such conduct should be permitted or not.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, earlier there was no provision of hypothecating the security and raising liquidity. Now, this Bill provides the same and an investor can increase his liquidity and invest the same for furthering his business. *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities and its management by the Reserve Bank of India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 7**                      **Recognition of title  
to the Government  
Securities of a  
deceased joint  
holder or joint  
holders**

*Amendment made:*

"Page 3, line 47,-

for "a statute", substitute "any statute." (3)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 8 to 11 were added to the Bill.*

*(Interruptions)*

**Clause 12**                      **Summary  
determination by  
the Bank of title  
to Government  
Security in case of  
dispute**

*Amendment made:*

"Page 6, line 23 to 25,-

for "Magistrate of the first class subordinate to him or any Magistrate of the second class subordinate to him and",

substitute "Executive Magistrate". (4)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 13 and 14 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 15**                      **Power of Bank to  
require bonds**

*Amendment made:*

"Page 6, line 42,-

for "a bond", substitute "an indemnity bond."

(5)

"Page 6, line 45,-

for "the bond", substitute "the indemnity bond."

(6)

"Page 6, line 48,-

for "the bond", substitute "the indemnity bond."

(7)

"Page 6, line 49,-

for "the bond", substitute "the indemnity bond."

(8)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 15, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 16 to 22 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 23**      **Period of limitation  
of Government's  
liability in respect  
of interest**

*Amendment made:*

"Page 7, for lines 41 to 44, substitute,-

"23. (1) Where no shorter period of limitation is fixed by any law for the time being in force, the liability of the Government in respect of any interest payment due on a Government security shall terminate on the expiry of six years from the date on which the amount due by way of interest became payable: (9)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 23, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 23, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 24 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 25**      **Micro films,  
facsimile copies of  
documents, magne-  
tic tapes and com-  
puter printouts as  
documents and as  
evidence**

*Amendment made:*

"Page 9, for lines 24 to 27, substitute,-

'(a) "computer" means any electronic, magnetic, optical or other high-speed data processing service device or system which performs logical, arithmetical, and memory functions by manipulation of electronic, magnetic or optical impulses and includes all input, output, processing, storage, computer software, or

communication facilities which are connected or related to the computer in a computer system or computer network

(b) "Computer print out" shall include ledgers, day-book,s account books and other records, maintained in the ordinary course of business of the Bank or the agent, printed on paper from the information stored in the computer or derived from such information; and'. (10)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 25, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 25, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 26 to 35 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 1**      **Short title,  
application and  
commencement**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 3,-

for "2004", substitute "2006. (2)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Enacting Formula**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1,-

for "Fifty-fifth", substitute "Fifty-seventh". (1)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula, as amended,  
was added to the Bill.*

*The Preamble was added to the Bill*

*The Long Title was added to the Bill*

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would say that it is a very sad day.

*(Interruptions)*

14.23 hrs.

### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Report of Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry  
regarding alleged disappearance of Netaji Subhash  
Chandra Bose and Memorandum of Action taken  
by the Government on the Report**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up Item NHo.15. The hon. Minister Shri Shivraj V. Patil to give the reply.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Shri Babasaheb Ambedkar, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan were a few of the young leaders, who were most respected, by one and all in the country, and who led the freedom movement with great courage and confidence and contributed towards the development of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, if your speech is ready, it can be laid and circulated to the Members.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Yes, Sir, I beg to lay my speech on the Table.

"Modern history of India cannot be written without mentioning the contribution of men like them towards the cause of freedom struggle and our country's development. They were the men of vision and indomitable courage who knew the country and the world, and the potential the people of India had. Their memories inspire the people of India and would keep doing so for many many years to come. If we forget them, or if we cease to remember as to how they worked, they struggled, they built the freedom movement, we would become weaker and poorer, and lose our capacity to face the challenges of the present and the future. On the eve of the attainment of the freedom, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose vanished from our vision, and we were deprived of his support for the construction and building of our strong future.

We should know in clear terms as to how their memories can be respected, and as to how their spirit and vision can be used to build our future. We may be able to do it better by avoiding controversies and emphasising on the positive aspects of their and our lives. Unfortunately, there arose a controversy about the existence or otherwise of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and his whereabouts, and that controversy has not been fully settled and has not been allowed to disappear.

*"The speech was laid on the Table.*



He gave clarion call to his fellow patriots to march towards Delhi to hoist the national flag on the ramparts of the Red Fort. If he had come to the country on the eve of the Independence, he would have been welcomed with open arms by millions of masses of India. When he did not come after the second world war was concluded, and when the country was emancipated, the people were disappointed. Against their wishes, they began to think that he would not have been alive, otherwise he could not have resisted to come to his motherland, on the fulfilment of his dream of freedom for his country. They wished that he were alive, and feared that he might have breathed his last. That was why there was hesitation in the minds of his kith and kin, and the countrymen who made the Government of the time to constitute a three-men committee to find out the truth about his existence and inform the country about it.

The committee consisted of a person who was in the Force of Independence built by him, his brother, and a senior administrator. The committee was constituted in 1956. The committee gave the report, after examining the witnesses and the evidence available in the country and outside the country. The majority in the committee came to conclusion that he was no more, and he died in the plane crash, and his ashes were kept in Renkoji temple in Tokyo. In fact, initially all the members, one of whom was his brother, had come to the same conclusion. However, later on, may be because, his brother's affection did not allow him to hold that he was no more, or may be, because the people in the country were unwilling to think that he had died, under the pressure of his own emotional inclination or of the people around him, he changed his views and gave a dissenting finding. However, the facts relating to the incident and the inquiry, and the initial view and later on the dissenting view, did convey the conclusion which was sad and not readily acceptable, however convincing it could have been.

This inquiry held was closer to the date of incident, than the enquiries held later on. The evidence given by the witnesses could have been more reliable and dependable. There was no valid reason for the witnesses

to depose falsely and incorrectly. In matters of such inquiries, the oral evidence given by the witnesses, and more so the eye witnesses, is equally or on occasion more reliable than any documentary evidence. The accident had taken place in the time of war. After the war was over, the Governments in the country of accident and the neighbouring countries were changed. The documents relevant to the incident and things relating to it, could not have been safely preserved or stored or could have been destroyed or burnt in the accident. Absence of these documents would not weigh heavily against the oral evidence, given by the unbiased eye witnesses and others.

Therefore, it would not be judicially prudent to attach less importance to the findings given by the Shahnawaz Committee. The findings given were not inconclusive. They were unambiguous, clear and convincing. It is not easy to disbelieve the findings and brush them aside and in their place, to accept the findings given in an inquiry which took place nearly fifty years later, and which was not conclusive, and according to which, no definite finding could be pronounced in the matter of inquiry. While assessing the credibility of the finding, we cannot afford to lose sight of these facts.

The finding of the Shahnawaz Committee convinced many, and it seems, for reasons known to them, failed to convince a few. The fact that inquiries made by an Indian journalist, an American, and a British, which were of the same kind, also did not find favour with the few persons who entertained doubts about the findings. It seems that majority of the population in the country did not suspect the findings and were inclined to think that, the great leader was no more in his physical form in the world.

Khosela Commission was constituted to look into the matter again. It was done to remove the doubts entertained by a few citizens. The Commission was headed by a judge, and had to function under the Inquiry Commission Act. It went to the country where the accident took place, to the country where the ashes were kept, and

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

examined the witnesses who were available at that time. Legal, acumen to assess the validity and reliability of the evidence given by the witnesses and the evidence produced certainly was used by the Commission. The report given was unambiguous and conclusive. A few lines of it can be quoted to point out the nature of the report.

"I, therefore, find it proved beyond all reasonable doubt that Bose travelled in a Japanese bomber from Touraine to Taihoku on the morning of 18th August 1945.... The plane crashed to the ground, broke into two parts and caught fire. In this fire, the pilot and Gen. Shidei died instantaneously and of the other men on board, co-pilot Ayoagi died later and Bose also succumbed to his burn injuries during the course of the following night. His body was cremated and ashes were taken to Tokyo." Page 49 para 4.129.

The question before us is why a report of this nature should be discarded in favour of a report which is of inconclusive nature. There was no reason for the Khosla Commission to arrive at wrong conclusions. There was no reason for the witnesses to depose falsely. If all facts are borne in mind, it would be easier to rely upon this report than any other report of inconclusive nature.

It is argued that in 1978, then Prime Minister of India expressed his doubts about the reliability of the findings given in the two inquiries held. It is said that he had doubted the reliability in view of the documents available in the offices of the Government. No dates, no names or no numbers to identify the said files were given which could help to find out the documents mentioned by the then Prime Minister. They could not have been found out in the offices, if particulars about them were not provided. The fact that, then Prime Minister had formed the Government by defeating the Government which was in power when the two inquiries were conducted, cannot be easily

brushed aside, to come to the conclusion that his statement could have been motivated, not by reasons of law, but by reasons political. The two previous Prime Ministers had two inquiries conducted to find out the facts and in a way, accepted the reports of the The third Prime Minister had expressed doubt about the facts held proved, but had not constituted another inquiry which he could have done without difficulty, as it was done about twenty years later.

The third inquiry was ordered in the period of the previous Government, and a judge of the Supreme Court was given the responsibility to discover facts. This inquiry was expected to do its job in six months' time. It completed its task in six years' time. The Commission could have asked for the documents from the Government, which had brought it into existence. Enough time was available for it to get the necessary documents. Nearly more than four years were at its disposal. Why the documents weren't got from the previous Government? Could it be explained in a convincing manner? I think, it cannot be done.

On the following points, the Commission had to give its findings.

1. Whether Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is dead or alive;
2. If he is dead, whether he died in the plane crash, as alleged;
3. Whether the ashes in the Japanese temple are the ashes of Netaji;
4. Whether he has died in any other manner at any other place and if so, when and how and,
5. If he is alive, in respect of his whereabouts.

The findings given are as follows:

It has said that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose may not be alive. He, however, might not have died in the plane

crash. The following are the findings given on the issues mentioned just now:

1. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is dead.
2. He did not die in the plane crash as alleged.
3. The ashes in the Japanese temple are not of Netaji.
4. In the absence of any clinching evidence, a positive answer cannot be given.
5. Answer already given in (1) above.

The findings on the point no.4 (d) are not conclusive. Therefore, it is not possible to rely upon them.

The findings given in the previous reports are conclusive and hence more reliable. Therefore, the question is why the previous findings should not be preferred and the third finding should be referred.

The Government has preferred the findings of the two previous enquiries and, not the third finding, because it is inconclusive and not definite. I think, the Government has not done any mistake or wrong in doing so.

The Government was criticized for having delayed the submission of the Action Taken Report, and the report of the Commission in time. The law provides that it should be submitted to the legislature in six months' time. They were submitted in six months and a few days' period. The reasons given for delay are not unexcusable. The Commission was appointed to give a report in six months' time, and it took more than six years' time. This reality should be compared with the delay of a few days, caused in submitting the report of the inquiry and the action taken report. That would put the matter in correct perspective.

It was also said that no cogent reasons were given for having not accepted the report, and for having rejected it. The reasons were given only thing is they were not reported fully. The reasons are given fully on this occasion

when all aspects relating to the report and its comparison with other two reports are done. I do not know if all the points given in the discussions today would be reported or not. If they are not reported, allegations can be made that no valid reasons were advanced even in the debate on the subject. Two or three columns in a newspaper, or a few seconds' visual on the T.V. cannot cover the valid points and all cogent arguments. Lacunae in reporting could generate mistaken perception and misunderstanding. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was the darling of the masses and more revered by the congressmen and patriots of all shades and opinions. Whenever doubts were raised about his whereabouts and existence, steps were taken to find out the facts. Not once, but three times. And all the help and assistance was provided to unravel the factual position. In view of these facts, should we hold that, no steps were taken to know if were alive or not? The Government had decided to confer the Bharat Ratna on him, posthumously to revere his memory. If a person is not found to be living for seven years, generally, he is supposed to have died. This fact should have been borne in mind while objecting to conferment of the highest award in the country. The reports given could also have been borne in mind. But that was not done. Why? This should be explained. Comments can be given. But we do not want to enter into dispute of this nature, and, we leave this issue to the people to decide. The statues and portraits put in the Parliament and other official buildings are indications of the desire to respect and perpetuate his memory. He is always mentioned in a very respectful manner. All the leaders pay obeisance to his memory and try to put his view and opinion in practice to strengthen the country and develop our people. The concept of planning was very near and dear to him. That was adopted to build our country's infrastructure and industry, trade and agriculture, science and technology. He was for democracy, social, economic and cultural justice for one and all. These principles have been incorporated in the basic law of the country and in the policy of the Government. If these are not the ways to pay homage to the great souls, what are the other ways in which respect to them can be shown?

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

Let us not fall prey to political considerations. Small concepts cannot produce great and good results. Great men are great, because of their great thoughts and concepts. Let us follow them in their foot-steps by avoiding to fall in traps of narrow-mindedness.

Why any Government would not be interested in not respecting the great hero of the freedom struggle? Are we respecting him by keeping this dispute alive, or trying to disrespect other great leaders? Let this be understood by the people.

Anything which is acceptable to all of us, to respect his memory can be done by us. If there is anything of the nature, please suggest and we would accept it.

The Government is not in a position to say that the Commission gave its report, which is conclusive and acceptable. The report has not said as to how Netaji died, where he lived, and why he lived away from his dear motherland. How can this kind of ambiguous report be accepted by all of us?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 8th August at 11 a.m.

14.33 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the  
Clock on Tuesday, August 8, 2006/Sravana  
17, 1928 (Saka)*

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## ANNEXURE-I

*Member-Wise Index to Starred Questions*

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
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