

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

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



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## LOK SABHA

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*Monday, August 21, 2006/Śravana 30, 1928 (Saka)*

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### OBITUARY REFERENCES

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Kondapalli Paidithalli Naidu, a sitting Member of this House.

Shri Kondapalli Paidithalli Naidu was a sitting Member of the Lok Sabha since 2004, representing Bobbili Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh. Shri Naidu was also a Member of the Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabhas from 1996 to 1999, representing the same Parliamentary Constituency.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Naidu served as member of the Committee on Railways from 1996 to 1999 and of Consultative Committee, Ministry of Agriculture from 1998 to 1999. He was a member of Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution at the time of his demise.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Naidu participated in the freedom struggle of the country. An active social worker, he ably served in different capacities on various local bodies in his State. He was, President, Cooperative Society and Mandal Praja Parishad from 1987 to 1992 and Chairman, Sugarcane Society from 1985 to 1986. He was the Vice President, Gram Panchayat Gantyada and Vice-Chairman, Zilla Praja Parishad, Vijayanagaram from 1987 to 1992 and as Chairman, Zilla Praja Parishad, Vijayanagaram from 1995 to 1996.

Shri Naidu was also a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Turkey in 1998.

Shri Naidu passed away on 19 August, 2006 at Bobbili, Andhra Pradesh at the age of 76.

Hon. Members, I have also to inform the House of the passing away of Ustad Bismillah Khan, the veteran Shehnai Maestro.

Ustad Bismillah Khan, who mesmerised generations of people in India and abroad with his mellifluous shehnai renditions, got his initial training under the able guidance of his uncle late Ali Bux 'Vilayatu', a shehnai player at the famous Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi.

Ustad Bismillah Khan, who single handedly made shehnai a famous classical instrument, was conferred upon several prestigious awards, namely, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Tansen Award, the Padma Vibhushan and the country's highest Award, the Bharat Ratna. He was also bestowed with doctorates by the Banaras Hindu University and the Shanti Niketan.

Ustad Bismillah Khan was totally secular in his outlook and a great humanist. His love for music transcended the narrow confines of caste, creed and religion and his performance stock music to the level of spirituality.

Though the void created by his demise would never be filled, the universal appeal of his music would continue to inspire generations of music lovers.

Ustad Bismillah Khan, passed away, today at Varanasi at the age of 90 after a brief illness.

We deeply mourn the demise of Shri Kondapalli Paidithalli Naidu and Ustad Bismillah Khan and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

11.04 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

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### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

#### **Decline in Ground Water Level**

\*341. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in association with the concerned State Governments makes periodical assessment of the availability of ground water in the country;

(b) if so, whether the latest assessment made in this regard has shown that the level of ground water is depleting year after year in almost every State;

(c) if so, the comparative figures of the last three assessments made in this regard, State-wise;

(d) whether some remedial steps have been proposed by CGWB to the States to raise the ground water table at the requisite level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the strategy chalked out in consultation with the States in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir. Assessment of availability of ground water in the country has been done in 1995 and 2004.

(b) The latest assessment carried out in 2004 has shown that there has been significant decline in ground water level in some pockets of various States except in the North-Eastern States and in the States of Goa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) The State-wise comparison of above assessments is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) 'Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to raise ground water levels. However, the Union Government/CGWB have also taken several remedial steps in this regard which inter-alia include the following:

- (i) A report titled 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' has been prepared which has identified a total of 4.5 lakh sq. km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water. The document has been circulated to all the States/UTs for appropriate action.
- (ii) The CGWB has circulated Manual/Guide on techniques of Artificial Recharge to Ground

Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

- (iii) CGWB promotes rain water harvesting by conducting mass awareness/training programmes and provides technical guidance to various Government and Non-Government agencies.
- (iv) A demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" has been taken up by the CGWB at a total cost of Rs. 12 crore during the year 2006-07 in 13 identified areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- (v) Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill to "Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water" to the States/Union Territories. The Model Bill has a separate chapter on 'Rain Water Harvesting for Ground Water Recharge'.
- (vi) The Union Government has constituted "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council" under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Water Resources in the Ministry of Water Resources, which has representation from various Ministries/Departments concerned with rain water harvesting, States/UTs, Financial Institutions, Industries/Public Undertakings as well as NGOs and renowned Subject Experts.
- (vii) The Central Ground water Authority (CGWA) has directed the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to take all measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/promote rain water harvesting in all the Over-exploited areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.
- (viii) CGWA has notified 20 severely Critical/Over-exploited areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management. The CGWA is also regulating development of ground water by new industries/projects in all Over-exploited/Critical/Semi-critical areas.

**Statement**

*Comparison of Over-Exploited and Critical Assessment Units between ground water assessment conducted in 1995 and 2004*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Categorization of assessment units			
		as per assessment 1995		as per assessment 2004	
		Over exploited	Dark	Over exploited	Critical
States					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	24	219	77
2.	Bihar	0	1	0	0
3.	Delhi	0	0	7	0
4.	Gujarat	12	14	31	12
5.	Haryana	45	6	55	11
6.	Karnataka	6	12	65	3
7.	Kerala	0	1	5	15
8.	Madhya Pradesh	0	3	24	5
9.	Maharashtra	0	34	7	1
10.	Punjab	62	8	103	5
11.	Rajasthan	45	11	140	50
12.	Tamil Nadu	54	43	142	33
13.	Uttar Pradesh	19	22	37	13
14.	Uttaranchal	0	0	2	0
15.	West Bengal	0	0	0	1
Total		249	179	837	226
Union Territories					
1.	Daman & Diu	0		1	0
2.	Pondicherry	0		1	0
Total		0		2	0
Grand Total		249	179	839	226

'Over-exploited' — where stage of ground water development is more than 100% and significant decline in long term trend of water level has been observed in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both.

'Critical' — where ground water development is more than 90% and upto 100% and significant decline is observed in long term trend of water level in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon.

'Dark' — where stage of ground water development is between 85% and 100%.

**Prices of Life Saving Drugs**

\*342. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether despite all the measures taken by the Government, the prices of essential life saving drugs were not brought down to be within the reach of the common man;

(b) if so, the basic drugs and formulations that are necessary to treat, prevent and control the spread of various diseases under the essential list of medicines; and

(c) the steps taken to keep the prices of the relevant basic drugs under check and within the reach of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) One of the major objectives of the Drug Policies as announced from time to time is ensuring abundant availability, at reasonable prices of essential and life saving and prophylactic medicines of good quality.

The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mention in 'Modifications in Drug Policy', 1986, announced in September, 1994. These criteria take into account turnover of a drug and monopoly situation to identify the extent of usage and inadequate competition for any drug to be kept under price control.

The DPCO, 95 does not make any distinction between life saving drugs and other drugs. There is no specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drugs can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug, in general, is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

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. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

The above policy has been instrumental in keeping a check on the prices of a large number of drugs. This is borne out of the monthly ORG-IMS data of March, 2006 as per which prices of 97.64% of packs have remained stable, prices of 0.60% packs have declined and prices of only 1.76% packs have risen.

The common reasons for rise in the prices of medicines are:

- (a) Rise in the price of bulk drugs
- (b) Rise in the cost of production/import
- (c) Rise in the cost of transport, freight rates;
- (d) Rise in the cost of utilities like fuel, power, diesel etc.
- (e) For imported medicines, rise in the C.I.F. price and depreciation of the Rupee.
- (f) Changes in taxes and duties.

National List of Essential Medicines 2003 prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, defines essential medicines as those that satisfy the priority health care needs of the population. The essential medicines enlisted are intended to be available within the context of functioning health systems at all times in adequate amounts, in the appropriate dosage forms, with assured quality. The List contains 27 Therapeutic categories and 354 medicines. The List is also available at the website <http://www.cdsc.nic.in> of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

In the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006, several measures to keep a check on the prices of essential medicines and to bring the drugs within the reach of common man have been proposed.

**Krishi Vigyan Kendras**

\*343. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal for establishment of one Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in every rural district of the country at the end of Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the number of KVKs targeted and set up since the beginning of the Tenth Plan, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the innovative methods, techniques, updated market information, farm management techniques and technology that the KVKs provided to farmers so far?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Government have approved for establishment of one Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in each of 578 rural districts of the country (as per India 2002) at the end of Tenth Plan.

(b) Since the beginning of Tenth Plan, 264 KVKs have been sanctioned, raising the number of KVKs to 537. Year-wise and State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The innovative methods/techniques taken up by the KVKs are as follows:

- Site-specific assessment and refinement of technology through on-farm trial.
- Establishing production potential of technology through frontline demonstration on the farmers' fields.
- Facilitating subject matter specialists and farmers interaction through a number of activities like advisory services, diagnostic visits, exhibitions, field days, kisan goshies, kisan melas, etc.

During the first four years of Tenth Plan, the KVKs provided training to 26.7 lakh farmers on improved technologies related to crop production, crop protection, livestock production and management, fishery, natural resource management, and use of improved tools and implements; besides participation of 59.7 lakh farmers in various extension activities.

As far as the market information is concerned, an Agricultural Marketing Information System Network (AGMARKNET) has been created for providing information to the farmers on Mandi profile, Prices and arrivals, Grades and standards, Commodity profiles; etc.

### *Statement*

#### *Year-wise and State-wise details of KVKs sanctioned during X Plan*

State	Number of KVK Sanctioned					Total
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (April to July 2006)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	—	2	3	—	—	5
Arunachal Pradesh	—	1	2	3	2	8
Assam	1	1	8	5	1	16
Bihar	1	4	5	7	3	20
Chhattisgarh	—	—	5	1	—	6
Goa	—	—	1	—	—	1
Gujarat	—	—	7	5	—	12
Haryana	—	—	3	—	—	3
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	3	—	—	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu and Kashmir	4	—	1	4	—	9
Jharkhand	1	—	11	1	—	13
Karnataka	—	2	11	2	—	15
Kerala	—	2	3	—	—	5
Madhya Pradesh	2	6	8	7	2	25
Maharashtra	—	1	5	1	—	7
Manipur	1	1	—	5	—	7
Meghalaya	1	2	1	—	—	4
Mizoram	—	—	—	5	—	5
Nagaland	2	—	—	4	1	7
Orissa	1	1	8	7	1	18
Punjab	—	—	6	1	1	8
Rajasthan	—	—	2	—	—	2
Sikkim	—	—	1	2	—	3
Tamil Nadu	—	2	8	1	—	11
Tripura	—	—	—	2	—	2
Uttar Pradesh	1	2	19	7	1	30
Uttaranchal	—	5	5	—	—	10
West Bengal	—	3	2	4	—	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>264</b>

**Production of Coconut**

(d) if so, the details thereof?

\*344. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain new technologies to increase production of coconut have been developed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government through Coconut Development Board or through other agencies has taken any steps to increase the productivity and production of coconut; and

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed following new technologies to increase production of coconut:

- (i) Three new varieties, namely, Laccadiv Ordinary, Philippines Ordinary and Chowghat Orange dwarf and three high yielding coconut hybrids namely, Chandrasankara, Chandralaksha and Kerasankara have been released for cultivation in view of their improved production potential;

- (ii) Appropriate drip irrigation technique for managing the coconut palms during summer months has been evolved for cost-effective irrigation and fertigation.
- (iii) Evolved moisture conservation methods by mulching, growing cover crops and green manure crops which will improve the production of coconut.
- (iv) The technology for vermicomposting of coconut palm waste has been developed for balanced nutrition of coconut palms.
- (v) Standardised coconut based cropping system with compatible inter crops and mixed farming with fodder crops for enhancing the income from coconut gardens.
- (vi) Developed integrated approach for management of root-wilt disease of coconut with the balanced application of organic manure and inorganic fertilizers coupled with growing of green manure intercrops.
- (vii) Better management practices for controlling them bleeding, bud rot disease of coconut and Eriophyid mite have been evolved for improving the productivity of coconut. Further, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) method is recommended for controlling black-headed caterpillar with efficient management of infested gardens through cultural practices and use of balanced pesticide application along with the use of bio-parasites.

Integrated Water Management (IWM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management with improved technology for coconut gardens have been developed for enhancing the production and income of coconut gardens.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Coconut Development Board (CDB) is implementing various programmes for expansion of area under coconut, management of diseases affected palms and improvement of productivity by providing financial assistance for production of planting materials, setting up of organic manure units and laying out of demonstration plots. Besides, under the scheme for "Technology Mission on Coconut", the Board is providing financial assistance for improving productivity of coconut through the management of pests and diseases on project basis. The Coconut Development Board has spent Rs. 110.40 crores during last four years of the X Five Year Plan on coconut development programmes and a provision of Rs. 40.00 crores is made during 2006-07.

#### **Revamping of CWC**

\*345. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the establishment cost of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) constitutes the major portion of its total expenditure;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to cut down the costs on establishment in CWC;

(d) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct any study for restructuring/revamping the CWC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The details of establishment cost vis-a-vis total expenditure of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Establishment Cost	Total Expenditure	Establishment cost as percentage to total expenditure
2002-03	176.41	423.46	41.66%
2003-04	182.88	428.98	42.49%
2004-05	188.40	462.45	40.74%
2005-06 (Prov.)	195.53	514.55	38.00%

High establishment cost is mainly on account of CWC being a service organization where establishment cost is a major component of expenditure.

(c) The following steps have been taken to reduce the establishment cost in CWC:

- (i) The Corporation introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) during the years 1994, 1998, 2002 and 2005-06. About 2470 employees had opted for VRS under these schemes.
- (ii) Re-organisation of Regional Offices has been taken up in CWC and the number of Construction Cells has been reduced from 17 to 06.
- (iii) Since, 1998, the Corporation has not resorted to any direct recruitment.
- (iv) The Corporation has outsourced some of its activities like watch and ward, house keeping, etc.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) In view of (d) above, the question does not arise.

*[Translation]*

### **Wildlife Crime**

\*346. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the number of wild animal body parts seized during the current year till-date, State-wise;

(b) the number of deaths of wild animals reported during the said period alongwith the reasons attributed thereto;

(c) the approximate cost of illegal trade in wildlife body parts recorded during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the steps proposed/taken to contain the situation;

(e) whether the Government proposes to check increasing wildlife crimes with the help of DNA tests; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Protection and management of wildlife is the responsibility of the State Governments. Central Government is implementing scheme for two major species namely—Tiger and Elephant. In case of tiger and elephant State-wise deaths reported in the year 2006 are as follows:

State	Number of reported deaths	
	Tiger	Elephant
Uttaranchal	3 (Natural)	2 (Natural)
Madhya Pradesh	4 (2 natural, 1 poaching 1 unknown)	—
Maharashtra	2 (1 poaching, 1 natural)	4 (Electrocution)
Uttar Pradesh	1 (train accident)	—
Karnataka	1 (Unknown)	2 (1 Accidental, 1 Unknown)
Arunachal Pradesh	—	2 (1 natural, 1 Electrocution)
Assam	—	4 (3 natural, 1 unknown)
West Bengal	—	3 (Train accident)



Information available with the Ministry for other major species including tiger and elephant for the year 2005 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Since most of the trade in wildlife body part are illegal and clandestine, it is not possible to ascertain the approximate value of the trade.

(d) 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 punishment 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 centres 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) DNA testing facility already exists in Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and is being used for detecting wildlife offences whenever required.

#### *Statement*

##### *State-wise number of seizures reported during the year 2005*

States	Elephant	Tiger	Leopard	Bear	Rhino	Star Tortoise
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1		6	1	3	
Sikkim					3	
Delhi	5	5	6	2		
Karnataka	1					
Kerala	2	6	4	2		
Uttaranchal	1					
Uttar Pradesh		1	5			
Madhya Pradesh		1	2	6		
Bihar		1	1			
West Bengal	6					
Meghalaya	1					
Jharkhand	2					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orissa	8		10			
Chhattisgarh	1	4				
Himachal Pradesh			2	1		
Punjab			10			
Manipur					1	
	28**	18*	46***	12****	4****	3#

\* 18 cases of seizure pertaining to tiger includes 12 skins, 60 claws, 1 skull and 14 teeth.

\*\* 28 cases of seizures relating to elephant include 233.34 Kgs. of Raw Ivory.

\*\*\* 46 cases of seizures pertaining to leopard include 133 No. of skins, 231 claws, 17 kg. Bone and one skull.

\*\*\*\* 12 cases of seizure pertaining to bear include 13 bears and some parts like bile, dried meat etc.

\*\*\*\*\* 4 cases of seizure pertaining to Rhinoceros include 2 rhinos and 8 hooves/horn

# 3 cases of seizure pertaining to Star tortoise includes 206 live tortoises.

*State-wise number of wild animal deaths during the year 2005*

States	Elephant	Tiger	Leopard
Assam		2	1
Andhra Pradesh			17
Karnataka	2		
Kerala	39		3
Uttanchal	10	3	13
West Bengal	17		9
Chhattisgarh	1		3
Jharkhand	10		1
Orissa	69		1
Madhya Pradesh		2	11
Maharashtra		4	
Rajasthan		1	1
Tamilnadu			
Uttar Pradesh		1	
Himachal Pradesh			2
	148	13	62

\*Reasons of death includes: Poaching, Natural deaths and Unnatural deaths due to Accidents, Electrocution etc.

**Reason-wise Break up**

Elephant	Tiger	Leopard
Natural-128	Natural-3	Natural-30
Unnatural-5	Infighting-1	Unnatural-10
Poaching-17	Train accident-1	Poaching-22
	Report awaited-8	

*[English]***Decentralisation of Bio-Diversity Authority**

\*347. SHRI SURESH PRABAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to decentralize the powers of the National Bio-Diversity Authority (NBA) regarding grant of approval to patent applications on traditional knowledge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the States have constituted the Bio-Diversity Board;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no proposal to decentralize the powers of the National Biodiversity Authority in respect of patent applicant on traditional knowledge.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Sixteen States have notified the establishment of State Biodiversity Boards till July, 2006. These states are: Karnataka, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

(e) The remaining states have been requested by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the National Biodiversity Authority for early formation of the State Biodiversity Boards.

**Disease affected Arecanut Plantation**

\*348. SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY:

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arecanut plantation has been affected by the yellow leaf disease in Kerala and some other States of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any representation from the farmers and other organizations for removal of the said disease;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has sent any proposal for providing assistance for removal of disease affected palms, promotion of better management practices and raising alternative crops;

(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) Arecanut plantations in Kerala, Karnataka and parts of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have been affected by Yellow leaf disease.

(b) to (f) A proposal was received from the Government of Kerala in January, 2005 for the management of Yellow Leaf Disease (YLD) affected Arecanut palms at a cost of Rs. 2.19 crores. A sum of Rs. 91.10 lakhs was released in March 2005 to the

Government of Kerala under the scheme of Macro-Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plan to manage this disease.

Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargod and its Regional Station in South Canara district are conducting research on the management of the disease and have recommended several crop management practices to the farmers.

*[Translation]*

**Assistance to Backward States under A.I.B.P.**

\*349. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria prescribed for providing assistance to the States under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);

(b) whether the criteria for providing such assistance to the hilly States are different;

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

(d) whether there is any proposal to provide Central assistance to Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka on the lines of the hilly States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Criteria for providing assistance as per prevailing AIBP Guidelines is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) There is no separate criteria for hilly states. However, hilly states of Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal in addition to North Eastern States and Projects benefiting Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa are categorized as Special Category States/region for providing CLA under AIBP.

The CLA to special category States/region is provided in the ratio of 3 : 1 (Centre : State) as against 2 : 1 (Centre : State) for non-Special Category States. Central assistance is provided in the ratio of 90 : 10 (Grant :

Loan) as against 30 : 70 (Grant : Loan) provided to non-Special Category States. The projects in drought-prone and tribal area in non-Special Category States (to be identified in consultation with Planning Commission) are also eligible for funding as provided to the Special Category States.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*Modified Guidelines for the  
Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme  
Effective from 1.4.2005*

*Major and Medium Irrigation Projects*

*(A) Eligibility Criteria for Funding*

1. Only approved major and medium irrigation projects i.e. projects which have been accorded investment approval by the Planning Commission, which are in an advanced stage of construction and can be completed in the next four (4) financial years and which are not receiving any other form of assistance (NABARD, external aid, etc.) can be considered for inclusion in the programme. Components of projects not receiving other assistance can also be included under the programme. To avoid thin spreading of resources, State Governments will have to concentrate only on a few promising projects.

2. Only on completion of one project under the programme, inclusion of another project will be considered. However, Fast Track Projects and pre Fifth and Fifth Plan projects can be included under this programme without this stipulation.

3. For the KBK districts of Orissa, projects even in the initial stage of construction can be included.

4. The following categories of projects will get priority for inclusion in the programme:

- (i) projects benefitting tribal/drought prone areas
- (ii) inter-State projects (All party States will be eligible individually for assistance).
- (iii) projects with larger irrigated area per unit of additional investment.

5. For large projects, assistance will be given for their phased completion so that additional benefits can start flowing early. Projects on which more than 50% of the estimated cost has been incurred will be given priority.

6. Extension, Renovation, Modernisation (ERM) projects can be included subject to following conditions:

(a) can be permitted in States which have no major or medium projects to pose under AIBP and have thus not been availing AIBP.

(b) can be permitted as follows:

(i) in States which have agreed to reform in water sector *i.e.* step up water rates to enable meeting full O&M cost over 5 years. (So far only Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Jharkhand have signed necessary MoU).

Or

(ii) in States which have enacted Participatory Irrigation Management legislation

(iii) for ERM projects where new potential is also envisaged with water saved and not merely restoration of lost potential.

To ensure that funds do not flow only to ERM projects, not more than 10% of aggregate annual allocation under AIBP will be for ERM and 90% will thus be for completion of major and medium projects.

7. State Governments will be required to enter into a MoU with the MoWR for each individual project under the programme indicating balance cost, balance potential, year-wise phasing of expenditure and balance potential and agreement to complete the project in 4 financial years with target completion date.

#### **Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes**

##### **(A) Eligibility criteria for funding**

(1) Surface Minor Irrigation (MI) Schemes (both new as well as ongoing) of States of North-East, Hilly States (Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand) and drought prone KBK districts of Orissa which are approved by State TAC/State Planning Department will be eligible under the programme. However, the State Government should submit only those

proposals where the individual schemes are benefiting irrigation potential of at least 20 ha. and group of schemes (within a radius of 5 km) benefiting total ultimate irrigation potential of at least 50 ha. The proposed MI schemes should have benefit cost ratio of more than 1 and the development cost of these schemes per ha. should not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh.

(2) For Non-Special category States, only those Minor Irrigation Schemes with potential more than 100 hectare with preference to Tribal Areas and drought prone areas which wholly benefit dalits and adivasis are to be included under AIBP. The State Government would give an undertaking for their completion on schedule in two financial years, beneficiary contributing 10% in cost and formation of Water Users Association (WUA) for post-construction maintenance. The schemes to be taken up will be decided in consultation with Planning Commission.

(3) The other conditions to be satisfied are:

(i) State Governments will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for each individual/group of schemes under the programme with MoWR indicating balance cost, balance potential, year-wise phasing of expenditure and agreement to complete the scheme in two financial years with target of completion date.

(ii) The projects which are already receiving assistance from external/domestic agencies such as NABARD will not be eligible for Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the programme.

#### **Assistance to Public Sector Undertakings**

\*350. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

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

(a) the assistance provided to the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Pharmaceutical and Fertilizer Sectors during the last three years and the current financial year;

(b) the details of the profit making PSUs in the said sectors alongwith the profit earned during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the performance of the loss making PSUs and revive the sick ones in those sectors?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS  
PASWAN): (a) The assistance provided to the Public

Sector Undertakings in Pharmaceutical Sector during the  
last three years and the current financial years are as  
under:

Sl.No.	Name of PSU	Financial Assistance (Rs. crores)							
		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
1.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL)	2.00	6.94	2.77	4.50	3.00	27.30	—	44.00#
2.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL)	5.00	—	4.64	—	4.12	5.61	3.50	—
3.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL)	—	2.9203	—	—	—	7.00	—	—
4.	Bengal Immunity Limited (BIL)	—	43.7575	—	—	—	10.00	—	—
5.	Smith Stanisteeet Pharmaceuticals Limited (SSPL)	—	23.8504	—	2.50	—	—	—	—

#Released to meet expenditure on VRS & other expenditure as per the provisions of rehabilitation scheme approved by the Government.

The details of the assistance provided to public sector undertakings in the fertilizer sector during the last three

years and in the current financial year are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of PSU	Assistance Given during (Rs. in crore)			
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL)	Plan: 14.00 Non-Plan: 7.44 Others: (i) Waiver of interest on GOI loan as on 31.3.2003 (ii) Reduction in interest from 15.1% to 7% on GOI loan w.e.f. 1.4.2003)	Plan: 11.93 Non-Plan: Nil Others: Nil	Plan: 9.49 Non-Plan: Nil Others: Nil	Plan: Nil Non- Plan: Nil Others: Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Fertilizer & Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)	Plan: 17.26 Non-Plan: 60.00 Others: (i) Waiver of outstanding interest (Rs. 87.80 cr) on GOI loan alongwith waiver of penal interest for past defaults upto 31.3.2003; (ii) Moratorium on repayment or principal on GOI loan upto 31.3.2004 (iii) Reduction in interest rate to 7% from the existing rates ranging from 13.50% to 16%. (iv) Deferment of interest payment on outstanding GOI loan as on 31.3.2003, upto 31.3.2004 deferred interest converted in to loan on 31.3.2004	Plan: 10.14 Non-Plan: Nil Others: Nil	Plan: 40.00 Non-Plan: Nil Others: (i) Waiver of outstanding interest as on 31.3.05 (Rs. 85.77 crores) along with penal interest.  (ii) Conversion of 50% of GOI loan of Rs. 548.60 crore into equity capital (Rs. 292.30 cr.) (iii) Write off of non-plan loan of Rs. 60 crores, given for Voluntary Retirement Scheme. (iv) Write off of balance outstanding GOI loan of 232.30 crore.	Plan: Nil Non-Plan: Nil Plan: Nil Others: Nil
3.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited BVFCL).	Plan: 131.30 Non-Plan: 35.73 Others: Nil	Plan: Nil Non-Plan: 10.00 Others: 4.45 (Equity assistance)	Plan: 35.34 Non-Plan: 41.15 Others: Equity: 2.15	Nil
4.	Projects and Development India Limited.	Plan: 0.25 Non-Plan: 136.51 Others: Equity: 25.00 Non-cash: 135.18	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Ltd. (FAGMIL).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL)	Plan: Nil Non-Plan: 20.48 Others: Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL)	Non-Plan: 4.49	Nil	Non-Plan: 16.00	Nil
8.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCFL).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (HFCL)	Non-Plan: 4.85	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) In the Pharmaceutical Sector, two companies namely Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL), Jaipur, and Kamataka Antibiotics Pharmaceuticals

Limited (KAPL), Bangalore, Joint Venture companies of IDPL and HAL respectively, are profit making. The profit earned by these PSUs during the said period is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Profit earned during (Rs./crores)			
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (1st Quarter)
1.	RDPL	1.18*	0.67*	2.55* (Unaudited)	0.40 (Provisional)
2.	KAPL	4.36*	5.32*	5.57*	1.30 (Provisional)

\*Profit. before tax

Apart from this, one CPSU namely BCPL earned profit in the year 2003-04 of Rs. 7.95 crores. In the year 2005-06 it has projected a profit of Rs. 0.10 crore (provisional).

In the Fertilizer sector, the details of profit making PSUs are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Profit earned during (Rs./crores)			
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (1st Quarter)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Fertilizer & Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)	—	—	235.65	—



1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL)	—	22.54	—	—
3.	Projects and Development India Limited	8.69	10.06	10.64	2.57
4.	FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Ltd. (FAGMIL).	2.832*	6.56*	9.85*	4.03
5.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCFL)	257.13*	212.59*	215.67*	7.46
6.	National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL)	119.10*	214.54*	179.29*	24.66

\*Profits Before Tax

—Loss

(c) Steps have been initiated to revive sick Pharma CPSEs. On 9.3.2006, Government has approved the revival plan of HAL. Revival plan of BCPL has been sent to the BRPSE for its recommendations. The draft revival plan of IDPL is being considered & would be placed before the BRPSE shortly.

In order to improve performance of the sick Pharma Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), Government has decided to grant purchase preference to 102 drugs/ pharmaceuticals manufactured by Pharma CPSEs and their subsidiaries by Departments, CPSEs, Autonomous bodies etc. of the Central Government at NPPA approved/ certified rates minus discount up to 35%. Instructions in this regard have since been issued on 7.8.2006.

The company-wise details of Fertilizer units are as under:

1. Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL): The possibilities of financial restructuring of the company or formation of a Joint Venture with some other profit making fertilizer PSU, are being explored.
2. Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT); The Government, on 30.3.2006, has implemented a financial restructuring proposal in

respect of the company. Further, the possibility of merger the company with some profit making PSU or making it a subsidiary of such PSU is being explored.

3. HFCL, FCIL, PPCL: The revival of these companies is under consideration of the Government.

4. RCF, NFL, PDIL & FATMIL: Not applicable, as these are profit making companies.

[English]

#### Rural Cooperative Credit System

\*351. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force set up to examine the Rural Cooperative Credit System has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted by the Government;

(c) the details of the recommendations on which action has been taken so far; and

(d) the time by which the remaining recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Task Force has submitted its report on Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure.

(b) The Task Force has recommended a Revival Package encompassing financial assistance as well as legal and institutional reforms. The financial assistance to the Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS) comprising State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), Large Adivasi Multipurpose Societies (LAMPS) and Farmers Service Societies (FSS) would cover cleaning of the balance sheets, support for minimum capital requirements, developing uniform accounting system, computerization and training. Funding the financial package, estimated at Rs. 13596 crore will be shared by the Central Government, State Governments and the Cooperative Credit Structure (CCS). The Government of India have accepted the recommendations of the Task Force in principle.

(c) The details of the action taken on the recommendations of the Task Force are given as under:

- (i) The Revival Package was communicated to the State Governments on 5th January, 2006 by the Hon'ble Finance Minister.
- (ii) Seven States viz., Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim have communicated their, in principle, acceptance of the Revival Package.
- (iii) NABARD has been designated as the implementing Agency for implementation of the Revival Package in all the States. A Department for Cooperative Revival and Reforms has been set up in the Head Office of NABARD for facilitating the implementation process.
- (iv) For guiding and monitoring the implementation of the Revival Package a National Level Implementing and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) has been set up under the Chairmanship of the

Governor, Reserve Bank of India. Other members of the Committee are Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, two Secretaries of Government of India, Chairman NABARD, representatives of implementing States and two cooperators. The first meeting of the NIMC was held on 30th May, 2006. A State Level Implementation Committee (SLIC) has been constituted in Maharashtra.

- (v) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was prepared and sent to all the State Governments. Government of India Communicated on 18th April, 2006 a format of the MoU to be executed among the Government of India, State Governments and NABARD for implementing the package.
- (vi) Formats and working manuals have been designed by NABARD to facilitate the exercise of a special audit for arriving at the amount of assistance. The same have been sent to all States.
- (vii) The training of the Master Trainers for creating of trainers for conducting Special Audit in PACS/ DCCBs has been completed in Rajasthan, Orissa, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- (viii) Training modules for training of the elected Directors and staff of the CCS are being designed by NABARD.
- (ix) A common accounting system is being designed in NABARD for the STCCS which will ensure transparency and prudent accounting methods.

(d) The time taken to implement would depend, inter-alia, on the action taken by the States. States have been given time of two years to take decision for acceptance of the Revival Package; thereafter, the time for implementation of the Revival Package would be three years.

#### **Woman Dairy Cooperative Leadership Programme**

\*352. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is implementing a Woman Dairy Cooperative Leadership Programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the said programme has been introduced; and

(d) the financial assistance provided to the States for the purpose during the last three years and the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) National Dairy Development Board implemented the Woman Dairy Cooperative Leadership Programme (WDCLP) from August 1997 to December 2002.

(b) The Programme provided technical and financial support to 50 co-operative milk unions in 14 States/Union Territories for activities that provided opportunities for development of leadership skills amongst the women.

(c) The Programme was implemented in 14 States/Union Territories, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(d) No financial assistance has been provided for the purpose during the last three years and the current financial year.

#### **Expert Group under Forestry Programme**

\*353. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Expert/Advisory/Working Group to plan, guide and support implementation of an integrated National Forestry Database Management System (NFDMS) to ensure continuing an effective dissemination and use of forest statistics;

(b) if so, the suggestions given or recommendations made by the said group so far;

(c) whether the Government has prepared blue print for the development of NFDMS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has constituted an Expert/Advisory/Working Group to plan, guide and support implementation of an integrated National Forestry Database Management System (NFDMS) to ensure continuing an effective dissemination and use of forest statistics. The expert Group has already held its first meeting and has proposed detailed Terms of Reference for Information Needs Analysis, Functional Requirement Study, National and Regional Workshops and Capacity Building Programmes for the preparation of Blueprint towards the development of National Forestry Database Management System (NFDMS).

#### **Repeal of Prasar Bharati Act**

\*354. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Doordarshan has deteriorated since the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 was implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any representations to repeal the said Act to bring the autonomous Corporation back under the Government control; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A representation was received from National Federation of Akashvani and Doordarshan Employees. The representatives of the Federation are of the view that Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, which was brought into force in November, 1997 may be repealed and status *quo ante* in respect of AIR and Doordarshan should be

restored. They were of the view that this was necessary as various facilities available to the employees of Prasar Bharati were withdrawn in a phased manner on account of their becoming employees of the Corporation on deemed deputation to Prasar Bharati. The issue of repealing the Prasar Bharati Act, among other things, is one of the items placed before the GoM constituted by the Government to look in to the functioning of Prasar Bharati and a decision can emerge only after the GoM takes a final view on the matter.

#### **Research Projects in Steel Sector**

\*355. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of research projects in iron and steel sector that have been approved by the Union Government so far;

(b) the number of research projects completed so far;

(c) whether the result of these research projects have yielded any significant benefits;

(d) if so, the extent to which the performance of steel plants has enhanced as a result thereof;

(e) whether there is a demand to raise the Steel Development Fund; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) An Empowered Committee constituted by the Ministry of Steel for sanctioning and monitoring research projects in iron and steel sector has approved 44 projects.

(b) So far 21 projects have been completed.

(c) and (d) Completed projects are yielding benefits in areas of iron & steel making processes, upgradation of raw materials, products development, increase in productivity, reduction in refractory consumption during steel making, reduction in energy consumption in Electric Arc Furnace/Induction Furnace route, utilization of waste materials etc.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

#### **Coal Gasification Technology in Fertilizer Industry**

\*356. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether countries like Africa and China have been successful in using coal gasification technology in the fertilizer industry;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has formed a coordination group to study the feasibility of adopting coal gasification technology in the fertilizer industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the group has submitted its report;

(e) if so, the details of the recommendations therein; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Synthesis gas (syngas) derived out of coal gasification can be used for power generation, production of fertilizers, methanol, hydrogen etc. As per information available, following are the plants which employ Shell Coal Gasification Technology in China.

Sl. No.	Plant Location	Plant Details (TPD of coal feedstock)	End Product
1	2	3	4
1.	Yueyang Sinopec	2000	Fertilizer
2.	Liuzhou Chemical Industry Co. Ltd.	1200	Fertilizer

1	2	3	4
3.	Hubei Shuanghuan Chemical Group Col. Ltd.	900	Fertilizer
4.	Sinopec Hubei Chemical Fertilizer Co.	2000	Fertilizer
5.	Sinopec Anqing Company	2000	Fertilizer
6.	Yunnan Tianan Chemical Co Ltd.	2700	Fertilizer
7.	Yunnan Zhanhua Co. Ltd.	2700	Fertilizer
8.	Dahua Group Ltd.	1100	Methanol
9.	Yongcheng Coal and Power Group	2100	Methanol
10.	China Shensua Coal Liquefaction Corp.	2x2200	Hydrogen
11.	Hena Zhongyuan Dahua Group	2100	Methanol
12.	Henan Yima Kaixiang Group	1100	Methanol

(b) and (c) It has been decided to constitute a Coordination Group in the Department of Fertilizers to study the feasibility of adoption of coal gasification technology in fertilizer sector in India. The Coordination Group will comprise of representatives from Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Department of Fertilizers, GAIL (India) Limited, Projects & Development India Limited (PDIL) and Fertilizer Association of India (FAI). Further, a Core Group has been formed in the Department of Fertilizers to assist the Coordination Group and comprises of representatives from the Department of Fertilizers, GAIL (India) Limited, PDIL and FCI Aravali Gypsum & Minerals India Limited (FAGMIL). The Core Group has been, *inter alia*, assigned to ascertain the price and availability of coal in view of the New Pricing and Supply Policy being introduced by Ministry of Coal and will make projections regarding prices of coal.

(d) to (f) The Coordination Group is yet to submit its report.

#### Forest Cover

\*357. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) of India 1999, the total requirement of funds for the 20 year period has been estimated to achieve the requisite target of improvement and expansion of Forest and Tree Cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan prepared to achieve this goal; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve both the financial and physical target?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has formulated National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP), a comprehensive strategic long term plan for the next twenty years to address the issues underlying the major problems of the forestry sector in the country in line with the National Forest Policy, 1988. The objective of the NFAP is to bring 33% of the geographical area of the country under forest/tree cover and to arrest de-forestation for achieving sustainable development of forests.

(b) The National Forestry Action Programme has five main components which are as under:

1. Protect Existing Forest Resources: It has three main-sub programmes. (i) forest protection, (ii) soil and water conservation, and (iii) protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

2. **Improve Forest Productivity:** It has four main sub-programmes. (i) rehabilitation of degraded forests, (ii) research and technology development, (iii) development of Non-Wood Forest Products and (iv) assisting private initiatives with community participation.
3. **Reduce Total Demand:** It has three main sub-programmes for efficient use of (i) fuel wood and fodder, (ii) timber, and (iii) Non-Wood Forest Products.
4. **Strengthen Policy and Institutional Framework:** It has three main sub-programmes. (i) Central forestry administration, (ii) Central forestry institutions, and (iii) State forestry administration and institutions.
5. **Expand Forest Area:** It has two main sub-programmes. (i) Tree plantation on forest and

non-forest lands, and (ii) people's participation in plantations and their protection. The implementation of National Forest Action Programme requires huge financial resources and it is estimated that Rs. 133903 crores would be required for twenty years to bring one third of the area of the country under forest/tree cover and sustainable development of forests. The component-wise details are enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) The Planning Commission has been requested to step up allocation to the forestry sector in the annual plans of State and Central Government for implementation of the National Forestry Action Programme to achieve the desired objectives of the sustainable development of forests. The Central Government has invested Rs. 1705.9 crores under various schemes of forest and wildlife during last six years. The details are enclosed as Statement-II.

#### ***Statement I***

##### ***Investment Estimates for 20 years under National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) in different Programme***

(Rs. in crores)

Programme	State Sector	Central Sector	Total
Protect Existing Resources	17005.86	4431.36	21437.22
Improve Forest Productivity	39147.99	2143.76	41291.75
Reduce Total Demand	1549.24	1224.61	2773.85
Strengthen Policy and Institutional Framework	24968.48	2259.57	27228.05
Expand Forest Area	40560.55	611.36	41171.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>123232.12</b>	<b>10670.66</b>	<b>133902.8</b>

#### ***Statement II***

##### ***Investment made by Central Government under various schemes of forest and wildlife during last six years***

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Scheme	Financial Year						Total
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	21.94	45.62	45.82	24.09	54.07	32.61	224.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Major Afforestation Schemes	99.13	94.83	151.26	207.98	233.00	248.58	1034.78
Project Elephant	6.37	8.43	9.39	12.85	13.34	11.52	61.79
Project Tiger	19.18	19.48	28.80	30.67	27.64	29.95	155.72
National Parks & Sanctuaries	24.80	23.54	36.94	43.19	47.80	53.19	229.46
Total	171.42	191.79	272.21	318.78	375.85	375.85	1705.9

**Inter-State Movement of Foodgrains**

(In lakh tonnes)

\*358. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inter-State movement of foodgrains has significantly increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the movement of foodgrains from surplus region to deficient areas vis-a-vis, storage capacity, procurement, stock, allocation and off-take of foodgrain in those regions is also being monitored by the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details of foodgrains stored in different States alongwith the foodgrains moved to those States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There was been no significant increase in the Inter-State movement of foodgrains in the last three years. As per the information available in this Ministry, the Inter-State movement of foodgrains by rail during the last three years has been as under:

Year	On Government account	On private account*
2003-04	252.06	48.32
2004-05	294.62	69.82
2005-06	265.92	57.43

\*includes Intra-State movement.

The Inter-State movement of foodgrains by road by FCI during the last three years has been as under:

Year	In lakh tonnes
2003-04	22.59
2004-05	25.41
2005-06	22.15

The details of Inter-State movement of foodgrains by road on private account are not maintained in this Ministry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The position, as on 1.7.2006, of foodgrains stock in different States and foodgrains moved to those States, is as under:

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Name of the State	Stock Position (as on 1.7.2006)			Movement of Foodgrains (June 2006)		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	19.96	0.21	20.17	0.08	0.00	0.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam/NE Region	2.44	0.26	2.70	1.96	0.56	2.52
Bihar	1.49	1.53	3.02	0.00	0.30	0.30
Chhattisgarh	8.61	0.29	8.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
Delhi	0.22	1.17	1.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	1.50	0.75	2.25	0.12	0.12	0.24
Haryana	1.73	15.08	16.81	0.00	0.00	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	0.02	2.08	0.10	0.19	0.14	0.33
Jammu & Kashmir	0.36	0.21	0.57	0.32	0.28	0.60
Jharkhand	0.54	0.34	0.88	0.61	0.20	0.81
Karnataka	2.24	0.40	2.64	1.81	0.00	1.81
Kerala	2.29	0.22	2.51	0.78	0.00	0.78
Madhya Pradesh	1.18	0.81	1.99	0.47	0.44	0.91
Maharashtra	3.90	1.43	5.33	0.69	0.20	0.89
Orissa	4.23	0.23	4.46	0.00	0.20	0.20
Punjab	34.94	51.42	86.36	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	0.22	1.85	2.07	0.18	1.42	1.60
Tamil Nadu	9.29	0.53	9.82	1.47	0.00	1.47
Uttar Pradesh	11.60	2.00	13.60	0.00	1.00	1.00
Uttaranchal	1.06	0.24	1.30	0.00	0.18	0.18
West Bengal	2.46	1.61	4.07	0.00	1.52	1.52
Stock in Transit	1.15	1.41	2.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	111.43	82.07	193.50	8.68	6.56	15.24

#### Committee on Subsidy on Fertilizers

\*359. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee set up for bringing down subsidy on fertilizers has submitted its report;

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

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

(d) whether the Union Government has asked States to cut the value added tax on fertilizer inputs to bring down the fertilizer subsidy;

(e) if so, the details thereof and

(f) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?



THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Department of Fertilizers has not issued any orders to set up a committee for bringing down subsidy on fertilizers.

(d) to (f) The Department of Fertilizers has taken up the matter of Value Added Tax (VAT) on fertilizer inputs with the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, which has been constituted to take all decisions relating to sales tax/VAT, for rationalization of rates of sales tax on natural gas, naphtha, furnace Oil/LSHS used in manufacture of fertilizers.

*[Translation]*

#### **Subsidy to Fertilizer Companies**

\*360. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the difference between subsidies given to public and private sector fertilizer companies during the last three years;

(b) whether the fertilizer companies in private sector are showing exaggerated data of fertilizer production for getting subsidy whereas the actual production is far less than their claims;

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

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The amounts of subsidy paid to urea units sector-wise during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Statements-II and III giving the figures of despatches of urea units sector-wise and figures of production of urea units during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are enclosed.

(b) No such instance has come to the knowledge of the Department.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

#### **Statement I**

*Sector-wise/unit-wise subsidy paid during the years 2003-04 to 2005-06*

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Unit	Subsidy paid		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
<b>(A) Public Sector</b>				
1.	RCF-Thal	669.42	671.09	852.01
2.	RCF-Trombay	1.57	0.00	1.91
3.	MFL-Chennai	409.76	496.74	676.39
4.	NFL-Bhatinda	502.01	434.37	353.84
5.	NFL-Panipat	465.88	404.68	309.35
6.	NFL-Vijaipur-I	164.49	146.45	123.93
7.	NFL-Vijaipur-II	284.14	320.83	350.06
8.	NFL-Nangal	544.85	452.51	420.85

1	2	3	4	5
9.	BVFCL-Namrup-III	14.40	28.64	20.70
10.	FACT	10.46	-6.63	-1.05
11.	FCI (Ramagundam)	8.39	0.00	0.00
12.	FCI (Sindri)	40.46	0.00	0.00
13.	FCI (Talcher)	6.90	0.00	0.00
14.	NLC-Neyveli	50.61	-0.15	0.00
15.	GSFC-Vadodara (State Government)	70.01	217.68	57.69
16.	GNVFC-Bharuch (State Government)	224.85	265.46	293.98
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3447.28</b>	<b>3431.67</b>	<b>3459.46</b>

**(B) Cooperative Sector**

1.	KRIBHCO-Hazira	322.21	197.59	245.94
2.	IFFCO-Phulpur-I	460.95	526.58	536.03
3.	IFFCO-Phulpur-II	577.55	865.80	913.65
4.	IFFCO-Kalol	286.94	319.76	151.92
5.	IFFCO-Aonla-I	147.35	158.17	95.03
6.	IFFCO-Aonla-II	143.89	245.56	125.55
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1938.89</b>	<b>2313.26</b>	<b>2068.12</b>

**(C) Private Sector**

1.	NFCL-Kakinada-I	146.51	184.25	144.44
2.	NFCL-Kakinada-II	207.81	298.05	479.39
3.	CFCL-Gadepan-I	230.62	386.49	329.26
4.	CFCL-Gadepan-II	617.47	821.19	828.45
5.	TCL-Babrula	176.21	382.66	329.67
6.	ZIL-Goa	381.41	484.61	623.09
7.	SFC-Kota	299.37	310.48	436.36
8.	INDOGULF-Jagdishpur	106.28	215.97	278.39
9.	SPIC-Tuticorin	520.03	668.13	896.08
10.	OCFL-Shahjahanpur	222.91	361.76	87.24

1	2	3	4	5
11.	MCFL-Mangalore	226.21	384.63	461.32
12.	DIL-Kanpur	0.00	0.00	38.90
	Total	3134.83	4498.22	4932.59
	Grand Total	8521.00	10243.15	10460.17

**Statement II***Sector-wise/unit-wise despatches during the years 2003-04 to 2005-06*

(Qty. in MTs)

Sl. No.	Unit	Re-assessed Capacity	Despatches		
			2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>(A) Public Sector</b>					
1.	RCF-Thal	1706800.000	1688072.950	1788208.600	1687301.850
2.	RCF-Trombay	0.000	11689.750	0.000	0.000
3.	MFL-Chennai	486750.00	369314.250	479991.100	375058.300
4.	NFL-Bhatinda	511500.00	511502.500	566257.700	518000.000
5.	NFL-Panipat	511500.00	511500.500	556710.250	503500.000
6.	NFL-Vijaipur-I	864600.00	869150.000	941834.000	891218.100
7.	NFL-Vijaipur-II	864600.000	864599.200	940485.100	925950.700
8.	NFL-Nangal	478500.000	478500.000	518397.600	479994.650
9.	BVFCL-Namrup-III	315000.000	192226.000	195707.250	203226.000
10.	FACT	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
11.	FCI (Ramagundam)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
12.	FCI (Sindri)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
13.	FCI (Talcher)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
14.	NLC-Neyveli	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	GSFC-Vadodara (State Government)	370590.000	300482.104	302233.345	312269.324
16.	GNVFC-Bharuch (State Government)	636900.000	636000.000	636000.000	636000.000
Total			6433036.754	6925824.945	6532516.924

**(B) Cooperative Sector**

1.	KRIBHCO Hazira	1729200.00	1730847.800	1788092.600	1785553.700
2.	Phulpur-I	551100.000	551138.900	565095.000	551137.300
3.	IFFCO-Phulpur-II	864600.000	864600.000	864600.00	884673.550
4.	IFFCO-Kalol	544500.000	477635.500	556504.150	544500.109
5.	IFFCO-Aonia-I	864600.00	822658.350	863433.950	862986.750
6.	IFFCO-Aonia-II	864600.000	851580.750	873833.100	874599.000
Total			5298461.300	5511558.800	5503450.400

**(C) Private Sector**

1.	NFCL-Kakinada-I	597300.000	573210.950	657407.400	703648.000
2.	NFCL-Kakinada-II	597300.00	580890.650	735547.650	675571.000
3.	CFCL-Gadepan-I	864600.000	874223.950	960943.290	969971.398
4.	CFCL-Gadepan-II	864600.00	864599.850	894406.084	931275.580
5.	TCL-Babrala	864600.00	847459.250	969996.250	959679.700
6.	Zil-Goa	399300.00	389299.550	449300.000	399300.000
7.	SFC-Kota	379500.00	379000.000	379000.000	379000.000
8.	INDOGULF-Jagdishpur	864600.00	863085.450	967821.000	991073.650
9.	SPIC-Tuticorin	620400.000	620400.000	678815.250	620400.300
10.	OCFL/KSFL-Shahjahanpur	864600.000	867361.900	852702.750	905109.350
11.	MCFL-Mangalore	379500.00	334957.350	335965.850	380000.000
12.	DIL-Kanpur	722000.000	0.000	0.000	36787.750
Total			7194488.900	7901905.524	7951817.728
Grand Total			18925986.954	20339289.269	19987785.052

**Statement III***Sector-wise/unit-wise production during the years 2003-04 to 2005-06*

(Qty. in MTs)

Sl. No.	Unit	Re-assessed Capacity	Production		
			2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>(A) Public Sector</b>					
1.	RCF-Thal	1706800.000	1687309.510	1790019.880	1884580.850
2.	RCF-Trombay	0.000	17372.000	0.000	0.000
3.	MFL-Chennai	486750.000	387681.000	473032.000	388500.000
4.	NFL-Bhatinda	511600.000	511600.000	536501.000	518000.000
5.	NFL-Panipat	511500.000	511500.000	531500.000	503500.000
6.	NFL-Vijaipur-I	864800.000	883699.000	926400.000	916103.000
7.	NFL-Viajipur-II	864800.000	864788.000	944500.000	928203.000
8.	NFL-Nangal	478500.000	478500.000	493500.000	480000.000
9.	BVFCL-Namrup-III	315000.000	240478.000	203060.000	206577.000
10.	FACT	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
11.	FCI (Ramagundam)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
12.	FCI (Sindri)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
13.	FCI (Talcher)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
14.	NLC-Neyveli	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
15.	GSFC-Vadodara (State Government)	370590.000	300396.450	302693.150	314746.800
16.	GNVFC-Bharuch (State Government)	636900.000	637142.000	634933.000	637436.000
Total			6520365.960	6836198.810	6556826.450

**(B) Cooperative Sector**

1.	KRIBHCO-Hazira	1729200.00	1773041.000	1805500.000	1806500.000
2.	IFFCO-Phulpur-I	551100.000	540765.200	565056.100	561100.000
3.	IFFCO-Phulpur-II	864800.000	850881.900	864021.500	864800.000
4.	IFFCO-Kalol	544500.00	479504.267	554507.258	544517.805
5.	IFFCO-Aonla-I	864800.000	864748.625	864690.781	862980.118

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	IFFCO-Aonla-II	864600.000	864849.189	865275.362	874800.399
	Total		5373590.181	5519051.001	5524298.122
<b>(C) Private Sector</b>					
1.	NFCL-Kakinada-I	597300.000	598220.000	657215.000	703649.000
2.	NFCL-Kakinada-II	597300.000	596430.000	735323.000	675571.000
3.	CFCL-Gadepan-I	864800.000	907731.000	961179.000	970077.000
4.	CFCL-Gadepan-II	864800.000	854816.000	894827.000	931443.000
5.	TCL-Babrara	864800.000	864755.000	989307.000	960113.000
6.	ZIL-Goa	399300.000	399287.500	449498.420	400178.230
7.	SFC-Kota	379500.000	363948.000	379000.000	381300.000
8.	INDOGULF-Jagdishpur	864800.000	862003.249	985205.227	994483.974
9.	SPIC-Tuticorin	620400.000	621078.000	678810.000	620451.000
10.	OCFL/KSFL-Shahjahanpur	864800.000	857803.150	861081.550	898284.200
11.	MCFL-Mangalore	379500.000	335030.000	335785.000	400000.000
12.	DIL-Kanpur	722000.000	0.000	0.000	36854.000
	Total		7260901.899	7906931.197	7972404.404
	Grand Total		19154858.040	20262181.008	20052328.976

**Favour to New Delhi Television Network by  
Doordarshan**

2653. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints  
in regard to showing special favour to New Delhi  
Television Network by Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this  
regard;

(d) the year-wise number of cases on which inquiry  
was initiated by the Central Bureau of Investigation against  
the officers of Doordarshan during the last three years  
alongwith the results thereof; and

(e) the number of cases disposed of during the said  
period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND  
BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a)  
to (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation had registered  
a regular case in 1998 against certain officers of  
Doordarshan for showing favour to New Delhi Television  
Network in the year 1997.

(d) and (e) Enquiry was started by CBI against the  
following number of officers of Doordarshan during the  
last three years in other cases:

Year	Number of Cases
1.8.2003 to 31.7.2004	4
1.8.2004 to 31.7.2005	3
1.8.2005 to 31.7.2006	2

Out of the above, one case has been disposed of during the last three years.

[English]

#### **New Policy for Agricultural Education and Research**

2654. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce new policy to redefine existing agricultural education and research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to diversify agriculture for integrated production and marketing of high value commodities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received proposals from State Governments in this regard;

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

(g) the benefits likely to accrue 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) and (b) The proposal to redefine agricultural education includes emphasis on skill and entrepreneurship developed oriented course curricula, engendering course curricula, hands-on-training, faculty competence by training and re-training, modernization of infrastructure, class rooms, laboratories, etc. so that the students are self confident to take up self-employment. The efforts are on to address the research needs of the entire value chain from production to consumption so that all stakeholders are duly benefited.

(c) and (d) Crop diversification is one of the priority areas. The diversification of cropping system with high value and low input requiring crops like oilseeds, pulses, fruits, bio-fuels, medicinal and aromatic plants etc. are the main components of the programme. Apart from the crops and cropping system, farming system approach is considered important which includes dairy, fishery, poultry, horticulture etc.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

#### **Internet Protocol Television**

2655. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps initiated by the Government for early introduction of IPTV?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. However, TRAI has started a consultation process on the subject.

#### **Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.**

2656. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fertilizer Corporation of India located at Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh owes Rs. 35 crore approximately to A.P. TRANSCO; and

(b) if so, the time by which the amount is likely to be paid?

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

(b) The Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) had been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in 1992 and the Government of India had decided to close down the whole of the Company including the Ramagundam Unit, in 2002. The BIFR recommended for winding up of the Company and forwarded their opinion to the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi (Company Jurisdiction), which has been registered as Company Petition (CP) No. 183/2004 and is pending before the Delhi High Court. Vide proceedings dated 11.8.2006, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has directed the FCIL to deposit an amount of Rs. 5 crore with the Court towards payment of dues of unsecured creditors. The dues of A.P. TRANSCO will also be settled as per the Court's directions.

[Translation]

#### **Gosikhurd Irrigation Project**

2657. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan is being taken from the World Bank for Gosikhurd Irrigation Project in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which loan from the World Bank would be provided to the State Government?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

2658. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the actual production, sales and profits of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether any proposal for expansion of VSP is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount of investment for the same; and

(d) the time by which the expansion programme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The actual production, sales and profits of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) during the last three years and the current year are indicated below:

Year	Production of Saleable Steel (million tonnes)	Sales (Rs. in crores)	Net Profit (Rs. crores)
2003-04	3.169	6169.08	1547.19
2004-05	3.173	8181.34	2008.09
2005-06	3.237	8482.44	1252.37
2006-07 (1st Quarter)	0.791	1774.22	284.06

(b) to (d) The Government in October, 2005 had approved the expansion plan of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) at an estimated cost of Rs. 8692 crores for increasing its liquid steel capacity from 3 million tonnes to 6.3 million tonnes per annum. The entire capital cost of the expansion plan is proposed to be met from its internal resources and partly by borrowing from financial institutions/banks. The expansion plan is under implementation and is likely to be completed by October, 2009.

#### **Losses in Prasar Bharati**

2659. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati Corporation is incurring losses;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to make Prasar Bharati Corporation financially viable and to augment its revenue;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?



THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The role of Prasar Bharati is different from other private broadcasters and this organization does not work purely on commercial basis. The earning of commercial revenue is not the only objective of the organization but is only incidental to its activities.

(c) to (e) A Committee was constituted on 30.3.2005 by the Government under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Information and Broadcasting for suggesting a viable capital and financial structure for Prasar Bharati to strengthen its functioning. The Committee has dealt and deliberated on the restructuring options available and submitted its Report to the Government. Its Recommendations are currently before the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the Government to examine various issues pertaining to the functioning of Prasar Bharati.

#### **Cash Crops/Conventional Crops**

2660. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers have given emphasis on cash crops instead of conventional crops on a large scale in several parts of the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the area brought under cash crops during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The coverage of area for the period from 2002-03 to 2004-05 under cultivation of conventional crops (viz. foodgrains like rice, wheat, cereals and pulses) vis-a-vis cash crops (viz. oilseeds, onion, potato, cotton, jute & mesta, sugarcane, coconut, cashewnut, arecanut and tobacco) presented in the Table below shows that the proportions of area under cash crops are increasing:

(Area in lakh hectares)

Year	Conventional crops	Cash crops
2002-03	1138.6	398.7
2003-04	1234.5	414.4
2004-05	1200.8	462.1

(b) No such survey has been conducted by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Environmental clearance to Upper Krishna project**

2661. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental clearance to Upper Krishna project in Karnataka has been accorded;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) 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) Yes Sir,

(b) Upper Krishna project has been taken up for implementation in phases. Stage-I, phase-I was not referred to this Ministry for environmental clearance. Phase-II, III, and stage-II were referred and were accorded environmental clearance on 5.4.1989, 18.7.2000 and 4.10.2000 respectively.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Integrated Policy on FDI**

2662. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a lack of coordination among TV broadcasting, telecommunication and internet companies on present policy regarding foreign direct investment in media;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring any integrated policy on foreign direct investment in media;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Policy relating to foreign direct investment in media viz. TV broadcasting, telecommunication and internet companies is not specifically interdependent at present. Hence, no question of lack of coordination among them arises.

(b) At present, there is no proposal for any integrated policy in FDI in media.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Forestry Clearance for Highway in Punjab**

2663. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal was sent by the Government of Punjab for removing/cutting of trees for upgradation of Balachaur-Hoshiarpur-Dasuya highway for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when the request is pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No, Sir, no such proposal for environmental clearance has been received. However, the proposal for diversion of 72.67 ha-of forest land for Balachaur-Garhshankar-Hoshiarpur-Dasuya Highway, under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, involving felling of about

17,243 trees and 8,135 under sized poles of various species, was received. Final approval for diversion of 56.1732 ha of forest land for the above project has been granted on 28.11.2005.

#### **Telecast of National Games at Guwahati**

2664. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Radio and Doordarshan is gearing up to cover the coming National Games at Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the amount of funds sanctioned and released to AIR and Doordarshan Kendra for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) AIR and DD will cover these games out of their own resources.

#### **Projects for Crop Safety**

2665. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects/proposals related to crop safety received during the last three years by Indian Council of Agricultural Research; and

(b) the present status of the above projects/proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A total of 290 project proposals received during the last three years related to crop safety.

(b) A total of 39 projects were approved and are in operation and 251 were rejected.

#### **Selection of Movies**

2666. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selecting the movies for telecast under BIOSCOPE programme being telecast on National Channels;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints from viewers that most of the time very poor and mediocre films are being telecast under this programme;

(c) if so, the steps the Government has taken or propose to take in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to constitute a committee of experts for selection of movies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasara Bharati has informed that the films under Bioscope category are selected from the offers received in response to advertisement and selected by short-listing committee. They have further informed that entertaining and popular films from the earlier era preferably before 1979 are shown in serialized form on Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday at 11.00 PM on Doordarshan's National Network.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Prasara Bharati has informed that a shortlisting committee comprising of three outside experts, (who are eminent journalists, Film Critics, etc.) and three ex-officio members i.e. DDG (Marketing), Director (Films), and Director, DDK, Mumbai, already exists, which selects the movies for telecast.

#### **Achievements under NPCBB**

2667. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:  
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the achievements made by the Government under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): The achievements made under the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *Physical achievement under the NPCBB during the last three years*

Sl.No.	Activity Component	2003-2004	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Conversion/setting up of Artificial Insemination Centres to enable mobile practice	5457	6751	7221
2.	Strengthening of semen stations/ acquisition of AI bulls	5	15	13
3.	Strengthening/ establishment of semen banks	31	47	56
4.	Strengthening/ establishment of training centres	17	23	27

**Pension Fund of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995**

2668. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount accumulated in Pension Fund of Employees Pension Scheme, 1995;

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to evaluate the pension fund and give interim relief and revision of pension under EPF, 1995; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The amount lying in the Employees' Pension Fund as on 31.3.2006 was Rs. 70,041.21 crore.

(b) and (c) The annual valuation of the Employees' Pension Fund is made on a regular basis in accordance with para 32 of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

The first four valuations had revealed a surplus and accordingly four interim reliefs @4%, 5.5%, 4% and 4% were released w.e.f. 16.11.96, 1.4.98, 1.4.99 and 1.4.2000 respectively. However, none of the subsequent four valuations has shown any surplus in the Pension Fund. Therefore, no further relief is contemplated at present.

*[Translation]***Assistance to Punjab for Repair of Canals and Ponds**

2669. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided financial assistance to Punjab for repair of canals and ponds; and

(b) if so, the assistance provided during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Government of India launched a programme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies directly linked to Agriculture during 2004-05. Proposals for availing assistance under the programme is required to be sent by the State Government. However, no funds under this scheme has been released to Punjab since inception of programme.

Under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, the Grant released to the Government of Punjab during last three years is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the project and Programme of financial assistance	Grant Released
1.	Irrigation to H.P. below Talwara (Normal AIBP)	Rs. 6.0966 crore
2.	Remodelling of UBDC (Fast Track Programme of AIBP)	Rs. 6.0000 crore
3.	Extension of Kandli Canal Stage II (RD 59.50 km to 130 km) (Fast Track Programme of AIBP)	Rs. 14.22 crore
Total		Rs. 26.3166 crore

*[English]***Inspection of Tsatichhu Lake in Bhutan**

2670. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an experts group was sent to Bhutan for joint inspection of the Tsatichhu Lake in Bhutan posing a threat of floods in Assam and the North-East;

(b) if so, whether bursting of this lake led to colossal flood devastations in Assam and around;

(c) if so, the extent of damages caused; and

(d) the outcome of the joint inspection, its observations and suggestions and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes Sir, An Expert Team visited landslide dam and lake in Bhutan in June, 2004.

(b) and (c) On 10th July, 2004, the landslide dam breached causing damage to paddy fields along some portion of road between Mongar and Lhuenise. On account of early warning system in place, both at Kurichhu Hydropower Project and flood warning stations in Assam timely information was received and as a result no loss of life was reported on account of the breach.

(d) The report of the Export Group mentioned the condition of the landslide dam and lake. The team suggested some remedial measures for safety of the dam and to avoid its failure. However, the project authorities of Kurichhu project expressed their inability to carry out any such measure in view of inaccessibility of site, non-availability of infrastructural facilities and impeding monsoon. The observations of the Export Group which visited earlier before the dam breach will not be of much help in the changed scenario after bursting of the lake.

#### **Advertisement Rates for Private Channels**

2671. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:  
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

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

(a) whether the Government has laid down any criteria for the empanelment of private satellite channels by Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for 2006-07;

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

(c) the criteria for fixing advertisement rates for each of the channels?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Government authorised Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) to advertise through private satellite channels in the year 2003. Accordingly private satellite channels are empanelled by DAVP through an Empanelment Committee based on the average of last six months TAM data for TV channels and minimum channel share-All India/State and genre. The rates for these satellite channels are decided, similarly, by a committee consisting of representatives of DAVP, All India Radio, Doordarshan and National Film Development Corporation.

#### **Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium for NER**

2672. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Mini Mission on Horticulture is being implemented by Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium for the North Eastern Region (NER);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the funds earmarked, date of sanctioning of project;

(c) the reasons for very slow and low impact of its implementation; and

(d) the steps taken to make it more effective?

THE MINISTER OF 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) Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), a society under Ministry of Agriculture is one of the agencies involved in implementation of Mini Mission-II, III & IV of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern Region. Details of the year-wise funds allocated and released since the date of sanction of the Mission i.e., February, 2001 are as under:

#### **IX Plan**

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation	Releases
2001-02	67.25	67.25

#### **X plan (Outlay—Rs. 585 crores)**

Year	Allocation	Release
2002-03	120.00	91.00
2003-04	120.00	92.39
2004-05	144.50	129.52
2005-06	130.00	132.69
2006-07	150.00	59.83 (Till date)
Total (X Plan)		505.43 (Till date)

(c) and (d) The scheme is being implemented in a mission mode approach to address all the issues related to development of horticulture *inter alia* production of planting material; development, refinement and demonstration of technologies, production and productivity improvement, post harvest management, marketing, processing and value addition of horticultural produce.

The implementation of the Mission has helped in bringing an additional area of 1,17,872 ha. of various horticulture crops in North Eastern States, which is 34% increase over the area during the pre-mission period

(2000-2001). The infrastructure facilities created such as nurseries, tissue culture units, community water tanks, tube wells, drip irrigation, green houses, mushroom units, vermi-compost units and others have helped in production of adequate quality planting material and also in improving in production and productivity of horticultural crops in the region.

Details of additional area brought under different horticulture crops and other infrastructure facilities created under the Mission are given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

### ***Statement I***

*Additional area brought under horticulture crops under Mini Mission-II during the period 2001-02 to 2005-06 in NE states (ha)*

NE States	Fruits	Vegetables	Flowers	Spices & Plantation crops	Medicinal and aromatic plants	Total
Arunachal Pradesh	9987	2460	410	5650	2857	21364
Assam	5515	1391	281	3998	200	11385
Manipur	6456	2186	348	2638	225	11853
Meghalaya	4672	2042	99	2830	313	9956
Mizoram	10994	3427	1272	2781	449	18923
Nagaland	7891	2550	507	4127	2037	16663
Sikkim	3730	4225	994	7533	20	16502
Tripura	5728	2698	128	2645	27	11226
<b>Total</b>	<b>54973</b>	<b>20979</b>	<b>4039</b>	<b>32202</b>	<b>5679</b>	<b>117872</b>

### ***Statement II***

*Infrastructure facilities created under Technology Mission on Horticulture in North Eastern States*

		NE
1		2
<b>I. Production of Quality Planting Material</b>		
1.	Establishment of Nurseries (Nos.)	355
<b>II. Creation of Water Resources</b>		
1.	Community Tanks (Nos.)	3637

1	2
2. Tube Wells (Nos.)	2128
3. Drip irrigation (ha)	3284
4. Mulching (ha)	1493
<b>III. Facilities for Improved Management practices</b>	
<b>A. Protected Cultivation</b>	
1. Green House s(500 Sq. M) (No.)	1611
2. Green houses (100 Sq. m) (No.)	7453
3. Model Floriculture Centres (No.)	11
<b>B. IPM/INM</b>	
1. IPM (ha)	2766
2. Disease forecasting units (No.)	19
3. Biological labs (No.)	2
4. Leaf analysis labs (No.)	10
5. Plant health Clinics (No.)	11
<b>C. Organic farming</b>	
1. Organic farming (ha)	5559
2. Earthworm units (Nos.)	4056
<b>D. Infrastructure for training</b>	
1. Gardener training centers (No.)	51
2. Supervisory training centers (No.)	21
<b>E. Market Infrastructure</b>	
1. Whole Sale Markets	29
2. Rural Primary Markets	243
3. Apni Mandies	43
4. State Grading Laboratories	16
<b>F. Infrastructure for Processing</b>	
1. Processing Units	9

### Utilisation of funds

2673. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has spent only Rs. 141.93 crores out of earmarked amount of Rs. 418.2 crores during the first three year of the Tenth Five Year plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to spend the total amount earmarked for the Ministry?

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) So far as Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is concerned, out of Budgetary support of Rs. 418.2 crore under the Tenth Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 141.93 crores has been spent during the first three years of the Tenth Plan.

(b) The revised Tenth Plan outlay for schemes of the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals is Rs. 418.42 crores of budgetary support and Rs. 194 crore of IEBR generated by the PSUs and autonomous and academic institutions. The budgetary support also includes Rs. 174.79 crore i.e. Rs. 80 crore (\$15 million) OPEC loan for Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET) and Rs. 56.37 crores for Assam Gas Project and Rs. 38.42 crore for new schemes of CIPET like setting up of 3 new centres, etc. These schemes were not approved for implementation during the first three years of the plan due to various procedural, operational and viability issues. The OPEC loan was approved only in June 2005 and funds becoming available from September, 2005 onwards only. Setting up of three new centres of CIPET was approved in January, 2006. The Assam Gas Project has been approved by the PIB and Cabinet Note was pending for getting the approval of the CCEA. Thus, the schemes having 41.8% of outlay, were not available for implementation. For approved scheme, an amount of Rs. 141.93 crore has been utilized during the first 3 years of Plan period which works out to be 58.3% of outlay of Rs. 243.63 crore for approved schemes as against proportionate target of 60% for the first three years of the plan.

(c) (i) The OPEC loan has been approved and CIPET has started activities for utilization of the same.

(ii) The utilization of funds for the establishment of three new CIPET centres started w.e.f. 2005-06 onwards.

(iii) The Assam Gas Cracker project is in advance stage and modalities of utilization of funds earmarked for the same is under negotiation between the concerned parties.

### Setting up of Groundnut Oil Production Units in Gujarat

2674. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up two groundnut oil production units by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): No, Sir. NDDB has no such proposal to set up two groundnut oil production units in Gujarat.

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

### Average Growth of Foodgrains

2675. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average value of yield/growth of foodgrains in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken steps to improve the growth rate and average yield of foodgrains in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu; 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 State-wise average values of yield and growth rates



of production of foodgrains based on the data from 2000-01 to 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) In order to increase 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 from October 2000 in the country, including Tamil Nadu, as Centrally sponsored scheme. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for inputs and training of farmers/extension workers as well as supply of critical inputs like seeds, sprayers and water saving devices like sprinklers and drip systems. To increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation since 1.4.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for Production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development and integrated Pest Management. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds and pulses are conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a transfer of technology effort among the farmers.

**Statement**

State	Foodgrains	
	Average Yield (Kg./Hectare)	Average Growth Rate of Production (%)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	2013	-23
Arunachal Pradesh	1197	1.5
Assam	1443	-3.3
Bihar	1550	-9.6
Chhattisgarh	919	32.8
Goa	2443	1.6
Gujarat	1305	32.5
Haryana	3090	-0.2

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	1673	13.5
Jammu & Kashmir	1524	8.1
Jharkhand	1218	7.2
Karnataka	1192	3.5
Kerala	2110	-2.5
Madhya Pradesh	1090	12.4
Maharashtra	834	1.2
Manipur	2328	3.8
Meghalaya	1672	1.1
Mizoram	1908	0.4
Nagaland	1499	5.8
Orissa	1146	23.9
Punjab	3974	0.4
Rajasthan	1050	24.9
Sikkim	1355	0.2
Tamil Nadu	1971	-3.4
Tripura	2194	2.1
Uttar Pradesh	2086	-2.2
Uttaranchal	1665	0.7
West Bengal	2388	4.2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2702	-1.5
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1446	5.2
Delhi	2742	-0.6
Daman & Diu	1571	4.3
Pondicherry	2305	0.5
All India	1657	1.3

Note: Foodgrains include Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals and Pulses. The average yield and the average growth rates of production are based on the data from 2000-01 to 2004-05.

**Release of Pension**

2776. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation Regional Office, Mayur Bhawan, New Delhi has since released the pension of Food Corporation of India employees from Saharanpur who had taken voluntary retirement in December, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the pension of those employees is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) Though the Food Corporation of India had submitted a list of 21 cases in respect of its employees from Saharanpur at Regional Office, Mayur Bhawan, New Delhi, claim form in respect of one employee bearing PF A/c No.: DL/2271/20258 was not found enclosed. Of the remaining 20 cases, 10 have been settled and Pension Payment Order (PPO) issued.

The remaining cases were not found complete in all respect.

*[Translation]*

**Watershed Development Scheme**

2677. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been allocated to some States under the Watershed Development Scheme;

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

(c) whether water table has improved in the areas where this scheme has been implemented; and

(d) if so, the names of areas where water table has improved?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Soil and Water Conservation for the treatment of Catchments Areas and the Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. Since inception upto 2005-06 a total area of 8.56 million ha. has been treated by incurring an expenditure of Rs. 2671.56 crore under NWDPR. Since inception upto 2005-06, an area of 6.26 million ha. has been treated with expenditure of Rs. 1908.43 crore under the Soil and Water Conservation for the treatment of Catchments Areas. Since inception upto end of 2005-06, an area of 3.52 lakh ha. has been developed with expenditure of Rs. 255.58 crores under the Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas.

The Department of Land Resources is implementing three demand driven programmes, namely, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) under Hariyali guidelines. The funds released to states under above schemes during last 2 years are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Schemes	Funds released during 2004-05 & 2005-06
Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)	27881.254
Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)	28334.79
Desert Development Programme (DDP)	13147.19

(c) and (d) As reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Land Resources, the Impact Assessment (IA) studies and Midterm Evaluation Reports of the projects carried out for projects under IWDP, DDP, and DPAP have reported improvement of water table in the project areas evaluated. An impact assessment study on a sampling basis for 146 projects under IWDP, 1190 projects under DDP and 4805 projects under DPAP covering 230 districts in 16 States of the country reported increase in water table in the project areas in the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

*[English]***Employment in Private Sector**

2678. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce 'quota' system for employment of the under privileged categories in the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), a Group of Ministers (GOM) was constituted to examine the issue of affirmative action, including reservation in private sector, and to initiate a dialogue with industry to see how best the private sector can fulfil the aspirations of youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The GOM has ascertained the views of four major Industry Associations and also obtained the opinions of three legal luminaries in the matter.

*[Translation]***Cultivation of Lavender**

2679. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal regarding cultivation of lavender scent by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has received a project proposal from Government of Jammu and Kashmir on cultivation of lavender and extraction of lavender oil and Lavender water by M/s. Fasiam Agro Farms, Asham, Sumbal-Barmaulla, Jammu and Kashmir. The project envisages cultivation of lavender in an area of 2.50 ha (50 Kanals) and to establish a processing unit

for processing of lavender flowers with a capacity of 25 tonnes/annum at a total cost of Rs. 87.39 lakhs. The project is being examined by Ministry of Food Processing Industries for consideration under Mini Mission-IV of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture.

During the current year, an amount of Rs. 35.00 crores have been allocated to Jammu and Kashmir for implementation of various programmes under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Horticulture which includes cultivation of 70 ha of medicinal and aromatic plants such as Lavender and others. Out of which an amount of Rs. 8.83 crores has already been released to Government of Jammu and Kashmir for taking up above programmes.

**Pragati Grape Garden**

2680. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Horticulture Board has received any proposal for setting up of Pragati Grape Garden and Pragati Agro Park in Chakur, Latur district;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide such package to Marathwada also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) had received the proposal from M/s Pragati Agro Park on 25.08.2005 and from M/s Pragati Grape Garden on 02.02.2006 in Chakur, Latur District under the scheme, "Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management". As per guidelines, for integrated projects costing above Rs. 50.00 lakh, field inspection is mandatory before sanction of Letter of Intent (LOI). During the inspection of M/s Pragati Grape Garden in 2006, it was found that a substantial portion of the project had been completed by October, 2005

except the component of packing/grading under Post Harvest Management (PHM) activity. The company was advised to apply afresh only for the PHM component, as the NHB does not sanction LOI for the activities already completed. M/s Pragati Grape Garden is yet to submit a fresh proposal in this regard. In respect of the project of M/s Pragati Agro Park, the NHB has already issued the LOI and eligible subsidy will be released upon completion of the project.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Board is implementing the scheme in the State of Maharashtra including Marathwada region. Under the scheme of commercial horticulture, capital investment subsidy is provided @ 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25.00 lakh/project and for North-Eastern/Tribal/Hilly areas, the maximum limit of subsidy is Rs. 30.00 lakh/project.

*[English]*

#### **Grants to National Council for Cooperative Training**

2681. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to discontinue the scheme for providing annual grants to the National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) at the end of the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the mechanism proposed to ensure the safety and accountability of the public money given to the corpus fund and protect the interests of the employees of NCCT?

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) While approving the continuation of the Central Sector Scheme for Cooperative Training for the Ninth Plan, implemented through the National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT), the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs directed that the continuation of this scheme after the Ninth Plan should be on the concept of block grant after evaluation of the scheme. Accordingly, at the instance of this Ministry, the IIM, Ahmedabad conducted a study to evaluate the training programmes. The study team recommended for adopting the concept of block

grant during the Tenth Plan, and creation of a corpus fund to sustain the Cooperative Training Programmes in the country implemented by NCCT. Accordingly, the scheme was restricted for the Tenth Five Year Plan on the basis of concept of block grant and creation of a corpus fund. The grants to NCCT are approved upto Tenth Five Year Plan only. However, the continuation of this scheme during the Eleventh Plan would depend upon in-depth evaluation of the scheme.

(c) To ensure the safety and accountability of the public money given to the corpus fund, the guidelines have been framed providing, inter alia, that the fund shall be managed by a committee consisting of nominees of the Central Government, maintaining a separate bank account in the name of the fund, investment of fund as per decisions of the committee, audit of the funds by the auditors appointed by the Central Registrar and keeping in tact the principal amount of the fund. Interests of the employees accruing from their service conditions, would be protected from the income generated out of the investment of the fund.

*[Translation]*

#### **Production of Milk and Ghee**

2682. SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:  
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of milk and desi ghee has been affected due to late monsoon in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production of milk and ghee recorded in the country during the previous year;

(d) whether production of milk and ghee is estimated to be less than the prescribed target during the current financial year;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to control the prices of milk and milk products and fulfil the shortage of these products in the country; and

(g) the assistance provided for promotion of dairy industry during the last three years and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (f) The impact of delayed or insufficient rainfall on production of milk in the country will be finally known after the estimation of milk production for the year 2006-07 is completed. However, Government of India has not received any report on overall production of milk having been affected due to late monsoon in the country. A

major portion of ghee is produced in the unorganized sector in the country, as such no authentic data on production of ghee is available. The milk production in the country is as under:

Year	Quantity in metric tonnes
2004-05	90.7
2005-06	94.6 (provisional estimate)
2006-07	97.8 (target)

The target of milk production in 2005-06 is also likely to be achieved.

(g) The assistance provided for promotion of dairy industry during the last three years and the current financial year is given in the enclosed statement.

### *Statement*

*Details of assistance provided for promotion of dairy industry during the last three years and the current financial year*

	(Rs. in crore)			
Scheme	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (upto 31.07.2006)
<b>I. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying &amp; Fisheries</b>				
(i) Intensive Dairy Development Programme.	16.28	25.70	39.91	2.06
(ii) Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production	Nil	24.64	30.39	4.97
(iii) Assistance to Cooperative	2.71	9.82	5.46	Nil
(iv) Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund	Nil	Nil	15.80	Nil
<b>II. Ministry of Food Processing Industries</b>				
(i) Setting up of infrastructure for technology Upgradation/ Establishment/modernization of Food Processing Industries	1.53	3.57	6.38	0.69

**Non Payment of Programmes and Advertisement**

2683. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some reputed companies have not paid the amount for their programmes and advertisements telecast on the Akashwani and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether some of these companies have been blacklisted by the Government;

(c) if so, the details of such companies along with the amount outstanding against each of them as on January 1, 2006;

(d) whether these blacklisted companies are taking part in Prasar Bharati's programmes by changing their names; and

(e) if so, the details of the actions taken by the Government to prevent such practice and to take actions against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that action has been initiated by Doordarshan and AIR against all defaulting agencies, details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(d) No such case of benami companies have come to the notice.

(e) Question does not arise.

***Statement I***

*Defaulting agencies on National Network for the Year 2005-06 as on 09.08.2006*

*A. Agencies against whom Arbitration Proceedings are in progress.*

(Rs. in lacs)			
Sl.No.	Name of Agency	Principal	Interest
1	2	3	4
1.	Creative Eye, Peeragarhi, Delhi	1298	1166
2.	Sree Madhav, Khar (W), Mumbai	1156	932
3.	Fame Comm. Worli Mumbai	1137	965
4.	Multi Channel, Khar (W), Mumbai	1102	855
5.	Plus Channel, Andheri (W), Mumbai	1012	373
6.	Numero UNO, Juhu, Mumbai	1010	861
7.	Nimbus Communication, K.G. Marg, New Delhi	398	746
8.	Prime Time Media, Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi	345	434
9.	Market Movers, Breech Candy, Mumbai	311	74
10.	Drishti India, Andheri (W), Mumbai	294	271
11.	Advance TV Network, Naraina, Delhi	213	158

1	2	3	4
12.	Concept Advertising, Jhandewalan, Delhi	188	78
13.	B4U Multi Media, Andheri (W), Mumbai	179	93
14.	Global Intertainer, Greater Kailash, New Delhi	161	66
15.	Prithvi Nandy Comm, Opp. Lion Gate, Mumbai	154	201
16.	World Media, Jhandewalan, Delhi	132	142
17.	Media Asia, K.G. Marg, New Delhi	122	62
18.	Aaliya Productions, K.G. Marg, New Delhi	60	131
19.	G.N. Comm. East of Kailash, New Delhi	43	63
20.	Jostin Comm. Rajouri Garden, New Delhi	42	141
21.	Cinema Vision, Jogeshwari (W), Mumbai	33	41
22.	Amateur, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi	23	11
23.	Lehar Pub Service, Tula Ram Bagh, Allahabad.	27	16
24.	Neeraj Films, Rohtak Road, New Delhi	23	67
25.	Guruji Advtg. Preet Vihar, Delhi	318	362
26.	Universal Communications, J.S.S. Marg, Mumbai	207	103
Total "A"		9988	8412

*Defaulting agencies on National Network for the Year 2005-06 as on 09.08.2006*

*B. Agencies against whom Arbitration Clause invoked.*

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of Agency	Principal	Interest
1	2	3	4
1.	Film Craft, Andheri (W), Mumbai	1266	347
2.	MBM, Pali Hill Bandra (W), Mumbai	163	24
3.	L.R. Ent., Link Road, Malad (W), Mumbai	155	17
4.	Magna Vision, Jungpura-B, New Delhi	105	62
5.	Prabha Films, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	80	14
6.	First Option Tele Films, Andheri (W) Mumbai	72	76
7.	Kine Scope, Khar (W), Mumbai	70	106

1	2	3	4
8.	Uranus, Khar (W), Mumbai	46	37
9.	Translink Tele, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	22	12
10.	Corrum Comm, South Extn. New Delhi	18	28
11.	Magic Box, Andheri (W), Mumbai	11	87
12.	Maya Ent, Kandivli (E), Mumbai	120	123
13.	Tracer Advtg, Mumbai	33	11
14.	Star Gazer, Sukhdev Vihar, Okhla	22	06
15.	Asian ad age, Green Park Extn, New Delhi	19	07
16.	Paras Marketing, Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi	19	06
17.	Advision Multi Media, Noida	17	41
18.	Radha Publicity, Jublie Hills, Hyderabad	13	10
19.	Time Shop Advtg, Mumbai	13	03
20.	Future Comm., Goregaon, Mumbai	11	20
21.	Bidhan Advtg. Elisbridge, Ahmedabad	11	05
Total "B"		2286	1041

***Statement II***

*A. List of Defaulting Agencies whose Arbitration Award was published and filed in the respective Hon'ble Courts for execution of decree in terms of Arbitration Award*

Sl.No.	Name of Defaulting Agency	Amount to be recovered (Rupees)
1	2	3
1.	M/s Blaze Advertising Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	475,696.00
2.	M/s. Shree Prabhakara Advertisers, Hyderabad	1,744,807.00
3.	M/s. Shilpi Advertising Ltd., Mumbai	839,747.00
4.	M/s. Media Waves, Trivendrum	1,576,114.00
5.	M/s. Guru Nanak Advertising Pvt. Ltd., Delhi	690,122.00
6.	M/s. Market Movers Advtg. & Marktg. P. Ltd., Mumbai	123,113.00
7.	M/s. Radio Times Services, Mumbai	60,165.00
8.	M/s. Advis. New Delhi	383,981.00



1	2	3
9.	M/s. Radio Publicity Services, Lucknow	1,984,907.00
10.	M/s. Emess Advertising Services, New Delhi	326,405.00
11.	M/s. Commercial Advertising Agency, Vijayawada	1,200,214.00
12.	M/s. Mass Communications & Mktg. P. Ltd., Mumbai	351,660.00
13.	M/s. Aiyar Advertising & Mktg. (P) Ltd., Mumbai	351,660.00
14.	M/s. TV & Radio Publicity Service, Mumbai	1,500,481.00
15.	M/s. Headstart Advertising, New Delhi	1,136,033.00
16.	M/s. Roshan Advertisers, New Delhi	135,543.00
17.	M/s. Dawn Mod Advertisers, New Delhi	248,507.00
18.	M/s. Ad-House Advertising & Marketing	571,917.00
19.	M/s. Arohi Advertising Agency, New Delhi	298,808.00
20.	M/s. Suchandra Ad Media, Calicut	540,667.00
21.	M/s. Adair Advertising, Chennai	733,251.00
22.	M/s. Rayar Communication Chennai	1,301,523.00
23.	M/s. Raghavendra Advtg., Chennai	1,892,731.00
24.	M/s. Shree Advtg., Chennai	907,472.00
25.	M/s. VRG Agencies, Chennai	1,340,339.00
26.	M/s. Mantralaya Mahan Ads. Chennai	834,734.00
27.	M/s. Noisy Recording, Patna	584,574.00
28.	M/s. Renukey Advtg. Co. New Delhi	4,634,234.00
Total		26,448,489.00

*B. List of Defaulting Agencies proposed for appointment of Arbitrator*

1.	M/s. Maa Communication Bozell (P) Ltd., Bangalore	1,472,392.00
2.	M/s. Corporate Voice, Bangalore	491,223.00
3.	M/s. Musirecca Cassettes Incorporation, Nagpur	2,873,800.00
4.	M/s. Twin Advertising, Sangli	527,860.00
5.	M/s. Radio T.V. Commercial, Mumbai	1,526,944.00
6.	M/s. Profad Ltd., Chennai	766,824.00
7.	M/s. Creative Unit, Mumbai	186,808.00
Total		7,845,851.00

*C. Already under Arbitration*

1.	M/s. Mode Advtg. & Mktg, New Delhi	2,826,239.00 (only interest)
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Since the agency has cleared the outstanding principal amount, its credit facility has been restored purely on an ad-hoc basis till 31.03.2007.

**Agricultural Index**

2684. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some norms have been fixed to assess the production by the farmers and their income on whose basis the progress and development of the agriculture sector can be estimated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to create an agricultural index by taking some ideal year of production as the base year on the lines of sensex; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No specific norms as such has been fixed to assess the production by the farmers and their income. However, an Index of Terms of Trade between Agricultural Sector and Non-Agricultural Sectors is constructed on an annual basis by measuring the ratio of the Index of prices received by the farmers for their produce to the Index of prices paid by them for the commodities purchased for final and intermediate consumption and capital formation. The ratio is multiplied by 100. The base year of the Index is triennium ending 1990-91. The Indices for the period 1981-82 to 1992-93 were published in the Report of the Task Force on Terms of Trade between Agricultural and Non-Agricultural sectors published in 1995. Indices up to 2003-04 are available in Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2005.

**Development of Pastures in Rajasthan**

2685. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and released for the development of pastures in Rajasthan;

(b) whether any amount out of the sanctioned amount is yet to be released for the purpose by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the time by which the remaining 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) Central grant to the tune of Rs. 37.02 lakhs was sanctioned and released to the Government of Rajasthan during 2005-06 for the development of grassland, including grass reserves and production of fodder seeds through farmers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

**Water Logging in Bihar**

2686. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Bihar under any centrally sponsored scheme to solve the problem of water logging particularly in North Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) A total of 587 small schemes on waterlogging due to chaur blockage were received from Government of Bihar between 1998-2003, out of which 77 schemes had been approved under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme. These mainly pertain to Kosi and Gandak Command. The remaining schemes were referred back to Government of Bihar.

**Industrial Use of Foodgrains**

2687. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial use of foodgrains is likely to increase in the coming years;

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

(c) the names of such agro products; and

(d) the percentage of each such agro-products separately in the total agricultural produces?

THE MINISTER OF 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) Yes, Sir. There is awareness about the diversified industrial uses of grains for higher profitability and income which may increase industrial use of food grains in future.

Animal/poultry feed, nutraceuticals, biofuels and biopolymers are main categories of products for the industrial uses. However, at present these industrial uses are negligible.

*[English]*

#### **Foodgrains Rotting in Police Station**

2688. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of wheat is rotting in a police station in North-West Delhi as reported in *The Asian Age* dated July 21, 2006;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for such negligence of the concerned staff; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. It is a fact that 139 Quintals of PDS Wheat was seized by the inspectorate staff of Enforcement Branch of Food and Supplies Department, Government of NCT of Delhi on 13.07.06. An FIR under Section 7/10/55 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 has been lodged against the transporter of Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCS), who was trying to divert these Specified Food Articles (SFAs) directly from FCI Godown for black marketing.

The seized goods have been handed over to DSCS Godown at Gazipur on 21.07.06 on Superdari to keep in safe custody till the disposal of the case property.

The proceedings under section 6A of the E.C. Act, 1955 for the disposal of these seized goods are underway before the Collector.

#### **Death of Animals in Birsa Zoological Park**

2689. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether a large number of animals in Birsa Zoological Park have died due to a killer disease;

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

(c) whether the Central Zoo Authority has since taken steps to ascertain the cause of the killer disease amongst animals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the preventive measures taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry is aware of deaths of four tigers and one leopard in Birsa Zoological Park. The deaths of the animals took place between 9th July, 2006 and 20th July, 2006. All the large cats had died due to Babesiosis, a blood protozoan disease, which is spread due to tick bites.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Zoo Authority had deputed the veterinarian from Rourkela Zoo and a veterinarian each from the Orissa Veterinary College, Bhubaneswar and Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, Bareilly to the Birsa Zoological Park, Ranchi in investigation of the cause of the disease amongst the large cats as well as advise the zoo authorities to take necessary preventive measures for containing the spread of disease among other animals.

According to the advice given by the expert veterinarians and the Central Zoo Authority, the Birsa Zoological Park, Ranchi has taken necessary preventive action like improvement of the hygiene of the animal

enclosures, administration of preventive vaccine to the animals and transferring excess number of lions and tigers to Rescue Centre at Visakhapatnam.

*[Translation]*

**Plant Acquired By IFFCO and KRIBHCO**

2690. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

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

(a) whether Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) and Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) have acquired some plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date on which said plants acquired;

(c) whether the process for acquisition of these plants has been shown on back dates;

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

(e) the benefit likely to be accrued thereby?

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

(b) KRIBHCO through M/s KRIBHCO Shyam Fertilizers Limited (KSFL), a Joint Venture company of KRIBHCO and M/s Shyam Basic Infrastructure Limited, has taken over the Shahjahanpur plant of Oswal Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (OCFL). The acquisition has been done at a consideration of Rs. 1900 crores through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) incorporated on 08.12.2005. The plant was acquired on 18th Jan. 2006.

The DAP Plant of OCFL at Paradeep acquired by IFFCO has the production capacity of 1.92 million tonne of phosphatic fertilizers. IFFCO took over possession, management and control of the undertaking from OCFL w.e.f. 1st October, 2006.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

**MRP on Imported Products**

2691. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the imported consumer items being sold in the country do not bear Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on them;

(b) if so, the existing provisions in this regard;

(c) the reaction of the Government on non-compliance of these provisions; and

(d) the number of persons against whom action has been taken for violation of the said provisions alongwith the nature of action?

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) As per Rule 33 of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, all pre-packed commodities imported into India shall carry a declaration of the retail sale price as prescribed under clause (r) of Rule 2 of these Rules. There have been some reports of violations.

(c) Enforcement authorities of the States/UT Governments have been advised from time to time to strictly enforce the provisions of the Rules.

(d) As per information available from 10 States, 1446 cases of violation have been detected during 2005-06. The cases were compounded on payment of fine or filed before the competent court.

*[English]*

**Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal**

2692. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Polavaram Project is under the technical scrutiny of the Central Water Commission (CWC);

(b) if so, whether the Government of Orissa has made complaints to the Union Government that Andhra Pradesh Government is going ahead in construction of the Dam and Reservoir at Polavaram in violation of the awards given earlier; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Polavaram (Indira Sagar) Project proposed in State of Andhra Pradesh is causing some apprehensions of losses in the State of Orissa. Inter State Agreement dated 2nd April, 1980 among the Basin States namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, (now Chhattisgarh) and Orissa provides for construction of Polavaram Project by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. In accordance with updated project report (August, 2005), 12 sqkm area in the territory of Orissa is likely to be submerged in the State of Orissa. The inter state agreement inter-alia provides for either constructing and maintaining protective embankment in Orissa or paying compensation for land and property likely to be affected above FRL 150 feet due to all effects including back water effect at the cost of Polavaram Project.

The Central Government is facilitating to resolve the inter State issues. The Minister of Water Resources has called a meeting of Chief Ministers of party States on 26th September, 2006.

#### **Labour Force**

2693. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) the details of the new methods created for skill building during the Tenth Five Year Plan period for the entire labour force;

(b) the extent to which these new methods helped the labour force to acquire vocational skills;

(c) whether the strategy for skill building framed in the Tenth Plan has achieved its goal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to adopt effective strategy for skill building for the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) During the Tenth Five Year Plan, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely 'Testing & Certification of skills of workers in Informal Sector' has been taken up by this Ministry for testing & certification of skills of workers acquired through informal mode.

The scheme is presently being implemented by the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Orissa, Punjab and Tamil Nadu; besides other agencies like Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), National Academy of Construction (NAC), Hyderabad; and Cane & Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Guwahati. So far, about 8000 construction workers were tested and certified under the scheme.

(e) Not applicable.

#### **Relaxation of Coastal Regulation Zone**

2694. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government West Bengal has sought the relaxation of Coastal Zone Regulation, 1991 for some areas;

(b) if so, the names of such areas; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government of West Bengal has sought reclassification of sectors A-1, B-5, F-2 of Dhigha from Coastal Regulation Zone-III to Coastal Regulation Zone-II.

(c) After examination of the above reclassification proposal, the Central Government has sought a comprehensive proposal prepared in accordance with the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 from Government of West Bengal.

**Flood Control in Bihar**

2695. SHRI VIJAY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar experiences devastating flood every year due to rivers originating from Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken so far by the Union Government for evolving a permanent solution to salvage Bihar from flood;

(d) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

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

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

(b) The rivers coming from Nepal, namely, Saptakosi, Gandak, Bagmati and Kamla-Balan, carry heavy silt during monsoon period which gets deposited on the river bed. As a result, the carrying capacity of the rivers gets reduced resulting in overtopping of the banks, causing floods and inundation in North Bihar.

(c) Government of India is having continuous dialogue with Nepal to mitigate flood problems from the rivers coming from Nepal. Government of India has entered into an agreement with Nepal for survey and investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Report for Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme for which a Joint Project Office has already been opened in Nepal in August, 2004. This project has flood control as one of the major benefits.

An undertaking has also been reached with Government of Nepal to undertake joint feasibility study of Kamla and preliminary study of Bagmati Multipurpose Project.

(d) and (e) On the proposals received from the Government of Bihar, the Union Government has been providing Central assistance to Bihar under a centrally sponsored scheme to take up critical anti erosion/flood

management works. An amount of Rs. 195.63 crore (central share) was approved during the 10th Plan for Ganga Basin States with the share of Bihar state as Rs. 53.96 crores. Central Assistance is also being rendered to Bihar for (i) Raising, strengthening and extension of embankments of Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando rivers, and (ii) Improvement of Drainage in Critical Areas of Country including Mokama Tal area".

Besides, Government of Bihar is being provided financial assistance from Central Government for maintenance of Kosi Embankments also.

**Production of Vegetable Oil**

2696. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of vegetable oils is declining in the country;

(b) if so, the factors attributed thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the quality of said seeds?

THE MINISTER OF 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 production of oilseeds as well as vegetable oils has shown positive growth in recent years in the country. However, as the per capita consumption of vegetable oils has risen significantly, the demand of vegetable oils also has risen at a high rate thereby creating a gap between domestic production and consumption.

(c) In order to ensure supply of quality seed of oilseed crops to the farmers, Government of India is providing financial assistance for infrastructure development, purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation and certified seeds, distribution of certified seeds and training to farmers on seed production and seed technology aspects to produce quality seeds. Besides, with a view to introduce and popularize newly released varieties and hybrids of oilseeds amongst the farmers, seed minikits are distributed to the farmers free of cost through State Departments of Agriculture.

**Sand Mining in Andaman and Nicobar**

2697. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sea sand mining in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been banned by the administration;

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken to bridge the gap between the demand and supply as a result thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to regulate the cost of river sand imported from mainland including grant of transport subsidy thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There is no total ban on sea sand mining in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(b) As per the information received from the Andaman and Nicobar Administration the gap between the demand and supply is met through the supply of pulverized sand and import of river sand from the mainland. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has issued instructions all concerned Departments to promote the use of timber in building construction and alternate building materials to minimize use of sand in the Islands.

(c) The cost of imported sand is not being regulated by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration.

**Modernisation and Expansion of Dairy Industry**

2698. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the rank of India in the world in the field of production of milk; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for upgradation, modernisation and expansion of dairy industry 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) India stands first in milk production in the world.

(b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries is implementing the following schemes for upgradation, modernization and expansion of dairy industry in the country:

- (i) Intensive Dairy Development Programme.
- (ii) Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production.
- (iii) Assistance to Cooperatives.
- (iv) Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund.
- (v) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding.
- (vi) Animal Disease Control.
- (vii) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.
- (viii) Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme.
- (ix) Fodder Development Scheme.

**Rural Backyard Poultry Development Scheme**

2699. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to implement the Rural Backyard Poultry Development scheme;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said scheme and the funds provided for the purpose; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Lift Irrigation**

2700. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers in drought affected areas are being encouraged for lift-irrigation;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any action plan for funding the areas covered under lift irrigation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) There is no scheme in Ministry of Water Resources for funding farmers directly for implementation of minor irrigation projects. However, Central assistance is being provided under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) to the special category states comprising North Eastern States and Hill States (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal) and Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa for taking up surface minor irrigation projects. Lift irrigation schemes are also permitted under AIBP. The guidelines of AIBP have been relaxed to include non-special category states for implementation of surface minor irrigation projects in drought prone and tribal areas also.

[English]

#### **Technology Mission on Rice/Paddy**

2701. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to launch a Technology Mission on rice/paddy so as to increase the production of rice and to improve per hectare productivity of rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government is already implementing research and production programmes for increasing

production and productivity of rice in the country. Hence there is no proposal to launch technology mission on rice.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is carrying out research for development of new high yielding varieties/hybrids and improved production technologies to increase productivity of paddy in the country.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Cereals Development Programme in rice based cropping System areas (ICDP-Rice) is under implementation under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture to increase rice production in the country. Under the scheme assistance is provided for propagation of improved production technology, hybrid rice production technology, integrated pest management through field demonstrations; training of farmers including women, transfer of technology through electronic media and published literature; farm implements; installation of sprinkler irrigation system; varietal replacement; production of certified seeds, etc. Besides, frontline demonstrations are also organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on farmers fields.

#### **Safety in Coal Mines**

2702. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any survey regarding performance of Directorate General of Mines Safety to ensure safety of mine workers in coal mines and other mines also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Government has not made any survey regarding performance of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) to ensure safety in Coal Mines and other mines so far. However, in 1982 a Review Committee on the role and functions of DGMS was set up by the Govt. of India under the chairmanship of Shri J.G. Kumaramangalam, Chairman, Executive Board, Indian School of Mines.

A Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of Parliament of Ministry of Labour headed by Shri Gurudas



Dasgupta, was also set up by the Govt. of India in 1995 to study the status of safety in mines and suggest suitable measures for ensuring better safety standards. The Committee, in the process, also reviewed the functioning of DGMS.

The main recommendations of Kumaramangalam Committee include, inter-alia,

- (i) Unchanged role of DGMS in enforcement functions.
- (ii) Checking of erosion of authority of DGMS.
- (iii) Setting up of special mining tribunals for speedy trial of Mines Act cases.
- (iv) Levy of fine by DGMS on mine management for violations.
- (v) Conducting annual general inspections of all mines by DGMS.
- (vi) Making Safety Committee and workman's inspector system statutory.
- (vii) Rendering advice on occupational health.
- (viii) Improving technical competence in DGMS.
- (ix) Size and structure of DGMS should be assessed early to carry out its functions.

The main recommendations of Gurudas Dasgupta Committee include, inter alia,

- (i) DGMS should be strengthened by providing adequate and requisite manpower as per recommendations of the Kumaramangalam committee.
- (ii) Adequate training to all officers both in-house and outside to update their skill.
- (iii) Quantum of punishment under the Mines Act, 1952 should be enhanced.
- (iv) Special courts/designated courts be set up to deal with all cases under the Mines Act, 1952 for expeditious disposal.
- (v) Legal set up in DGMS should be suitably strengthened for expeditious deliverance of justice.

Some of these recommendations have already been implemented.

### **Subsidised Foodgrains for Hostels**

2703. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enhance the subsidy on foodgrains provided under scheme for supply of subsidised foodgrains to SC/ST/OBC Hostels/welfare institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The foodgrains provided under the SC/ST/OBC Hostels/welfare institution are already at BPL rates i.e. Rs. 415 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 565 per quintal for rice, which is 37% of the economic cost for wheat and 41% of the economic cost for rice.

### **Plants for Bio-Diesel Production**

2704. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:  
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of plants identified for bio-diesel production in the country;

(b) the steps being taken to popularize/encourage its plantation;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for their production;

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

(e) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for production of bio-diesel producing seeds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

**MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):** (a) Jatropha and Karanj are the two oilseeds bearing trees which have been identified as potential crops for bio-diesel production.

(b) National Oilseeds Vegetable and Oils Development (NOVOD) Board under the Ministry of Agriculture is promoting the cultivation of tree borne oilseeds including Jatropha & Karanj under the central sector scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds (TBOs)" during 10th Plan. Model plantations of Jatropha and Karanj have been established on 10,000 ha. in 21 States.

(c) and (d) No target has been fixed for their production by the Government of India.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Agriculture has not received any proposal for production of bio-diesel producing seeds.

#### **Scholarship to Children of Beedi Workers**

2705. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Education Scholarship is being paid regularly to the Children of Beedi Workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds required and released for the academic year 2005 and 2006 to Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether any information has been received by the Union Government about non-receipt of the scholarships by most of the eligible students in Tamil Nadu;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2005-06, Rs. 4.13 crore were released for payment of scholarships to the eligible children of beedi workers from Tamil Nadu. However,

Rs. 7.11 crore are still required to be released to clear the backlog. During the year 2006-07 an amount of Rs. 14.8 crore has been sanctioned to the Hyderabad Region as a whole. The actual requirement of funds for Tamil Nadu for 2006-07 will be known by September end.

(c) and (d) yes, Sir. With the liberalization and enhancement in the scheme for grant of scholarships/ stipend to the eligible children of beedi workers a large number of students from Tamil Nadu became eligible for grant of scholarship/stipend. However, the scholarships/ stipends could not be disbursed to all of them due to paucity of funds.

(e) The concerned regions are being asked to clear the backlog of payment of scholarships for 2005-06.

#### **Facilities to Registered Newspapers**

2706. SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered newspapers in the country alongwith their language break-ups;

(b) the number of languages and journalists accredited with Press Information Bureau (PIB) in print and electronics media, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes any financial support to tiny and small newspapers/periodicals which are registered with Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) but have no accreditation from PIB and Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) empanelment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) As per enclosed Statement-I.

(b) As per enclosed Statement-II.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement I**

*Total Number of Registered newspapers  
as on 11.08.2006  
(Language-wise)*

Language	No. of registered newspapers
1	2
Assamese	270
Bengali	3061
Bilingual	4083
English	9222
Gujarati	2749
Hindi	25170
Kannada	2343
Kashmiri	1
Konkani	13

1	2
Malayalam	1741
Manipuri	53
Marathi	3589
Multilingual	718
Nepali	85
Oriya	916
Others	414
Punjabi	1033
Sanskrit	62
Sindhi	119
Tamil	2600
Telugu	1846
Urdu	3141
Total	63229

**Statement II**

*Language and State-wise details of journalists (correspondents and cameramen) accredited  
with Press Information Bureau*

State	No. of Journalists accredited (language-wise)		
	Print Media	Electronic Media	Total
1	2	3	4
Assam	English-1	—	6
	Assamese-5		
Andhra Pradesh	Telugu-13	Telugu-7	26
	Hindi-3		
	Urdu-2		
	English-1		
Bihar	Hindi-2		2

1	2	3	4
Delhi	Hindi-128	English/Hindi-197	975
	English-319	Punjab-3	
	Urdu-21		
	Bengali-1		
	Punjabi-1		
	Freelance-305		
West Bengal	Bengali-13		32
	English-17		
	Hindi-2		
Uttar Pradesh	Hindi-25		25
Kerala	Malayalam-22	Malayalam-4	26
Orissa	Oriya-6		6
Madhya Pradesh	Hindi-23		23
Tripura	Bengali-2		2
Karnataka	English-10		14
	Kannada-3		
	Urdu-1		
Tamil Nadu	Tamil-4	Tamil-3	41
	English-34		
Maharashtra	English-5		17
	Gujarati-1		
	Marathi-9		
	Hindi-2		
Jharkhand	Urdu-1		1
Meghalaya	English-1		1
Chandigarh	English-11		12
	Hindi-1		
Punjab	Punjabi-2		2

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	Gujarati-7		9
	Hindi-2		
Himachal Pradesh	Hindi-1		1
Uttaranchal	Hindi-1		1
Rajasthan	Hindi-8		8
Jammu & Kashmir	English-2		3
	Urdu-1		
Total			1233

*[English]*

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Functioning of DCIC**

2707. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether the Government has set up District Consumer Information Centres (DCIC) in all the States;

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

(c) the period of its operation alongwith the amount spent and consumers benefited therefrom;

(d) whether the Government has since decided to discontinue the scheme; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) 103 District Consumer Information Centres have been set up in 24 States/U.Ts. Statement giving the details of these centres is enclosed.

(c) The scheme for setting up DCIC was launched in the year 2000 and was discontinued in 2004. The total amount spent on the Scheme so far is Rs. 3,82,75,000/. the main functions of DCIC are to disseminate information on consumer protection not only to direct users but to all local bodies and institutions, act as watchdogs for consumers, facilitate filling of complaints, liaise with the District Weights and Measures authorities and to raise consumers awareness.

(d) and (e) An Evaluation of the DCIC scheme was carried out in 2004 in order to assess its impact. The decision to close the scheme was taken on the basis of this Evaluation Report.

**Statement***Details of District Consumer Information Centre (DCIC)*

Sl.No.	District	Name of Organisation
1	2	3
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		
<b>No. of DCICs sanctioned-3</b>		
1.	Guntur	Garthapuri Consumers Council, Tripuramallu, Vari Street, Old Guntur, Guntur, AP

1	2	3
2.	Cuddapah	Jagajeevan Balheenvarga Abhivruddhi Sangam, No. 6-45, Kateeb Street, Vempalli, Cuddapah AP
3.	Vishakhapatnam	Narsipatnam Consumer Awareness Society, B.C. Colony, Narsipatnam Vishakhapatnam (A.P.)

**Uttar Pradesh****No. of DCICs sanctioned-25**

1.	Lucknow	Bhartiya Gyan Beethika, 21/1013 Indira Nagar, Lucknow UP
2.	Basti	Janta Sewa Samity, Village, Pakadoan, Post, Mahson, Distt. Basti UP
3.	Bulandshahar	Nav Jagrit Sewa Sansthan, 116 Radhanagar Bulandshahar, UP
4.	Sant Kabir Nagar	Gramin Vikas Sewa Sansthan, Village Gadauna, Post: Govindpur, Distt: Basti, UP
5.	Deoria	Nav Srijan, 365/7 Sadar Bazaar, Lucknow UP
6.	Hathras	Rawat Shiksha Samity, Chamargate, Jaleswar Adda, Hathras, UP
7.	Auraiya	Samta Nav Nirman Samity, Nishat Gang Lucknow, UP
8.	Meerut	Diggi Nirbalothan Samity, Aurangshahpur, Meerut, UP
9.	Ballia	Gramin Krishi Pashudhan Evam Udyo Vikas Sansthan, 118 Gannewali Gali, Aminabad, Lucknow UP
10.	Pratapgarh	Jagriti, Ashtabhujanagar, Pratapgarh, UP
11.	Kannauj	Madhav Mohan Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, Suraja Devi Netra Chikitsalaya, Saurikh Tiraha, Chhibramau, Kannauj, UP
12.	Ghazipur	Nirbal Varg Gramodyog Vikas Samiti, Vilage-Sakara, Post-Hussianpur, District Gazipur, U.P. 233226
13.	Manipuri	Manish Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan, Vill & Post Ghiror, Distt. Mainpuri, UP
14.	Kanpur	Samriti Sewa Sansthan, 118,1, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur-208 005, UP
15.	Mirzapur	Bindhya Gramodyog Sansthan, Village Bharhuna, Bindhya Colony, Mirzapur, UP
16.	Jaunpur	chandra Shiksha Sansthan, 629-A Kharka Road, Near State Bank of India main branch, Jaunpur UP
17.	Hardoi	Integrated Rural Dev. Society, 112, New Civil Lines, Hardoi-241001 (U.P.)
18.	Siddharthnagar	Bhartiya Samaj Sudhar, Katra, Civil Station Road, Basti UP
19.	Aligarh	Dwarka Gramodyog Sansthan, 103, Brij Vihar, ADA colony, GT Road Bana Devi, Aligarh U.P.
20.	Mathura	Akhil Bhartiya Brij Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, 44/7, Krishnapuri, Mathura, UP

1	2	3
21.	Sant Ravidas Nagar	Social Educational Welfare Association (SEWA) Netaji Lane, Ramaipatti, Mirzapur (UP)-231001
22.	Hamirpur	Dehati Gramodyog Vikas Samiti, 437, Paschimi Saron, Hamirpur, DCIC Hamirpur
23.	Barabanki	U.P. Bhartiya Gramin Vikas Sansthan, ESI/171 Sector-A, Sitapur Road Yojana Aliganj, Lucknow (U.P.)
24.	Rae Bareilly	Pragati Sewa Niketan, 547, Satya Nagar, Behind Eye Hospital, Near office of Supt. Post Office, Rae Bareilly 229001 (UP)
25.	Noida	Consumer Coordination Council A-20 & 21 (NITS Bldg.) Sector-62, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

**Manipur****No. of DCICs sanctioned-9**

1.	Chandel	Resource Centre for Social Welfare and Community Development, Japhor Bazar, Post Box-18, Distt. Chandel/Manipur
2.	Thoubal	Rural Voluntary Services, Wangval Nayai Leikai, Distt: Thoubal-795138, Manipur
3.	Imphal West	Manipur Women Coordinating Council, Opp Manipur University, Canchipur, Imphal-795 003
4.	Imphal West	Greenland Development Organisations, Sagol Band, Terasapal, Leirak, Tyrs Road, Imphal, Manipur-795001
5.	Bishnupur	Backward Development Services, Wangjing Bazaar, Distt: Thoubal-795148 (Manipur)
6.	Senapati	SC/ST, Backward Children Women Organisation, Thoubal, Khunou, Post & Distt. Thoubal, Manipur.
7.	Chandel	Manipur Boarder Area Development Society, P.O. Chakpikarong, Zapphu Bazar, Chandel Distt., Manipur
8.	Churachandpur	Dedicated Peoples Organization Keishampat, Leimajam, Keikai, Imphal-750001 Manipur
9.	Imphal East	Manipur Rural Service Association, Old Checkon, Ananda Singh Hr. Sec. Academy Gate, Imphal East Distt. Manipur-785001

**Orissa****No. of DCICs sanctioned-10**

1.	Mayurbhanj	Jatiya Seva Pratishthan, Sri Ramji Bhawan Temple Street, Baripada, District Mayurbhanj-757001 (Orissa)
2.	Kandhamal	Orissa Rural Integrated Service Association for Women and Rural Development
3.	Bhadrak	Madan Mohan Community Management Group, At & Po-Natiapal, via-Baudevpur, Distt: Bhadrak Orissa

1	2	3
4.	Kalahandi	Carada, At. Janakpur, Post Gudialipadar, Distt. Kalahandi
5.	Bolangir	Centre for Women & Rural Development, At & PO-salepalli, Via-Jarasangha Distt. Balagiri Orissa
6.	Balasore	Basti Area Development Council, Balasore Orissa
7.	Angul	Social Action Research Centre, C/o Santoshi Institute, At. Gudianali Near, BB School, Dhenkanal-759001 Orissa,
8.	Puri	Nari Mangal Mahila Samiti, NMMS, at Panchpalia PO Gualipada Distt. Puri-752016 (Orissa)
9.	Dhenkanal	Nari Chetana Mahila Institute (NAMI), Housing Board, Qr. No. M/1 PO/Distt. Dhenkanal DCIC Dhenkanal
10.	Cuttack	Project Swarajya, Ganesh Ghat, Bakharabad, Cuttack-753002 (Orissa)

**Maharashtra****No. of DCICs sanctioned-4**

1.	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar Jilla Madhyavarti Grahak Sewa Mahasangh, 4047 A, Shah Sadan, Mahajan Gali Ahemad Nagar, Maharashtra.
2.	Parbani	Lok Deep Manav Vikas Sanstha, Vidya Nagar, Parbani Maharashtra
3.	Nanded	Sarvodaya Educational & Voluntary Organisation, Nanded, Maharashtra.
4.	Gondia	Lok Kalyan Shikshan Sansthan, Gondhia Distt., Maharashtra

**Gujarat****No. of DCICs sanctioned-9**

1.	Rajkot	Rajkot Saher Jilla Grahak Suraksha Mandal, 329, Popatbhai Sorathia Bhawan, Sadar Bazar, Rajkot-360000, Gujarat
2.	Sabarkantha	Consumer Protection Association, PN. Institute of Medical Science Campus Clinical Research Centre, "Jai Somnath" Himmatnagar, Gujarat
3.	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar Grahak Suraksha Mandal, Sardar Smruti, Crescent Circle, Bhavnagar-364001, Gujarat.
4.	Surat	South Gujarat Consumer Protection Education & Research Centre, 6/2399, 2nd Floor, Seri Corner, Mahidharpura, Surat Gujarat
5.	Bhuj	Shree Sewa Bharti Foundation, Kailashnagar, Bhuj Kutchh, Gujarat
6.	Godhra	Gujarat State Rachnatmak Karyakar Sangh Gothib, Satrampur Godhra, Gujarat
7.	Dahod	Grahak Suraksha Mandal, Daulatgang Bazaar, Dahod Shri Gopal Bhai Dhanka, Gujarat



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8.	Vadodara	"Jagrut Grahak", Deepak Chambers 2nd floor, Nawabwada, Raopura, Vadodara,-390001 Gujarat
9.	Patan	Jagruk Grahak Mandal, C/o Bhagani Samaj, Kanasada Darvaja, Patna-384 265 (Gujarat)

**West Bengal****No. of DCICs sanctioned-9**

1.	Midnapur	Chingurdania Vivekananda Samaj Seva Sangha, Vill. & P.O. Chingurdania, Dist. Purba Medinipur-721430, West Bengal
2.	Bankura	Charabedia Rural Economic & Area Development Society, Village-Charabedia, PO-Layekpara, Distt. Bankura West Bengal
3.	Kolkata	Better Business Burea, 39, Shakespera Sarani, "Premlata", 7th Floor, Room No. 702, Kolkata-700 017
4.	Kidderpore	Port Area consumer Association, 16 Micheal Dutta Street, Kidderpore, Kolkata, West Bengal
5.	Nadia	Nadia District Consumer Forum, Padia Building, R.N. Tagore Road, (High Street), P.O. Krishnagar, Distt. Nadia, West Bengal
6.	Hooghly	Hooghly Zila Prosad Das Sen Road Kreta Surksha Samity, 8 Prasad Das Sen Road, Chinsurah, District Hooghly, West Bengal
7.	24 Parganas (South)	Bagaria Relief Welfare Ambulance Society, Village & Post: Bagaria. Distt. South 24 Pargana WB
8.	Jalpaiguri	COSMOS, 24, Bose Road, Kolkata, West Bengal-700008
9.	Birbhum	Womens Interlink, 21/1 Old Ballygunge 2nd Lane Kolkata-700019

**Madhya Pradesh****No. of DCICs sanctioned-6**

1.	Bhopal	National Centre for Human Settlement & Environment E-5/A Girish Kung Arera Colony, Bhopal MP
2.	Bhopal	Upbhokta Sanrakshan Salkhakar Samiti, H-378 Gautan Nagar, Govindpura, Bhopal
3.	Gwalior	Consumer and Civic Rights Association, Human Chauraha, Janakganj, Laskar, Gwalior
4.	Katni	All India Consumer Protection Organization, Narmada Colony, Jhinhari, Katni-483501 (M.P.)
5.	Sagar	Prakhar Pragya Shiksha Prasar Samiti, 236, Madhukar Shah Ward, Sagar
6.	Gwalior	Sri Krishna Shiksha Prasar Samity, H.O. 64 A, Ambedakar Nagar, In front of Geetanjali Complex, Bhopal (MP)

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**Uttaranchal****No. of DCICs sanctioned-4**

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|----|----------|---|
| 1. | Dehradun | Himalayan Environmental Development Institute, 229, Tilak Market Road, Subhash Nagar, P.O. Clementown, Dehradun Uttaranchal |
| 2. | Chamoli  | Uttarakhan Gramin Vikas Samity, Village & PO-Gwaldam, Distt: Chamoli Uttaranchal  |
| 3. | Almora   | Ganga Parvatiya Lok Vikas Sansthan, Almora, Uttaranchal   |
| 4. | Nainital | Kafal, Kafal House, Pindari Glacier Road, Post Bharari, Distt. Bageshwar (Uttaranchal)                                      |

**Delhi****No. of DCICs sanctioned-1**

- |    |             |  |
|----|-------------|--|
| 1. | Mayur Vihar | Citizenship Development Council, 4, OCF Pocket-B. Institutional Area (Behind Neelam Marta Mandir). Mayur Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi-91 |
|----|-------------|--|

**Sikkim****No. of DCICs sanctioned-3**

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|----|---------------------|---|
| 1. | North Distt. Sikkim | Govt. of Sikkim, Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Gangtok, Sikkim-737101 |
| 2. | South Distt. Sikkim | Govt. of Sikkim, Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Gangtok, Sikkim-737101 |
| 3. | Gangtok (East)      | Govt. of Sikkim, Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Gangtok, Sikkim-737101 |

**Rajasthan****No. of DCICs sanctioned-3**

- |    |              |   |
|----|--------------|---|
| 1. | Dausa        | Zilla Parishad, Dausa Rajasthan                                 |
| 2. | Chhittorgarh | Zilla Parishad, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan                          |
| 3. | Ajmer        | Ajmer Zilla Gramin Upbhokta Sansthan, Mausuda, Ajmer, Rajasthan |

**Pondicherry****No. of DCICs sanctioned-2**

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|----|----------------|---|
| 1. | Ayyenkutipalay | All India Consumers Council, (Now Consumer Association of Pondicherry) MIG-15, Ayyenkutipalayam Pondicherry |
|----|----------------|---|
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2.	Karaikal	Kottucherry Nugarvur, Pathupappu Kuzhu, 12, Vellai Pillaiyar Koli Street, Kottucherr, Karaikal Pondicherry
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
<b>No. of DCICs sanctioned-3</b>		
1.	Ramanathapuram	Nugarvore Urimai Padukappu Kazhagam, Paramakudi, Distt. Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu-623707
2.	Salem	Society for Community Development Project, Seerangapalayam Road, Kumarasamypaty, Salem-636 007, Tamilnadu.
3.	Sivagangi	Society for Emancipating Noe Social Education, Main Road, Thiruppachetty, Sivagangi (TN)
<b>Daman &amp; Diu</b>		
<b>No. of DCICs sanctioned-1</b>		
1.	Moti Daman	District Panchayat, Daman & Diu Moti Daman
<b>Chandigarh</b>		
<b>No. of DCICs sanctioned-1</b>		
1.	Chandigarh	Consumers Forum Chandigarh, Room No. 3, 3rd floor, Karuna Sadan, Sector-11-B, Chandigarh
<b>Haryana</b>		
<b>No. of DCICs sanctioned-1</b>		
1.	Jhajjar	New Gram Vikas Samity, Village & PO, Tanda Heri, Bahadurgarh, Block, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana
<b>Mizoram</b>		
<b>No. of DCICs sanctioned-1</b>		
1.	Aizwal	Mizoram Consumers' Union, Aizwal, Treasure Square, Aizal-796001, Mizoram
<b>Kerala</b>		
<b>No. of DCICs sanctioned-1</b>		
1.	Thiruvananthapuram	Coinpar, Mudavanmugal, Poojapura, Trivendram Kerala
<b>Karnataka</b>		
<b>No. of DCICs sanctioned-3</b>		
1.	Gulbarga	Sri Basa Basewar Rural Development Trust, House No: 1-8 LL/A-7, Anushrinilay Bhagvati Nagar, Gulbarga Karnataka

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|----|-------|---|
| 2. | Udupi | Balakedara, Vedike, Near Kalpana Cinema, Udupi, Karnataka                             |
| 3. | Hubli | Consumer Protection & Research Foundation, Near Swai Gandharva Hall, Hubli, Karnataka |

**Assam****No. of DCICs sanctioned-1**

- |    |        |   |
|----|--------|---|
| 1. | Nagaon | Gram Vikas Parishad, At Rengaloo Post Jumaimar, Via. Kathitoli, Distt. Nagaon (Assam) |
|----|--------|---|

**Nagaland****No. of DCICs sanctioned-1**

- |    |         |   |
|----|---------|---|
| 1. | Dimapur | Nagaland Tribal Rural Development Association, Old Dairy Farm Road, Post Box. No. 196, Purana Bazar, Dimapur-797112, Nagaland |
|----|---------|---|

**Bihar****No. of DCICs sanctioned-1**

- |    |          |  |
|----|----------|--|
| 1. | Vaishali | Hanuman Prasad Gramin Vikas Sewa Samity, Distt. Muzaffarpur, Bihar |
|----|----------|--|

**Jharkhand****No. of DCICs sanctioned-1**

- |    |         |  |
|----|---------|--|
| 1. | Dhanbad | Shri Narsinh Memorial, Vikas Nagar, Katras Road, Matkuria, Dhanbad, Jharkhand. |
|----|---------|--|
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*[English]***Fund for Agricultural Universities**

2708. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of fund made to the Agricultural Universities in the country during last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the Rajasthan Agricultural University has submitted any proposal before the Centre to enhance the allocation of fund;

(c) if so, the allocation made to that University during 2006-07; and

(d) the details of new species developed by that University during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The information is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, an amount of Rs. 306.00 lakhs has been allocated to the Rajasthan Agricultural University under the scheme of 'Strengthening and Development of Agricultural Education' during 2006-07.

(d) The information is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

*Statement I**Funds Allocated to the Agricultural Universities during last three years, State-wise*

				(Rs. in lakhs)
Sl.No.	State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Assam	1278.34	1419.00	2086.19
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2207.11	2097.66	2595.32
3.	Bihar	1069.84	1393.21	1830.39
4.	Chhattisgarh	827.38	907.10	1520.26
5.	Gujarat	1598.81	2660.25	3574.92
6.	Haryana	1664.88	2867.71	2368.62
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1833.47	1859.47	8288.62
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	969.45	2424.88	4334.68
9.	Jharkhand	597.42	802.66	1806.98
10.	Karnataka	2698.48	3084.53	3957.96
11.	Kerala	997.34	2543.32	1674.27
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1802.12	2339.55	1152.12
13.	Maharashtra	3459.84	3241.94	5512.39
14.	Orissa	1405.27	1655.73	2479.28
15.	Punjab	2024.36	3517.73	2776.26
16.	Rajasthan	2635.16	2955.05	3590.75
17.	Tamil Nadu	2242.11	2407.84	3138.71
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2688.94	2836.43	4881.67
19.	Uttaranchal	1262.75	1451.55	2817.57
20.	West Bengal	1273.60	1235.15	2336.53
21.	Nagaland	—	—	50.00
22.	Delhi	83.78	95.95	209.98
23.	Tripura	3.00	28.83	13.85
24.	Manipur	116.79	53.99	63.63
25.	Meghalaya	—	8.55	34.42
Total		34740.24	43888.08	63095.37

**Statement II***Crop Varieties Developed by Rajasthan Agricultural University Breeders during 2003-06*

Crop	Variety
Wheat	Raj 3777, Raj 4037, Raj 6560 (Durum)
Barley	RD 2592, RD 2624
Mustard	RGN 13, RN 505, RGN 48
Rajmash	RSJ 178
Mungbean	Ganga 1, RMG 492
Mothbean	RMO 423, RMB 25
Cowpea	RCp 27
Coriander	RCr 27
Fenel	RF 101
Onion	RO 1, RO 59
Cotton (Desi)	Rajdh-9
Groundnut	RG 382
Clusterbean	RGC-1031, RGM 112
Chickpea	GNG 1292 (Kabuli), CSJD 884, RSG 888, RSG 945, RSG 895, RSG 963, RSG 807, RSG 973
Chilli	RCh-1

*[Translation]***Inferior Quality Helmets**

2709. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether inferior quality helmets, not conforming to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications are being manufactured and sold across the country; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to check sale of such helmets?

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) BIS has formulated an Indian Standards IS 4151:1993 for "Protective helmets for Motorcycle riders" which is voluntary at present. Manufacturers of such helmets are not required to obtain Certification Marks Licence from BIS for manufacturing such helmets. Monitoring of quality of Non-ISI marked helmets does not come within the purview of BIS. However, Government has launched a consumer awareness programme for promoting use of ISI marked products including helmets for safety. A provision has also been made in Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 that at the time of purchase of two wheelers, the manufacturer of two wheelers shall supply helmet conforming to BIS specifications.

*[English]***Construction of Houses for Fishermen in Karnataka**

2710. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for construction of 5000 houses under Mathasya Ashraya Scheme Phase-II;

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

(c) the funds released for the purpose?

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

(b) and (c) Government of Karnataka sought Central assistance under the scheme during 2004-05 for construction of 5000 houses under Mathasya Ashraya Scheme Phase-II with the cost ceiling of Rs. 30,000/- per house seeking Central share of Rs. 750.00 lakh. The proposal was approved and a sum of Rs. 100.00 lakh was released in 2004-05, as first installment and two installments of Rs. 200.00 lakh and Rs. 150.00 lakh were released in 2005-06. No further request for release of

balance amount has been received from the State Government.

#### Hallmarked Jewellery

2711. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of jewellers having Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Certification alongwith the number of jewellery articles hallmarked by them so far under BIS Hallmarking Scheme;

(b) the details of jewellers against whom cases have been filed in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission whose samples had failed against declared purity in survey conducted by BIS; and

(c) the other steps taken by BIS to ensure availability of pure gold jewellery to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) So far 1969 Gold Jewellers and 77 Silver Jewellers have taken Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) licence for hallmarking. Approximately, 1.38 crore gold articles and 871 silver articles, have been hallmarked so far.

(b) Cases have been filed in Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission against 107 jewellers whose samples had failed against declared purity in survey conducted by BIS.

(c) A scheme for setting up of Gold Hallmarking/ Assaying Centres with central assistance in 35 select district in India has been launched for implementation during 2005-07 to ensure availability of pure gold jewellery to the consumers.

#### Raw Material for RSP

2712. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total raw material lifted by Steel Authority of India (SAIL) for use in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the quantum out of that transported to other States from Orissa through branch transfer;

(c) whether SAIL has been increasing branch transfer every year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The main raw material i.e. Iron Ore and Limestone dispatched from different mines of SAIL, Raw Material Division (RMD) to Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) during last three years are as under:

#### Iron Ore

Sl.No.	Mines	State	2006-07 (upto July'06)	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Kiriburu	Jharkhand	144	313	137	240
2.	Meghahatuburu	Jharkhand	160	202	153	284
3.	Bolani	Orissa	7	32	—	—
4.	Barsua	Orissa	485	1298	1248	1202
5.	Kalta	Orissa	389	990	1030	1113
6.	Gua	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—
7.	Manoharpur	Jharkhand	12	29	62	66
Total			1197	2864	2630	2905

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Limestone</b>						
1.	Purnapani	Orissa	—	—	—	55
2.	Kuateshwar	Madhya Pradesh	22	47	108	64
Total			22	47	108	119

(b) to (d) There is no concept of 'Branch Transfer' for Raw Materials. Linkage for raw materials supply from the captive mines to different Steel Plants of SAIL is mainly dependent upon the quantitative and qualitative requirement of the steel plants *vis-à-vis* production

capacity and quality of deposit of different mines as well as available railway infrastructure and freight. However, details of despatches of Iron Ore and Limestone from SAIL mines in Orissa to the SAIL plants in other States are given in the enclosed statement.

### **Statement**

#### *Despatches of Iron Ore and Limestone from SAIL Mines in Orissa to the SAIL Plants in other States*

#### **Iron Ore**

Unit: '000 T

Year	Bolani					Bansua					Kaita					Grand Total
	BSL	DSP	BSP	ISP	ASP	BSL	DSP	BSP	ISP	ASP	BSL	DSP	BSP	ISP	ASP	
2006-07 (upto July' 06)	66	887	—	25	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	966
2005-06	187	3126	3	—	19	—	7	—	3	—	4	19	—	—	—	3368
2004-05	48	2961	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	3042
2003-04	125	2971	—	—	—	18	—	3	—	—	18	27	—	—	—	3162

#### **Limestone**

Year	Purnapani					Total
	BSL	DSP	BSP	ISP	ASP	
2006-07 (upto July' 06)	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005-06	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004-05	—	—	—	—	—	—
2003-04	10	23	—	—	—	33



**Ban on Advertisement**

2713. SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to ban advertisement issued at Government expenses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Fund under Beedi Workers Welfare  
Fund Act, 1976**

2714. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the funds created and utilized under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 during the last two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): The Government has constituted the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976. The Act provides for levy of cess by way of excise duty on manufactured beedis from Re. 1/- to Rs 5/- per thousand manufactured beedis. The rate of cess at present is Rs. 5/- per thousand beedis w.e.f. 01.04.2006. The Act provides that the fund may be utilized by the Central Government to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with the welfare measures of such workers. Various welfare schemes are under operation in the fields of health, education, housing, social security, etc. The cess collection and expenditure incurred under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Cess Collection	85.83	72.39	125.79
Expenditure	81.30	89.15	132.58

**World Bank Loan for Mahanadi Basin**

2715. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of World Bank loan received for the development of Mahanadi Basin;

(b) the actual cost of the project; and

(c) the target set for the completion of work?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) At present, World Bank assistance is not being availed for development of Mahanadi Basin.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Sea Erosion in Maharashtra**

2716. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent a project to the Union Government for protection of coastal line from sea erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Government of Maharashtra submitted a proposal for an estimated cost of Rs. 195.50 crore in July 2002 for inclusion in the proposed National Coastal Protection Project (NCPPI). The Proposal includes 72.36 km of anti sea erosion works in Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts. As the NCPPI 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".

**Advance from EPF Account**

2717. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subscribers of Employees Provident Fund in private sector face a lot of difficulties in getting advance/transfer/settlement of their account;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Employees Provident Fund Organisation have been equipped with latest technology for speedy disposal of claims/advances/settlements of PF cases; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ease the situation by streamlining the whole system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Claims received complete in all respect are required to be settled within 30 days. However, delay in certain cases occurs on account of non-submission of returns/non-remittance of dues by the employer, non-attestation of forms by authorised signatory, etc.

(c) and (d) Some activities of the Organisation such as issue of accounts slips, maintenance of cashbook, grant of monthly pension, etc. have already been computerised. However, steps have been envisaged in the 'Re-inventing EPF India' project to further computerise other areas of work, which inter-alia provides for settlement of claims within 2-3 days.

#### **Diploma Holder in Agricultural Universities**

2718. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Diploma holders, Degree holders and unemployed persons from Agricultural Universities at present; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide employment opportunities in favour of these technical unemployed persons?

THE MINISTER OF 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 Indian Council of Agricultural Research/Department of Agricultural Research and Education provides financial assistance to the State Agricultural Universities, Deemed

Universities, Central Universities having faculty of Agriculture and the Central Agricultural University for strengthening and development of agricultural education and coordinates higher agricultural education in India. These Agricultural Universities produce about 15,000 graduates and 7,000 postgraduates annually. According to the study conducted by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR) in the year 2000, there were 43% of undergraduates and 23% postgraduates unemployed even up to one year of degree completion. There are 18 Universities/Institutes awarding Diploma in Agriculture and allied subjects. The total number of students enrolled for Diploma programme are about 13,400 annually. The Diploma programmes are for enhancement of skills of fresh as well as in-service candidates or for self-employment.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research/Department of Agricultural Research and Education has launched programmes like experiential learning, hands-on-training, curricula revision, etc. so that the graduates and post-graduates produced by the Universities possess entrepreneurial skills and confidence to enhance their employability including self employment.

#### **Improvement of Bamboo Forests**

2719. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal for improvement of bamboo forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposed project of the Government of Karnataka envisaged to undertake planting of bamboos on forest and private lands in one lakh hectare each. The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 580.00 crores for a period of five years. Since, there was no scheme with the Ministry of Environment and Forests under which the project proposal of Government of Karnataka could have been undertaken, the same was forwarded to the Planning Commission.

**Funds for Development of Aravali Forests Area**

2720. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned any funds for extension and development of Aravali Forest Area;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the progress made in afforestation of the said area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) For extension and development of Aravali Forest Area, funds are being provided by the Union Government under two programmes, namely, 'The Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-diversity Project' assisted by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and 'Centrally Sponsored National Afforestation Programme (NAP)'. The expenditure incurred during the last three years and financial provisions made for the current year along with the physical achievements made in afforestation are given in the table below:

Sl.No.	Fiscal Year	JBIC Assisted Project		National Afforestation Programme	
		Expenditure Incurred (Rs. In lakhs)	Afforestation (in hectares)	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. in lakhs)	Afforestation (in hectares)
1.	2003-04	3142.89	—	384.97	
2.	2004-05	7341.51	17250	294.51	During last three years 6875 hectares of plantations have been carried out under NAP.
3.	2005-06	9650.42	20850	338.26	
4.	2006-07	9000.00 (proposed)	36700 (proposed)	61.45	

[Translation]

**Jhudpi Forests**

2721. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether development projects in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra have been pending due to Jhudpi forests there;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study with regard to the problems of Jhudpi forest;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Government has given any clarification to this Ministry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No proposal for any development project is pending for approval of Central Government for diversion of any forest land classified as Jhudpi Forests.

(b) No, Sir. A High Power Committee was constituted to look into the problem of Jhudpi Forests and their future management in 1998.

(c) The Committee concluded that enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, in 1980 has adversely affected the needs of the people in the region. However, in view of the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, it is not possible to exclude Jhudpi Forests from the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

*(English)***Project for Botanic Garden**

2722. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to roll back the Botanic Garden of Indian Republic at Noida;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the stage at which the matter stands as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no decision to roll back the proposal for setting up the Botanic Garden of the Indian Republic, Noida.

(c) A Master Plan for the garden has been developed towards implementation of the project by the Consultant Landscape Architect (CLA) under the supervision of Multi-Disciplinary Expert Committee constituted for development of the concept. A number of experts having expertise in the areas of Drainage, Structural Engineering, Energy Conservation, Electrical Engineering, Water Supply Engineering and Architecture have been appointed by the CLA. Another Multi-Disciplinary Expert Committee with experts from eminent Institutions of national and international renown is under constitution to oversee the implementation of the work.

*[Translation]***Handing Over of Quarters to HFCL Employees**

2723. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any meeting was held to hand over the quarters to the employees of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (HFCL), Durgapur Unit through Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA);
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (c) the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir. No meeting was held to hand over the quarters to the employees of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (HFCL), Durgapur Unit through Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA).

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Satellite Channel in North-East**

2724. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to start another satellite channel for Doordarshan in North-East; and
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to commence and the funds earmarked for the same?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Doordarshan is likely to set up uplinking facility for 2 new NE channels in about a year and a half. These would, however, commence when adequate number of suitable programmes are ready. Rs. 2.79 crores and Rs. 0.71 crore have been earmarked for the launch of these channels and their inclusion in Ku-Band, respectively, under the North-East Special Package Phase-II, which was approved in May, 2006.

**Kashmir Film Festival**

2725. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has organised Kashmir Film Festival recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and response of the public thereto;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to organize such more film festivals in other languages on the lines of Kashmir Film Festival; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) During the year 2004, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, in coordination with Government of Jammu & Kashmir had organized the following two festivals:

- (i) A Children's Film Festival was organized in Srinagar from 12-14th October, 2004. The inaugural film was 'Jeeo Aur Jeeno Do' which had won the award for the Best animation film in the 51st National Film Awards, 2004. In all six films were shown and around 2000 children saw these films.
- (ii) Another film festival was also organised in Srinagar from 19th to 27th November, 2004. The inaugural function was followed by the screening of the digitally enhanced and coloured print of the Indian film classic MUGHA-E-AZAM. The response of the film loving public was overwhelming and most of the shows went houseful. The audience who attended the screenings were estimated to be around 20,000 from 19th to 27th November, 2004. On the whole, the feedback from various quarters on the festival in the valley was quite encouraging.

Apart from above, the Children's Film society, India an autonomous body under the Ministry of Information and broadcasting had conducted District level Film Festivals for children during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05. The total number of shows organised during these two years were 60 covering an audience of around 19,000.

No such festivals were organised in 2005 and 2006 so far.

#### **Upgradation of Salem Steel Plant**

2726. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to upgrade Salem Steel Plant to integrated Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) The expansion of Salem Steel Plant has been approved 'in principle' by SAIL Board at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,553 crore. The expansion plan envisages installation of Steel Melting Shop to produce 180,000 tonnes per annum of stainless steel slabs and enhancing the capacity of the Cold Rolling Mill to produce 1,46,000 tonnes per annum.

After expansion of Salem Steel Plant, the Plant will no longer depend on external sources for procurement of stainless steel slabs. The Plant will produce stainless steel slabs from its own steel melting shop which, in turn, will make it more cost effective.

#### **Criteria for Selection of Media Staff on Deputation**

2727. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of AIR and Doordarshan staff sent abroad for special assignment for various International sports events for media coverage during the last two years;

(b) the total expenses incurred for such deputation and the criteria for selecting media staff for deputation to such International sports events;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints that the same employees are deputed for such sports events again and again neglecting other eligible staff;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Details in respect of AIR and DD are given in the enclosed statement-I and II respectively.

(b) Details of expenditure are as follows:-

AIR Rs. 4,71,43,360/-

DD Rs. 1,77,53,263/- which includes Athens Olympic Games, 2004 Rs. 74,35,059/- and Commonwealth Games, Melbourne, Rs. 1,03,18,204/-

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that the Programme Staff Welfare Association of AIR and DD has

filed a Civil Miscellaneous Petition No. 8755/04 in WP(C) 2040/2002 alleging favouritism and arbitrariness in the selection of the coverage team members for the sporting events in the Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

The Civil Miscellaneous Petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble Court. However, the WP is yet to be heard by the Hon'ble Court as a regular matter.

***Statement I***

**All India Radio**

Sl.No.	Date	Event
1	2	3
(i)	<b>16th July to 1st August, 2004</b>	<b>Asla Cup Cricket in Sri Lanka</b>
	1. Shri Mihir Mehta, Pex, AIR, Mumbai as producer	
	2. Shri K.S. Kang, Pex, Marketing Division as Hindi Commentator	
	3. Dr. Milind Tipnis, Non-Official, English commentator from Mumbai	
	4. Shri A. Sandhur Pandian, AE, AIR, Chennai	
(ii)	<b>21st to 28th August, 2004</b>	<b>Videocon Cup Cricket Series in Holland</b>
	1. Shri D.P. Banerjee, Pex, DG: AIR, as producer	
	2. Shri Prem Kumar, Non-Official, as English Commentator, from Delhi	
	3. Shri Vineet Garg, Non-Official, Hindi Commentator from Bhiwara	
	4. Shri Ashish Roy Choudhary, AE, AIR, Kolkata.	
(iii)	<b>1st to 5th September, 2004</b>	<b>NATWEST Cricket 2004 in England</b>
	1. Shri D.P. Banerjee, Pex, DG: AIR, as producer	
	2. Shri Prem Kumar, Non-Official, English Commentator, from Delhi	
	3. Shri Vineet Garg, Non-Official, Hindi Commentator from Bhiwara	
	4. Shri Ashish Roy Choudhary, AE, AIR, Kolkata.	
(iv)	<b>13th to 29th August, 2004</b>	<b>28th Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece</b>
	1. Shri S.C. Nayak, ADP DTPES, as producer	
	2. Shri Sanjay Banerjee, NRT, NSD, as Hindi Commentator, from Delhi	
	3. Shri Rajiv Saxena, Hindi Announcer, AIR, Jodhpur	
	4. Shri Mukul Goswami, PEX, AIR, Jodhpur	

1	2	3
	5. Shri Anil Kumar Dawas, AE, AIR, Delhi	
	6. Shri Shankar Prakash, Non-Official English Commentator from Bangalore.	
	7. Shri Milind Wagle, Non-Official English Commentator from Mumbai.	
(v)	<b>11th to 25th September, 2004</b>	<b>4th ICC Champions Trophy Cricket 2004 in England</b>
	1. Shri R.C. Sahu, Pex, DG: AIR, as producer.	
	2. Shri Prakash Wakankar, Non-Official, as English Commentator from Gurgaon	
	3. Shri Sanjay Banerjee, NRT as Hindi Commentator from Delhi	
	4. Shri S.Y. Solunke, AE, AIR, Kolkata.	
(vi)	<b>August-September, 2004</b>	<b>Triangular Cricket Series 2005 in Zimbabwe</b>
	1. Shri R.T. Kulkarni, Pex, Marketing, Bangalore as producer.	
	2. Shri Shankar Prakash, Non-Official English Commentator from Bangalore	
	3. Shri Vineet Garg, Non-official Hindi Commentator from Bhilwara	
	4. Shri S. Kshirsagar, AE, AIR, Mumbai.	
(vii)	<b>30th August to 9th September, 2005</b>	<b>Triangular Cricket Series 2005 in Sri Lanka</b>
	1. Shri Vinod Mehta, ADP (Sports), DG: AIR, as producer	
	2. Shri Prakash Wakanker, Non-Official English Commentator from Gurgaon	
	3. Shri Prabhat Goswami, Non-official Hindi Commentator from Jaipur	
	4. Shri Om Prakash, AE, AIR, Delhi.	
(viii)	<b>21st January to 19th February, 2006</b>	<b>Indo-Pak Cricket Series-2006 in Pakistan</b>
	1. Shri R.C. Sahu, PEX (Sports), DG: AIR, as producer	
	2. Shri Shankar Prakash, Non-Official English Commentator from Bangalore	
	3. Shri Sanjay Banerjee, Non-official Hindi Commentator from Delhi	
	4. Shri Robin Dasgupta, AE, AIR, Delhi.	
(ix)	<b>18th to 26th March, 2006</b>	<b>18th Commonwealth Games 2006 in Melbourne.</b>
	1. Shri Brijeshwar Singh, Director General, AIR, Supervising Officer	
	2. Shri Rajat Bhargava, ADG (F), DG: AIR, Supervising Officer	
	3. Shri A.K. Padhi, DDG (Sports), DG: AIR, Supervising Officer	
	4. Shri S.C. NAYAK, (Sports), DG: AIR, as producer	
	5. Shri Novy Kapadia, Non-Official English Commentator from Delhi	

1	2	3
	6. Shri Shankar Prakash, Non-Official English Commentator from Bangalore.	
	7. Shri Mukul Goswami, PEX, AIR, Jodhpur	
	8. Shri R.T. Kulkarni, PEX, Marketing, AIR, Bangalore.	
	9. Shri Praveen Chand, PEX, AIR, Delhi	
	10. Shri Rajesh Dalvi, TREX, AIR, Mumbai	
	11. Shri Rajat Sengupta, PEX, AIR, Bilaspur	
	12. Shri Ashish Kumar Chrangoo, PEX, AIR, Delhi	
	13. Shri K.S. Kang, PEX, Marketing, DG: AIR	
	14. Shri V.N. Sivakumar, PEX, AIR, Panaji	
	15. Shri S.P. Singh, PEX, AIR, Bhopal	
	16. Shri Anupam Pathak, PEX, AIR, Lucknow	
	17. Shri Anil Desai, PEX, AIR, Dharwad	
	18. Shri B. Venkat Ram, TREX, AIR, Hyderabad	
	19. Shri Rakesh Singh, Non-official Hindi Commentator from Gorakhpur	
	20. Shri Anubha Rohatgi, News Editor, NSD, Delhi	
	21. Shri Madan Kumar, News Editor, NSD, Delhi	
	22. Shri T.V.W. Purushothaman, S.E.A., AIR, Delhi as broadcast engineer.	
	23. Shri N.A. Khan, Supdt. Engineer, AIR, Delhi as supervising engineer.	
	24. Smt. Aslesha Mehta, TREX, AIR, Ahmedabad.	
	25. Shri Aroop K. Sengupta, SO, to assist in logistics.	
<b>(x)</b>	<b>18th &amp; 19th April, 2006</b>	<b>India-Pakistan ODI Cricket-2006 In Abu Dhabi</b>
	1. Shri K.S. Kang, PEX (Sports), Marketing Delhi, as producer	
	2. Dr. Milind Tipnis, Non-Official English Commentator from Mumbai	
	3. Shri Vineet Garg, Non-official Hindi Commentator from Bhiwara	
	4. Shri Lokendra Kumar, AE, DG: AIR as broadcast engineer.	
<b>(xi)</b>	<b>18th May to 4th July, 2006</b>	<b>India-West Indies Cricket Series-2006 In West Indies</b>
	1. Shri Suhas Mohanty, ASD, CBC, Cuttak, as producer	
	2. Shri Prem Kumar, Non-Official English Commentator from Delhi	
	3. Shri Vineet Garg, Non-official Hindi Commentator from Bhiwara	
	4. Shri Vijay Mehra, Expert Commentator from Delhi	
	5. Shri S.S. Raman, AE, AIR, Mumbai as broadcast engineer	



1	2	3
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(xii) 5th to 9th July, 2006 **FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany**

1. Shri D.P. Bannerjee, PEX, AIR, Kathua as producer
2. Shri R.K. Negi, SEA, AIR, Delhi as broadcast engineer
3. Shri Sanjay Banerjee, Non-official Hindi Commentator from Delhi
4. Shri Sanjeeb Kumar Basu, Non-official English Commentator from Kolkata.

***Statement II***

*Doordarshan contingent for Commonwealth Games Melbourne—2006*

Sl.No.	Name	Designation & Kendra
1	2	3
1.	V K Agrawal	Supdt Engineer, Guwahati
2.	Debjani Bhattacharya	Statistician
3.	Shubhankar Mukherjee	Statistician
4.	B Kumar	Cameraman, CPC Delhi
5.	Ghaus Mohammed	Commentator
6.	Gopalakrishnan Nair	EA, DDK Bangalore
7.	Ishrat Shaffi	SEA, DDK Srinagar
8.	Rudresh Babu BP	EA, DDK Bangalore
9.	T Sujatha	SEA, DDK Bangalore
10.	B Panigrahi	Director, DDK Raipur
11.	A Cosmos	Cameraman, DDK Chennai
12.	A P S Randhawa	PEX, DDK Jalandhar
13.	Ajay Bhakuni	Cameraan, DDK Silchar
14.	Amit Tyagi	Prod. Assit., DDK Bhopal
15.	Anand Syal	Director, DDK Chandigarh
16.	Anupam Ghulati	Commentator
17.	Anupam K Banthia	EA, DDK Raipur
18.	Avinash Acharya	ASD, DG: DD
19.	B K Hemanth Kumar	Cameraman, DDK Silchar
20.	C S Jonathan Andrews	Cameraman, DDK Madurai

1	2	3
21.	Chandra Dudherejiya	PEX, DDK Ahmedabad
22.	Deshmukh R M	SEA, DDK Mumbai
23.	E Daniel	Cameraman, DDK Bangalore
24.	Gopal Mandloi	Prod. Asst., DDK Bhopal
25.	Harinder Singh	Cameraman, DDK Jalpaiguri
26.	K Eshwara Rao	PEX, DDK Bangalore
27.	Lolaksha L Anchan	Cameraman, DDK Ahmedabad
28.	Manoj Kumar Tiwari	Prod Asst., DDK Jaipur
29.	Millan Naskar	PEX, DDK Kolkata
30.	N M Satapathy	PEX, DDK Bhubaneswar
31.	N Thiyagarajan	SE, DDK Chennai
32.	Nanu Bhasin	News Editor, DD News, Delhi
33.	P K Mohapatra	ASE, DDK Bhubaneswar
34.	Prabodh Kumar Patnaik	PEX, DDK Bhubaneswar
35.	R K Dixit	PEX, DG: DD
36.	R P Luthra	Section Officer, DG: DD
37.	Rajesh Srivastava	AE, CPC Delhi
38.	S Gurumanickam	AE, DDK Chennai
39.	S K Nim	SEA, DDK Delhi
40.	S K Srivastava	SEA, DDK Lucknow
41.	S Sriraj	Cameraman, DDK Bhopal
42.	Sanjay Kumar	Prod. Asst., DDK Delhi
43.	Sanjeev Soni	Prod. Asst., CPC Delhi
44.	Shabir Mujahid	Exec. Producer, DDK Srinagar
45.	Shailendra Verma	PEX, DD News, Delhi
46.	Shanmukam Venkatesan	Cameraman, DDK Delhi
47.	Sunil Jauhari	Video Editor, DDK Indore
48.	Sunil Vaidya	Commentator
49.	Sushil Sharma	Cameraman, DDK Delhi

1	2	3
50.	V Venkatesulu	ASE, DDK Hyderabad
51.	V Vidyasagar	Graphic Artist, DDK Hyderabad
52.	Vinodini Veena	ASD, DDK Hyderabad
53.	Zakir H Pathan	Prod. Asst., Nagpur
54.	A Anjaneyulu	SEA, DDK Hyderabad
55.	A K Dhanraj	Prod. Asst, DDK Chennai
56.	Ajay Gupta	DEHQ, DG: DD
57.	Anurag Darshan	Prod. Asst., CPC Delhi
58.	Anurag Kulshrestha	DDE, DG: DD
59.	Brij Bakshi	Director, CPC Delhi
60.	C S Mohan	ASE, DDK Delhi
61.	Devagiri M M	SEA, DDK Ahmedabad
62.	Devendra Singh	Prod. Asst., DDK Delhi
63.	E S Isaac	DP, DG: DD
64.	Jagjivan Ram	AE, DDK Srinagar
65.	Joselyn Martins	Commentator
66.	Kapil Bhatnagar	Graphics Artist, DDK Bhopal
67.	E Krishna Rao	Correspondent, DDK Hyderabad
68.	M K Agrawal	SEA, DDK Jaipur
69.	M M Mohan	EA, DDK Hyderabad
70.	Mahesh Chandra Paliwal	ASE, DDK Jaipur
71.	Mahesh Joshi	Director, DDK Bangalore
72.	N S Manhas	PEX, DDK Chandigarh
73.	N S Manjunath	Cameraman, DDK Delhi
74.	Naresh Chawla	Video Editor, CPC Delhi
75.	P S Parameswaran	PEX, DDK Chennai
76.	PS Srivastava	SE, DDK Delhi
77.	Pankaj Chauhan	Prod. Asst., Ahmedabad
78.	Pradeep Mathur	PEX, DDK Delhi

1	2	3
79.	Rajesh Tewari	Commentator
80.	Ranjit Chatterjee	DDP, DG:DD
81.	S Prasad	Sr. Technician, DDK Hyderabad
82.	S S Chandrashekhar	Sr. Technician, DDK Bangalore
83.	Sajan Venniyoor	PEX, DG:DD
84.	T D Krishnakumar	SEA, DDK Chennai
85.	T S Ramakrishna	SE, DDK Hyderabad

*Doordarshan contingent for Athens Olympic Games—2004*

1.	Shri L D Mandloi	DDG, DG:DD
2.	Shri S. Ramaswami	SE, DDK Chennai
3.	Shri B.M. Bakshi	DP, DG:DD
4.	Shri Rajat Nigam	SE, CPC New Delhi
5.	Shri M. Jagan Nathan	Cameraman, DDK Kolkata
6.	Shri Naresh Chawla	Editor, DDK Delhi
7.	Shri Joselyn Martin	Commentator
8.	Shri P.S. Parameswaran	PEX, DDK Chennai
9.	Shri S.S. Bhakoo	PEX, DDK Delhi
10.	Shri G. Venkateswaran	AE, CPC New Delhi
11.	Shri J.L. Narasimhan	AE, DDK Chennai
12.	Shri B.K. Srikant	Cameraman, DDK Patna
13.	Shri Biju Andrews	SrEA, DDK Mumbai
14.	Shri P. Selvam	Editor, DDK Pondicherry
15.	Shri Rajesh Tiwari	Hindi Commentator

**Technology for Investigation**

2728. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed certain guidelines to protect individual privacy while using technology for investigation purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As of now need has not been felt to amend the Programme Code to protect individual privacy as other laws relating to trespassing and defamation are sufficient to do so.

#### **Sale of Counterfeit Products**

2729. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether incidents of large scale counterfeiting in computer accessories, automobile parts and accessories and the fast moving consumer goods sector have been reported recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study/survey has been conducted to assess the loss of revenue to the Government as a result of this counterfeiting;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to enact more stringent laws and deterrents to apprehend the culprits;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken to check this menace in the intervening period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir. Government is not aware of any such report of large scale counterfeiting in computer accessories, automobile parts and accessories and the fast moving consumer goods sector.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) A Working Group set up by this Department on Counterfeit, Fake, Spurious and Contraband Products had made a number of recommendations which have been circulated to concerned Government Departments for appropriate action.

(g) Legislations such as the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Copyrights Act, 1957, the Patents Act, 1970, the Customs Act, 1962, the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 etc., contain provisions which can be invoked for prosecution/redressal on account of counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products.

#### **Development of Aquaculture**

2730. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided for the development of aquaculture during the last three years and the current financial year, State-wise;

(b) the number of fishermen benefited therefrom during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop aquaculture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The assistance and fish farmers benefited during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Government of India is implementing a Centrally sponsored Scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture. Under macro-management approach the scheme is having six components, namely, development of freshwater aquaculture, development of brackishwater aquaculture, development of coldwater fisheries, development of waterlogged areas, productive utilization of saline/alkaline soils for aquaculture and inland capture fisheries (reservoirs/rivers etc.). The above scheme is being implemented by the State/UT Governments. Under the scheme, expenditure on developmental activities is shared on 75:25 basis between the Government of

India and the State/UT Governments. Further development of aquaculture in ponds, tanks and reservoirs is one of

the major activities of the National Fisheries Development Board set up by the Government recently.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of Central assistance released for Development of Aquaculture and number of beneficiaries during last three years*

Sl.No.	State	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)		No. of Fish Farmers Benefited during 2003-06
		2003-2006	2006-2007	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.00		120
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	76.19		1074
3.	Assam	86.00		3908
4.	Bihar	25.00		6841
5.	Chhattisgarh	256.28	80	8274
6.	Goa	20.27		00
7.	Gujarat	87.34		2481
8.	Haryana	365.73		4369
9.	Himachal Pradesh	159.62		505
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	414.13		697
11.	Jharkhand	171.05		18593
12.	Karnataka	152.78		737
13.	Kerala	319.08		4259
14.	Madhya Pradesh	450.00	100	10716
15.	Maharashtra	00.00		882
16.	Manipur	83.85		20515
17.	Meghalaya	50.00		00
18.	Mizoram	176.50		2726
19.	Nagaland	369.31		2662
20.	Orissa	357.97		5807
21.	Pondicherry	00.00		1056

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Punjab	00.00		111
23.	Rajasthan	10.50	40	5400
24.	Sikkim	9.00		163
25.	Tamil Nadu	20.00		235
26.	Tripura	126.44		3705
27.	Uttar Pradesh	870.995		10101
28.	Uttaranchal	108.275		895
29.	West Bengal	856.45		13975
Total		5682.76	220	1,31,007

[Translation]

#### Shortage of Staff

2731. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether many programmes on Doordarshan could not telecast due to shortage of staff;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Flood Control

2732. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh with regard to flood

control and diversion of flood waters under the Jan Bhagidari Yojana from 1997 to 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken to clear such proposals by the Government?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### World Water Forum

2733. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequacy or otherwise of water in India was reviewed and assessed at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico on the World Water Forum in Mexico on the World Water Day;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Government's independent study agrees with the revelations of the World Water Forum; and

(c) the action plan, if any, drawn out to secure access to water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) There was no specific review for adequacy or otherwise of water in India during the 4th World Water Forum (WWF) held in Mexico in March, 2006. However, the Second World Water Development Report released by UNESCO on 22nd March 2006 during the WWF present an overall scenario of water resources related issues at the global level. This also includes information in respect of water availability etc. for India. As per the report, the available water in India is of the order of 1897 billion cubic meter per year. The Central Water Commission has assessed the water availability for India as 1869 billion cubic meter per year. Therefore, there is no substantial difference.

(c) With a view to optimally utilize the available resources, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge of ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. State Governments conceive plan and implement major, medium and minor schemes, both surface and ground water for utilization of water resources.

Government of India is providing central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme; National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture etc. The Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and recharge to groundwater for conservation of water.

Ministry of Water Resources has also formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for water resources development envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas.

#### **Coastal Regulation Zone**

2734. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any issues are pending for decision regarding Coastal Regulation Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether necessary sanction to Navi Mumbai under Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) has been issued;

(d) if so, whether the decision has been taken on the recommendations of Sukthankar Committee;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether necessary permission has been accorded to prepare CZMP for greater Mumbai to the Scale of 1:4000 from authorised agency;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry had approved the Coastal Zone Management Plan of Maharashtra with conditions and modifications on 27th September, 1996 which also includes the stretches of Navi Mumbai. Subsequently, the Central Government had received the proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra seeking approval of the revised Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) of Navi Mumbai on 25th November, 1998 under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), Notification, 1991. The proposal sought reclassification of certain stretches of Navi Mumbai from CRZ-III to CRZ-II. Sukthankar Committee was constituted to examine the issues relating to Coastal Zone Management in the Mumbai Urban Area. The Committee also examined the revised CZMP of Navi Mumbai.

(d) and (e) The Committee *inter-alia* observed that the revised CZMP for Navi Mumbai did not conform to the provisions of the CRZ, Notification, 1991 and recommended amendment to the Notification in this regard. The recommendation was not accepted.

(f) and (g) The Central Government had issued the guidelines for demarcating the High Tide Line on 6th May, 1991 which advises the coastal States to prepare the Coastal Zone Management Plan in 1:25000 scale and for local level planning 1:3960 of the nearest scale.

(h) Does not arise.



**Jatropha Seed**

2735. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government to make available Jatropha seeds to farmers in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the assistance provided by the Government for cultivation of Jatropha in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, State-wise;

(c) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is also providing any assistance for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board under the Ministry of Agriculture has undertaken model plantations of Jatropha and Karanj in many states including Andhra Pradesh in 10,000 ha., the quality seed from which for further multiplication, will become available only after 4-5 years. With a view to augmenting the availability of quality seedlings of Jatropha and Karanj to farmers, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has also provided financial assistance to 9 states including Andhra Pradesh during 2005-06 for raising Jatropha and Karanj seedlings.

(b) National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board has provided an assistance of Rs. 22.81 crores to various research institutions, State Agricultural Universities and State Departments for promotion of tree borne oilseeds including Jatropha in the country during 2004 to 2006 under the scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds". This includes 75.00 lakhs to International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance to all the eligible financial institutions for financing Jatropha cultivation. Besides, NABARD has prepared and circulated Model Bankable Project on Jatropha with three different types of planting material for guidance to the financial

institutions. NABARD is also encouraging projects involving activities related to cultivation and processing of Jatropha for bio-diesel purposes.

NABARD has sanctioned a Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) loan of Rs. 30.52 crores to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for raising Jatropha and Karanj plantations in 15,000 ha of degraded forest lands covering 15 districts.

**Domestic Child Workers**

2736. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic child workers are not included in the 'Child Labour Act, 1986;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the law to include domestic child workers there in now;

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

(d) whether the Government has not ratify the ILO convention on worst forms of Child Labour (No. 182); and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Government has issued a notification under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibiting the employment of children below the age of 14 years as domestic workers or servants w.e.f. 10th October, 2006.

(d) and (e) India supported the ILO convention No. 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour at the time of its adoption as we are in agreement with the principles of the Convention. However, one of the important clauses of Convention defines child as a person up to the age of 18 years, whereas most of Indian laws, including Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 define child as a persons below the age of 14 years. On ratification of the Convention, the Government would have to amend all these acts within 12 months of ratification and therefore the said ILO convention has not been ratified. Inter-ministerial and Tripartite consultations are being held to evolve a consensus on the issue.

**Eradication of Fluorine and Arsenic in Water**

2737. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have been allocated special funds to eradicate fluorine and arsenic poison in water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Union Government is monitoring the proper utilisation funds?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to eradicate fluoride and arsenic poison in water. Ministry of Water Resources have not allocated any special funds for this purpose. However, the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply of drinking water as per the stipulated norms. In order to provide focused attention to tackle water quality problems, Sub-Mission guidelines under ARWSP have been revised in February, 2006, wherein, 20% of ARWSP funds is retained at the Centre and released to States on need-basis, after the State Government submit formal request along with the list of projects, habitation wise, sanctioned by its State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee. They have prescribed monthly reports for monitoring physical and financial progress under the above scheme.

**Water Harvesting Projects**

2738. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the quantum of rain water being harvested and utilised for different purposes in the country;

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

(c) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has issued directions to the State Governments to make it mandatory for urban dwelling units in the States to harvest roof-top rain water;

(d) if so, whether the Government have assessed the impact of these directions to the States;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the State Governments have requested the Government for additional financial assistance for rain water harvesting during the current financial year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance provided to the State Governments therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Rain water is harvested through creating surface storages and recharge to ground water by various artificial recharge structures. The percentage of rainfall recharging ground water varies from State to State depending upon the local hydrogeological conditions. The rain water harvested in each State through artificial recharge structures cannot be quantified. The recharge to ground water by various artificial recharge structures augments the ground water storage. It is not possible to separate the naturally recharged and artificially recharged ground water to assess its utilization.

(c) to (e) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purposes of regulation and control of ground water development and management has advised the Union Ministry of Urban Development and State Governments to make it mandatory to adopt roof top rain water harvesting in urban areas. Accordingly, the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

The CGWA has recently issued directions to the State/UT Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana,

Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Daman & Diu and Pondicherry to take up all measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ promote rain water harvesting in all the Over-exploited and Critical areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws. Further, the CGWA has also issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, farm Houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi where ground water table is below 8 meters from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.

(f) and (g) Department of Drinking Water Supply under the Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply of drinking water as per the stipulated norms. For taking up projects on sustainability of drinking water sources, 5% of ARWSP funds released to the States have been specifically earmarked, which included rain water harvesting structures.

During the current financial year 2006-07, no request has been received in the CGWB/Ministry of Water Resources from the State/UT Governments for financial assistance for rain water harvesting.

#### **Irrigation Projects of Orissa**

2739. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 89 dated July 24, 2006 and state:

(a) the names of irrigation projects in Orissa which received financial assistance during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme;

(b) whether Anandpur Barrage Project is one of those projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The list of irrigation projects in Orissa which have received financial assistance during 2004-05 and 2005-06 under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits

Programme (AIBP) is enclosed as statement. No Central Loan Assistance (CLA) is released till date to Orissa during 2006-07.

(b) and (c) Integrated Anandpur Barrage Project has been provided Grant of Rs. 1.4400 crore during 2005-06 under AIBP. Anandpur Barrage Project is in AIBP since 1996-97 but no CLA is released to the project during 2004-05 and 2005-06.

#### **Statement**

Name of Projects received financial assistance during 2004-05	Name of Project received financial assistance during 2005-06
1. Upper Indravati	1. Upper Indravati
2. Upper Kolab	2. Submarekha Multipurpose
	3. Rengali
	4. Integrated Anandpur Barrage
	5. Upper Kolab
	6. Titlagarh
	7. Lower Indira
	8. Lower Suktel
	9. Telengiri Irrigation Project
	10. Ret Irrigation Project
	11. 13 ongoing Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes (KBK)*

\*Koraput, Bolngir and Kalahandi (KBK).

#### **Non-Payment of Compensation of HFC and FCI Employees**

2740. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ex-employees of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) who rendered 30 years of service have not been paid their balance VSS compensation so far;

(b) if so, whether the Government has already taken decision for making payment but did not release fund so far for the same;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to make payment?

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 employees of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) who have rendered 30 years of service are entitled for payment of ex-gratia compensation as per the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises. The Department is seeking additional funds for enabling the PSU's to release the compensation as per entitlement.

#### **Development of Cow Progeny**

2741. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for the development of cow progeny;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount spent for the purpose during the last three years; and

(d) the success achieved so far as a result 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) and (c) The Government initiated the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB) in October, 2000 for genetic upgradation of bovine population in the country. Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 194.83 crores was released under the project to various States/Union Territories during the last three years upto March 2006.

(d) The achievements made under the NPCBB during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### ***Statement***

##### ***Physical achievements under the NPCBB during the last three years***

Sl.No.	Activity component	2003-2004	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Conversion/setting up of Artificial Insemination Centres to enable mobile practice	5457	6751	7221
2.	Strengthening of semen stations/ acquisition of AI bulls	5	15	13
3.	Strengthening/ establishment of semen banks	31	47	56
4.	Strengthening/ establishment of training centres	17	23	27

*[Translation]***Use of Water**

2742. SHRI RAKESH SINGH  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage caused to agricultural production during the last three years due to shortage of water;

(b) the percentage of total available water used for agricultural purpose;

(c) whether there is constant decline in the availability of water for agriculture;

(d) if so, whether there is any scheme to make farmers aware of the technique for getting maximum production with the use of minimum water; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The agricultural production in the country is largely affected by timelines distribution of rainfall. There has been a record production of 213.19 million tonnes of foodgrains during 2003-04 which declined to 198.36 million tonnes in 2004-05 due to drought in several States (Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Bihar). Estimated production for 2005-06 is 208.30 million tonnes of foodgrains (IV Advance Estimates).

(b) It has been estimated that the present utilization of water for various purposes is about 629 billion cubic meter (BCM) out of which about 524 BCM is for irrigation.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has launched a new scheme on Micro-Irrigation in January, 2006 for the promotion of water saving techniques such as sprinkler and drip systems of irrigation for getting maximum production with the optimum use of water. Under the scheme, a provision has been made for subsidy of 50% of the cost of the Micro-Irrigation system to beneficiary farmers.

*[English]***National Policy on Handling of Foodgrains**

2743. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any National Policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains have been formulated to minimise storage and transit losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines for the use of modern technology to minimise transit/storage losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise transit/storage losses of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. With a view to minimize storage and transit losses and to introduce modern technology, the Government had announced a National Policy on handling, Storage and transportation of foodgrains in June, 2000.

(b) The policy envisaged encouragement of private sector participation for development of infrastructure for integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains.

(c) and (d) The Government has initiated a pilot project through private sector participation for development of integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.

(e) The following steps are being taken by the Government to minimize transit/storage losses of foodgrains:

(i) Good quality and new gunny bags are used for packaging of foodgrains (wheat and rice).

- (ii) double line machine stitching of bags is encouraged.
- (iii) Adoption of 50 Kg bags in phased manner to avoid use of hooks for lifting of foodgrain bags.
- (iv) Tarpaulins/polythene sheets are used to collect spillage during loading and unloading of trucks/railway wagons.
- (v) Scientific code of practices including prophylactic and curative measures are adopted for the control of insect pests during storage of foodgrains to minimize storage losses.
- (vi) Inspection and monitoring of calibration of weigh bridges.
- (vii) Maintaining priority list for issue of stocks observing the First in First Out (FIFO) principle.
- (viii) Movement of foodgrains in covered wagons.
- (ix) Transit Insurance Agreement with M/s Oriental Insurance w.e.f. 20.9.2002 (for one year) for the losses arising out of transportation of foodgrains ex-North to other Zones.

#### **Method for Conducting Tiger Census**

2744. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced a new method to record the number of tigers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its accuracy in establishing the numbers;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce radio collar marking method for estimation of tigers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. 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, e.g. 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 new methodology would give 95% interval of statistical confidence of tiger population in the country. Radiotelemetry is being used for monitoring tiger demography and dispersal.

(e) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Opening of Procurement Centres**

2745. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of paddy procurement centres opened by the Food Corporation of India in the country during the last three years alongwith the locations thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to open additional paddy procurement centres in the country during the ensuing Kharif Marketing Season to prevent distress sale by the farmers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) A statement showing State-wise paddy procurement centres opened by the Food Corporation of India in the country during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) FCI/State Agencies will open sufficient number of procurement centres in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2006-07 for purchase of foodgrains of fair average quality at the Minimum Support Price near production areas keeping in view the convenience of farmers in consultation with local State Governments.

**Statement**

*State-wise number of paddy procurement centers opened by FCI during the Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2003-04 to 2005-06.*

Sl.No.	State	KMS 2003-04	KMS 2004-05	KMS 2005-06
1.	Punjab	292+156*	162+192*	159+174*
2.	Haryana	22+40*	26+38*	12+31*
3.	Rajasthan	12	12	12
4.	Delhi	2	2	2
5.	Andhra Pradesh	194	194	182
6.	Madhya Pradesh	199	226	236
7.	Bihar	98	105	119
8.	Orissa	20	96	245\$
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	4	5
10.	Assam	22	23	11
11.	Jharkhand	8	10	5
Total		1069	1090	1193

\*Jointly opened by FCI and State Agencies.

\$includes 113 purchase centers opened by FCI through NCMSL.

**Wrong Information by Private Channels**

2746. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of private channels in the country;
- (b) whether any action is taken against those channels in case they give wrong information/news; and
- (c) if so, the number of channels against which action has been taken in this regard during the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Till 30.6.2006, the Ministry has permitted 185 private

satellite TV channels to uplink from India as per uplinking guidelines. In addition to this, 65 TV channels have been provisionally permitted to downlink in India in accordance with Gazette Notification No. GSR 282 (E) dated 11.5.2006.

(b) and (c) During the last three years the Government has issued 195 Show Cause Notices against 83 private TV channels for violation of Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The details of action taken during the last three years and current year are as follows:

Channels warned and asked to run a scroll	Channels warned only	Channel taken off the air	Advisory letter issued	Total
56	23	1	2	82

*[Translation]*

#### **National Commission to Recharge Ground Water**

2747. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Commission for Recharging of Ground Water Level in States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in the direction so far?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Diversion of Agricultural Labourers**

2748. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of working labourers in the Agriculture Sector against the total work force in the country;

(b) whether any plan of action has been drawn out to divert the unemployed and under employed workforce from pure agriculture to other areas/sectors; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Estimates of employment & unemployment are obtained through quinquennial Labour force surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Last such survey for which results are available pertain to the year 1999-2000. As per this survey, percentage of work force in the agriculture sector against the total labour force in the country on usual ~~status~~ basis was around 60% during 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The strategy of the Government during the 10th Plan was to target around 8% growth per annum. This was projected to be achieved through comparatively more economic growth in the industrial and services sector compared to agricultural sector. This may lead to

absorption of excess labour of agriculture sector by non agriculture sectors.

#### **Amendment of Working Journalist Act, 1955**

2749. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation from the Association of Journalists and Non-journalist employees in TV channels and visual news agencies to Amend the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Condition of Service)) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, so as to bring them under the ambit of the Act; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Representations have been received from the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) and jointly from KUWJ and Kerala Newspaper Employees Federation (KNEF) asking for bringing Journalists and Non-Journalist employees in TV channels under the ambit of the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955.

(b) At present there is no proposal to amend the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 to include electronic media workers.

*[Translation]*

#### **Privatisation of Monitoring Stations**

2750. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to privatise the monitoring stations of the Central Pollution Control Board which are engaged in assessing air pollution round the clock;

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

(c) whether other such stations are proposed to be set up; and



(d) if so, the details thereof, location wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the constraints in the management of air quality monitoring network due to non-availability of technical and skilled manpower under present conditions, time consuming procurement procedures, purchase of spare parts from the manufacturers etc. and also to ensure good working conditions of the system, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has proposed operations of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) through public-private partnership by adoption of models such as "Operation Contract" and "Build Own and Operate (BOO) Contract".

(c) and (d) Initially, both the models are envisaged to be executed with each identified city having a pilot network of three CAAQM Stations. The Operation Contract model is envisaged to be executed in cities of Delhi, Lucknow, Bangalore and Chennai and the BOO model in another four cities.

*[English]*

#### **Funds for Poultry Farms In Karnataka**

2751. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to sanction funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms", strengthen poultry farms in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the assistance is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka had submitted proposals for strengthening poultry farms at Gangavathi and Hesarghata under the Centrally sponsored scheme, 'Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms' in the current financial year. Both the proposals have been sanctioned.

#### **Soil Testing Park**

2752. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up soil testing parks across the country to boost the agriculture production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which soil testing parks are likely to be set up across the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF 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) There is no proposal to set up soil testing parks across the country to boost the agriculture production. However, to increase the soil fertility, the Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which includes soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers including micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures, farm yard manure, green manure, compost, vermicompost, bio-fertilizers, etc.

At present, there are 551 soil testing laboratories in the country which includes 426 static and 125 mobile labs. with an annual analysing capacity of 6.75 million soil samples during 2004-05. The Govt. is also providing financial assistance for strengthening/setting up of soil testing laboratories through annual work plans of the State Governments under Macro Management Scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Fixation of SMP of Sugarcane**

2753. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

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

(a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has submitted a report regarding fixation of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for the ensuing sugar season;

(b) if so, the recommendations made therein;

(c) whether the Government is considering the said recommendations for declaration of SMP of sugarcane during the ensuing season; and

(d) the time by which the SMP is likely to be declared?

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

(b) The CACP has recommended that the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for 2006-07 sugar season be fixed at Rs. 80.25 per quintal for a basic recovery rate of 9% subject to a premium of Rs. 0.90 for every 0.1% point increase in the recover above that level.

(c) and (d) The above recommended SMP of sugarcane has been approved by the CCEA and has been announced on 14.8.2006.

*[English]*

#### **Accidents in RSP**

2754. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the frequent accidents in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP);

(b) the number of workers killed and injured in the accident during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the compensation paid to the next kith and kin of the victims during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) The number of reportable and fatal accidents during last three years and current year (upto 10th August '06) are as follows:-

Year	No. of Reportable Injury cases		No. of Fatal accidents (deaths) out of reportable accidents	
	Regular employees	Contract employees	Regular employees	Contract Employees
2003	30	2	3	1
2004	35	2	2	1
2005	37	1	2	1
2006 (upto 10th Aug' 06)	20	3	2	Nil

The main causes of accidents are:

- Rail/Road movement
- Fall from height
- Hit/press/caught by object or machines
- Burns and explosions

- Gas poisoning
- Suffocation
- Electrocution

(c) The details of monetary compensation in case of fatal accidents to regular employees during last three years are given below:

Sl.No.	Date of accident	Name	Compensation (Rs.)
1.	4.3.2003	G. Soren	407700
2.	19.5.2003	S.P. Swain	379120
3.	20.6.2003	J. Panigrahi	423580
4.	4.10.2004	Sukru Tanti	278260
5.	13.10.2004	Indrajit Pal	242100
6.	16.5.2005	P.K. Padhi	379120
7.	6.7.2005	Thomas Baria	326140
8.	25.7.2006	G.S. Panda	Under Process
9.	25.7.2006	S.K. Mishra	Under Process

In case of contract labour, the compensation is covered under Employee State Insurance (ESI) Scheme and paid by Employee State Insurance (ESI) Corporation.

#### **Quality of Foodgrains under MDM Scheme**

2755. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) the details of foodgrains supplied to the States under the Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether any complaints regarding poor quality of foodgrains being supplied to the States under the said scheme have been received by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Details of foodgrains supplied to the States under the Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme during the last three years and current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) A complaint was received from Government of Karnataka alleging that one sample collected out of rice supplied by Food Corporation of India (FCI) for Mid Day Meal Scheme, contained pesticides residue (Benzene Hexa Chloride). But it was informed by FCI, that it does not use this pesticide for storage of food grain.

(d) In order to ensure regular supply of quality food grains, Food Corporation of India has appointed a Nodal Officer for each State to interact closely with the respective State Government. The samples of foodgrains are jointly drawn and sealed by the officer of the State Governments/ Union Territories and the Food Corporation of India during the issue of stock from FCI godowns.

#### **Statement**

*Allocation of foodgrains under Mid Day Meal Scheme during 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06*

(fig. in MTs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
<b>States</b>				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	178278.25	213410.53	114099.13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5448.18	3559.68	4540.09
3.	Assam	96315.78	101627.49	92125.70
4.	Bihar	245299.91	195835.20	218070.20

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	56571.64	56571.64	53019.31
6.	Goa	1253.65	1232.80	1411.73
7.	Gujarat	60089.91	60353.38	67891.45
8.	Haryana	45871.00	46075.44	28672.99
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18445.41	17527.02	11447.25
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	22163.31	24936.45	18757.93
11.	Jharkhand	51796.21	83387.13	83103.07
12.	Karnataka	145853.18	117558.08	112863.57
13.	Kerala	43330.20	42327.08	28223.60
14.	Madhya Pradesh	165834.55	159974.50	191080.71
15.	Maharashtra	223586.84	222303.33	207809.77
16.	Manipur	8886.33	9170.85	6539.33
17.	Meghalaya	10279.54	10051.46	10038.92
18.	Mizoram	1880.84	1826.32	1837.86
19.	Nagaland	5207.94	3471.96	3762.74
20.	Orissa	123424.87	135293.02	104110.32
21.	Punjab	45490.34	43222.38	28053.43
22.	Rajasthan	168919.37	168568.22	196108.30
23.	Sikkim	1536.56	1672.04	2126.59
24.	Tamil Nadu	110598.90	86118.64	76586.73
25.	Tripura	9077.08	9160.40	9882.13
26.	Uttaranchal	15743.86	16224.08	14180.85
27.	Uttar Pradesh	491246.76	509907.48	335973.30
28.	West Bengal	305987.74	302571.85	205424.69
<b>Union Territories</b>				
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	703.58	774.09	668.25
30.	Chandigarh	977.96	974.42	1007.96
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	678.04	603.52	610.20
32.	Daman & Diu	303.26	303.74	302.94
33.	Delhi	21739.06	21564.82	20165.55
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1246.98	1064.42	879.54
<b>Total</b>		<b>2684067.03</b>	<b>26669223.46</b>	<b>2251376.11</b>

Note: Foodgrains for 2006-07 has been allocated on adhoc basis equal to the allocations made to the respective States/UTs for 2005-06.

**Pollution Control Equipment in Sugar Mills**

2756. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was made mandatory by the Union Government for all the sugar mills to install the pollution control equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of sugar mills which have not installed the said equipment so far; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government against such mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The operating sugar mills are required to install requisite pollution control equipments and provide necessary facilities to meet the notified standards laid down under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for different environmental parameters for control of pollution.

(c) and (d) A total of 49 sugar mills (3 in Karnataka, 10 in Tamilnadu, 5 in Uttaranchal, 1 each in West Bengal and Orissa, 4 in Punjab, 15 in Maharashtra, 8 in Haryana

and 2 in Uttar Pradesh) are presently not complying with the stipulated norms. Respective State Pollution Control Boards are taking necessary action for enforcement of norms.

**Funds for DD in NER**

2757. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked for commissioned royalty and in-house production for different Doordarshan Kendras in North Eastern Region (NER) for the current financial year; and

(b) the time by which the funds are likely to be released to the different Kendras in the North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the amount released by the Government so far, for the purpose, has already been disbursed to different Doordarshan Kendras.

**Statement*****Funds allocated to the different Doordarshan Kendras in the North-East for 2006-07***

(Rupees in Thousands)

Kendra	Commissioning	PPSS*	PPSS (OPA)**	Royalty	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Agartala	14500	3000	800	0	18300
Aizwal	13000	3000	800	0	16800
Dibrugarh	12400	2300	500	50	15250
Guwahati	75000	3000	800	50	78850
Imphal	13000	3200	800	0	17000
Itanagar	12200	3200	800	0	16200

1	2	3	4	5	6
Kohima	10100	2300	500	0	12900
Shillong	16100	3000	800	0	19900
Silchar	11500	2500	600	0	14600
Tura	13300	2500	600	0	16400
Gangtok	0	700	300	0	1000
PPC, Guwahati	156000	2500	500	0	159000
<b>Total</b>	<b>347100</b>	<b>31200</b>	<b>7800</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>386200</b>

\*PPSS—Payment for professional and specialized services.

\*\*OPA—Outdoor production activities.

### Permission to Telecast Foreign Channels

2758. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed the cable operators to telecast all foreign channels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of channels secured permission so far to uplink India;

(d) whether any concessions have been offered to those channels; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The Government had issued policy guidelines for downlinking of television channels on 11.11.2005 to regulate the foreign TV channels downlinking in India, which provided, inter-alia, that no cable operator or DTH service provider shall, after the expiry of 180 days from the date of this notification, carry or include in his cable/DTH network any television channel that has not been registered under these guidelines. Subsequently, a Gazette Notification No. GSR 282 (E) was issued on 11.5.2006 wherein it was provided that a cable operator may continue to carry or include in his cable service any Television broadcast of channel, who has made an

application for registration to the Central Government on or before the date of commencement of this notification, for a period of six months from the date of such commencement or till such registration has been granted to refused, whichever is earlier.

(b) In accordance with this notification, 65 TV channels uplinking from abroad have been provisionally permitted to downlink in India. The names and details of such TV channels, the aforementioned Gazette Notification and downlinking guidelines are available on the Ministry's website ([www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in)).

(c) Till 30.6.2006, the Ministry has permitted 185 private satellite TV channels to uplink from India as per uplinking guidelines.

(d) There is no provision of any concessions/relaxations or deviations under the existing downlinking or uplinking guidelines.

(e) Does not arise.

### Procurement of Palm Oil

2759. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had procured palm oil from Karnataka during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the full amount due for the said procurement has not been released so far;

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

(e) the time by which the balance 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 (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

#### **Report of Cauvery Tribunal**

2760. SHRI K.C. PALANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cauvery Tribunal has since submitted its final Report to the Union Government;

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

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

(d) the time by which it is likely to be submitted?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The report and decision of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) under Section 5 (2) of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 is reserved as per Order of CWDT dated July, 27, 2006.

#### **Bumper Crop of Paddy and Maize in A.P.**

2761. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of bumper crop of paddy and maize, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to dispose of certain quantity thereof;

(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) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India for early disposal of Maize stocks to vacate the godowns for fresh arrivals of Paddy/ Coarsegrains, etc. However, no such request has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for disposal of Paddy.

(b) and (c) Total quantity of 5.87 lakh MTs of Maize was procured by Government of Andhra Pradesh and its Agencies under price support operations. Of the total procured quantity of Coarsegrains in Andhra Pradesh, a quantity of 75,452 MTs of Maize has been allotted to the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for the period December, 2005 to November, 2006 by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India. Food Corporation of India has also been directed to dispose of 2.5 lakh MTs of Maize procured in Andhra Pradesh through tender. Further, it has been decided by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India to release 50000 MTs of Maize to state Animal Husbandry Department for the use of poultry industries. As regards the balance quantity of Maize, the Department of Food and Public Distribution has committed to release it for poultry feed at subsidized rate.

*[Translation]*

#### **Development of Disaster Management Institute, Bhopal**

2762. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal of Rs. 35.57 crore from the Government of Madhya Pradesh with regard to developing the Disaster Management Institute, Bhopal as a premier institute for managing industrial disasters and safe disposal of hazardous industrial waste during 2001;

- (b) if so, the action being taken thereon; and
- (c) the reasons for their pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The proposal for strengthening of Disaster Management Institute (DMI), Bhopal was received in the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals on 11.6.2001 from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. The proposal was examined in the Department and it was decided to include it as an agenda item for the meeting of the Group of Ministers constituted for the matters relating to the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. The proposal was considered in the meeting of the Group of Ministers held on 7th June, 2002, and it was decided that since all the matters related to Disaster Management Programmes except drought, had been brought under the control of Ministry of Home Affairs and a National Committee on Disaster Management had been constituted under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, therefore, the matter of Development of Disaster Management Institute, Bhopal could be referred to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Accordingly, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh was advised to refer the matter to the National Committee on Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

*[English]*

#### **Water Resource Projects**

2763. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government not to delay water resource projects meant basically for drinking water submitted by States for approval;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government in a bid to give credence to such directives of the Apex Court cleared such projects pending before it during the last two years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) There are no specific directions of the Supreme Court to the Ministry of Water Resources in this regard.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Funds for Promotion of Apiculture**

2764. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has allocated the funds for promotion of apiculture during 2006-07; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A statement showing state-wise allocation of funds for promotion of apiculture made by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during 2006-07 is enclosed.

#### **Statement**

##### *State-wise Allocation of Funds for Promotion of Apiculture during 2006-07*

Sl.No.	State	Allocation of Funds (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.00
3.	Assam	7.44
4.	Bihar	32.00
5.	Goa	0.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	—
7.	Delhi	2.40



1	2	3
8.	Gujarat	8.00
9.	Haryana	60.50
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—
11.	Jharkhand	300.00
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.40
13.	Karnataka	1.94
14.	Kerala	120.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4.00
16.	Maharashtra	0.00
17.	Manipur	9.00
18.	Meghalaya	16.80
19.	Mizoram	16.80
20.	Nagaland	11.40
21.	Orissa	8.00
22.	Punjab	—
23.	Rajasthan	34.98
24.	Sikkim	11.80
25.	Tamil Nadu	11.20
26.	Tripura	9.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	113.20
28.	Uttaranchal	—
29.	West Bengal	800.00
Grand Total		1593.86

*[English]***Payment to Kolkata DD by Rainbow Production**

2765. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kolkata Doordarshan has filed a case against Rainbow Production for not depositing dues of Rs. 30 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the responsible persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata had filed a case against M/s. Rainbow Production for recovery of Rs. 23,12,95,750/- including interest upto March 2006.

(c) and (d) As the matter is sub-judice, the recovery of the amount, the interest thereon and action against the responsible persons will depend on the outcome of the Court case pending before the Hon'ble Kolkata High Court.

**Amendment to Forward Contracts Regulation Act, 1952**

2766. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Forward Contracts Regulation Act, 1952 to strengthen and restructure the Forward Markets Commission;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendments;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute the Forward Market Appellate Tribunal on the lines of Security Appellate Tribunal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.3.2006. The amendments proposed in the bill mainly relate to: (i) increasing the number of Members of the Forward Markets Commission (FMC) from four to nine with up to three whole-time Members and a Chairman;

(ii) enhancing the powers of the FMC; (iii) conferring power upon FMC to recruit its officers and employees; (iv) creating FMC General Fund to which all receivables will be credited; and (v) registration of intermediaries with FMC.

(c) and (d) No Sir. It is proposed to designate the Securities Appellate Tribunal as the appellate authority for the purposes of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952.

(e) The Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006 has been referred to the Standing Committee of Parliament on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. The Report of the Committee is awaited.

#### **Allocation for Research in Consumer Safety**

2767. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any allocation has been made for research in consumer safety issues during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding research projects undertaken under the scheme?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Participation of FCI in Futures Trading**

2768. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for participation of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in futures trading for stabilization of prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee has given its recommendations for the amendment of Essential Commodities Act, 1955; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time schedule set for introduction of the said Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There is no proposal under consideration at present regarding participation of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in futures trading in the National Commodity Exchanges, for stabilization of prices.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2005 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20.12.2005. It was subsequently referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution. The Committee in its 11th Report has generally endorsed the objectives of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2005. The Committee has also recommended that the list of seven items proposed to be covered under the Amended act be re-examined and only those commodities be retained in which there is hoarding, black-marketing and shortages which can not be tackled through normal trade channels.

*[Translation]*

#### **Kickbacks in Wheat Import**

2769. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:  
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:  
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:  
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:  
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:  
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

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

(a) whether huge quantity of wheat was imported from the Australian Wheat Board (AWB) in 1998;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor indicating the quantum and price of said imports;

(c) if so, whether any allegation of irregularities and payment of commission in the said deal were received by the Government;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry was conducted in this case;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether any reports of investigation by the Australian police in this alleged pay off has been received recently;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the follow-up action taken by the Government for conducting further investigation in the said case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 26.2.1998, a contract was executed for import of 15.00 lakh MT wheat from Australia @ US\$ 142.50 per MT on FOB basis. Against this, 14.15 lakh MT wheat was received from Australia during the year 1998-99.

The Government decided to import wheat to augment its wheat availability in the country, for keeping the prices under control.

(c) to (e) The CBI registered a Preliminary Inquiry on the allegations that certain officials of the Govt. of India had committed acts of omission and commission in the procurement of 2 million MTs of wheat from the Australian Wheat Board. The inquiry could not make significant headway as the AWB official declined to share information in this regard. The preliminary inquiry was converted into a Regular Criminal case. A Letter Rogatory was sent to the Australian Government to ascertain whether any Commission or other illegal gratification had been paid to any public servant in India or any of his family members. The Australian authorities did not furnish required information despite repeated requests by the CBI. Therefore, for want of conclusive evidence the CBI filed a closure report, which was accepted on 17.01.04.

(f) and (g) There are media reports in Australia and India that the AWB was in possession of documentary evidence in October 2001 regarding payment of US \$ 2.5 millions to an unnamed account in Cayman Island in respect of this deal. This information had already been sought in the Letter Rogatory dated 28.2.2002 of the CBI but the Australian authorities did not respond on this crucial aspect.

(h) The CBI has conveyed vide its letter dated 5.6.2005 to the Indian High Commission in Australia that if the Australian authorities co-operate even at this belated stage and furnish the necessary evidence including authenticated copies of relevant documents to the CBI, the CBI would promptly examine reopening of the investigation and take the matter to its logical conclusion.

*[English]*

#### **Production of Mango**

2770. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of mango produced in the country particularly in Karnataka during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the production of mango has been doubled during the last two years because of the introduction of new high yielding variety;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make this variety available across 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) A statement showing total quantity of Mango produced in the country, State-wise including Karnataka is enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement***State-wise Production of Mango in the Country*

State	Production in 000' MT		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Andhra Pradesh	2962	3217	3135
Uttar Pradesh	4031	2100	2588
Karnataka	1098	1111	1106
Bihar	1256	1540	866
Maharashtra	618	630	634
Gujarat	495	495	729
Tamil Nadu	757	615	539
West Bengal	229	406	461
Orissa	403	405	416
Kerala	306	384	384
Others	581	586	749
<b>Total</b>	<b>12733</b>	<b>11490</b>	<b>11605</b>

Source: National Horticulture Board.

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

2771. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1955 to check indecent programmes in various TV channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps initiated to ensure the strict compliance of such amendments?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a)

and (b) In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Central Government issued a notification no. G.S.R. 459 (E) dated 2nd August 2006 by providing that in rule 6, in sub-rule (1) clause (0) the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:

"Provided that no film or film song or film promo or film trailer or music video or music albums or their promos, whether produced in India or abroad, shall be carried through cable service unless it has been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) as suitable for unrestricted public exhibition in India".

(c) All the television channels are required to strictly adhere to the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Any violation attracts action by the Government.

*[Translation]*

**Development of Drought Prone Areas**

2772. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance sought by each State for the development of agriculture in drought prone areas during the last three years and the current financial year; and

(b) the funds allocated and released for the purpose to each State 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) and (b) Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the scheme of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) in various States. According to them, DPAP is a Centrally Sponsored Programme and its implemented in identified blocks and projects in these blocks are sanctioned based on certain criteria. From 1.4.1999, the funding pattern is 75:25 between Central Government and State Governments and this applies to projects sanctioned from 1.4.1999 onwards. The objectives of the programme include (i) development of drought prone areas on watershed basis keeping in view capability of land, site conditions and local needs

and (ii) to mitigate the adverse effects of extreme climatic conditions such as drought on crops, human and livestock population for their overall improvement. Under this programme, no State-wise allocation of funds is made

and no demand is projected by the States. State-wise details of funds released under this programme during 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (so far) are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*Details of Funds Released under DPAP during 2003-04 to 2006-07*

Sl.No.	State	Funds Released During (Rs. in Lakhs)			
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (So far)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4937.40	4008.315	5381.843	1738.755
2.	Bihar	323.06	311.205	379.175	—
3.	Chhattisgarh	1329.11	1793.525	1675.184	—
4.	Gujarat	3363.14	2537.18	2911.103	738.68
5.	Himachal Pradesh	529.66	424.975	659.665	—
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	422.19	222.75	259.875	—
7.	Jharkhand	1212.34	1065.02	1555.76	—
8.	Karnataka	3215.77	2503.363	2736.05	709.60
9.	Madhya Pradesh	5021.66	5287.907	5327.917	811.025
10.	Maharashtra	1484.30	3486.26	4449.39	214.87
11.	Orissa	1045.92	1141.62	2090.76	182.825
12.	Rajasthan	1979.36	1573.775	1712.385	730.59
13.	Tamil Nadu	2401.60	2816.935	1659.958	995.535
14.	Uttaranchal	473.36	1126.485	1467.42	—
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1498.13	1456.685	2643.835	169.33
16.	West Bengal	243.00	243.00	387.68	—

*[Translation]*

**Policy for Vocational Training**

2773. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the present system of governance of vocational training is nearly four decades old;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has framed any policy at national level for vocational training;

(c) if so, the guidelines issued by the Union Government to States for the effective implementation of the national policy on vocational training;

(d) whether the Union Government has reviewed the performance of vocational training; and

(e) if so, the details thereof in physical and financial terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) Vocational training under Government of India is predominantly based upon two schemes viz. Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) and Apprenticeship Training Scheme (ATS). The Government is advised by two tripartite bodies at the Naonal level namely National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and Central apprenticeship Council (CAC) for the purpose of laying down the policies, training standards, course curriculum etc. NCVT was formed in 1956 and CAC was constituted under the Apprentices Act, 1961. These bodies are reconstituted after every 3 years.

The number of courses, course curricula, norms for affiliation etc. are reviewed from time to time. Recently, multi-skill courses enabling multi-entry and multi-exit have been introduced in the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

The training capacity in the ITIs is 7.82 lakh and 2.54 lakh under Apprenticeship Training (as on 1.1.2006). Funds for the Government ITIs is provided by the respective State/UT Governments and that for the private ITIs is by private sector.

#### **Payment of Service Tax for Commission Programmes in J&K**

2774. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether producers making commissioned programme in Jammu and Kashmir for Doordarshan do not have to pay the service tax; and

(b) 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) Prasar Bharati has informed that the provisions relating to service tax contained in Chapter V of the Finance Act 1994, as amended from time to time, do not extend to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

#### **Expansion/Turnover of R.I.N.L.**

2775. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the actual quantity and value of production/turnover made by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to expand the capacity of RNIL;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount proposed to be invested for the same; and

(d) the time by which the expansion plan would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The actual quantity and value of production/turnover made by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) during the last three years and the current year is given below:

Year	Production of Saleable Steel (million tonnes)	Turnover (Rs. crores)
2003-04	3.169	6169.08
2004-05	3.173	8181.34
2005-06	3.237	8482.44
2006-07 (1st Qtr)	0.791	1774.22

(b) to (d) The Government in October 2005 has approved the expansion plan of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) at an estimated cost of Rs. 8692 crores for increasing its liquid steel capacity from 3 million tonnes to 6.3 million tonnes per annum. The entire capital cost of the expansion plan is proposed to be met from its internal resources and partly by borrowing from financial institutions/banks. The expansion plan is under implementation and is likely to be completed by October, 2009.

#### **Eco-Industrial Estates**

2776. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Pollution Control Board has identified certain sites for the development of eco-industrial estates;

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

(c) the time by which work is likely to start thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified three sites in the State of Andhra Pradesh under the pilot phase of Eco-Industrial Estate Project with the following objectives:

- (i) Industrial development compatible to social, environmental and economic needs.
- (ii) Improved economic performance of industries and investment safety.
- (iii) Harmonious development around the estate.

The following sites have been identified under this Project:

- (i) Upcoming Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Vishakhapatnam.
  - (ii) Existing industrial areas at Nacharam near Hyderabad.
  - (iii) Existing industrial areas at Mallapur near Hyderabad.
- (c) The work on the Project has already been started with the steps initiated including—
- (i) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the CPCB, the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB), the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Co-operation Ltd. (APIIC) and the German Co-operation for Development (GTZ);
  - (ii) The Environment Status Report for the existing industrial areas of Nacharam and Mallapur prepared by the APIIC;
  - (iii) Stakeholders workshop and training programme to discuss the road map and strategy organised;
  - (iv) The Environmental Impact Assessment report for the SEZ, Visakhapatnam prepared by the APIIC.

### **Categorisation of States under AAY**

2777. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has put the States and Union Territories covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) in different categories; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

### **Wheat Scam**

2778. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Australian Wheat Board which was selected for import of wheat to India has been accused of heavy pay off to the erstwhile Iraqi Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for awarding the contract to such a company;

(c) whether the said company had earlier procured and exported huge quantity of wheat from the country particularly Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Allegations have been made of misconduct by the Australian Wheat Board in the 'Oil for Food' Programme, in Iraq.

(b) The contract has been awarded to M/s AWB, Geneva as it emerged successful in the global tender called by the State Trading Corporation. The wheat would be procured by M/s AWB, Geneva from AWB, Australia.

(c) and (d) M/s AWB, India, has purchased 41,268 MTs of wheat in 2006, from Uttar Pradesh, as per permission granted by the State Government, for sale to Domestic Millers. They have not exported wheat from the country.

#### **Social Messages by Private Channels**

2779. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make it mandatory for private channels to air social messages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a code of conducts for private channels in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government constituted a Committee to review the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder and the Guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The Committee has been given a mandate to prepare a draft Broadcast Code which includes the issue of airing social messages. The Committee has not yet finalized its report.

*[English]*

#### **Subsidy on Foodgrains**

2780. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether food subsidy is being provided to ensure food security to the poor people;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to restrict the provision of food subsidy only for foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the items to be excluded from the purview of subsidised Public Distribution System (PDS) alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to include coarse grains for distribution under PDS; and

(e) the manner in which the norms for the variety of coarse grains to be included under PDS are proposed to be fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Food subsidy is provided for foodgrains which are issued to State Government under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes of the Government to ensure food security to the poor. There is no proposal to exclude any of the existing items distributed under the TPDS.

(d) and (e) In order to encourage the consumption of coarsegrains under TPDS in lieu of wheat/rice, Government is making available coarsegrains at Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of 50% of the economic cost in the case of BPL families, 70% of the economic cost for APL families and Rs. 200/- per quintal in the case of AAY families.

#### **Revision of Rates of Video Programmes**

2781. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the rates of production of video-programmes during the last three years by the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.



### **Development of Modern Warehouses**

2782. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to develop modern warehousing infrastructure across the country;

(b) if so, the locations identified and the amount earmarked therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the new warehousing infrastructure is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Development of modern warehousing infrastructure is an on-going policy of the Government. It consists in construction, establishment and maintenance of warehouses with latest available technology, scientifically as per prescribed standards which have been evolved keeping in view specific storage requirements and prevailing climatic conditions. Towards this end, the Government has approved the National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of foodgrains in June 2000 under which integrated bulk handling, storage and transportation facilities are to be created at identified locations through private sector participation on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.

(b) The locations finalized under the BOO Scheme are as follows:

The base depots are to be located at Moga and Kaithal and the field depots for these are at Chennai/Coimbatore/Bangalore and Navi Mumbai/Hoogli, respectively. Since the project is to be implemented through private sector participation, there is no need to earmark any amount, State-wise.

(c) The BOO Project is to be implemented in 36 months from the date of signing of service agreement on 28th June, 2005.

### **Production and Consumption of Garlic**

2783. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is importing garlic inspite of its good yield in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the gap between production and consumption of garlic in the country; and

(d) the step being taken by the Government for increasing the yield of garlic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government has imported 2821 MT garlic fresh during 2005-06 (April, 2005 to February, 2006) to meet the essential requirements of exports, consumption, growth and development.

(c) The garlic production during the year 2005-06 was around 5.62 lakhs MT, which was around 9-10% less compared to previous year's production of around 6.19 lakhs M.T. The less production was mainly due to drought/less rains in MP which is one of the major garlic producing states. The gap between production and consumption estimated to be around 15,000 MT as per the assumptions that 35% consume garlic @ 3.0 gram per person per day and considering 15% storage losses and around 0.90 lakhs MT for seed and dehydration purpose.

(d) For enhancing horticulture production including garlic, two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Technology Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States, are being implemented in the country wherein quality seed of garlic are provided to the farmers alongwith technical guidance to the garlic growers through extension programmes, which help in enhancement of garlic productivity.

*[Translation]*

### **Shortage of Technically Trained Personnel**

2784. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of technically trained personnel in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to run training programme so as to ensure the availability to technically trained personnel on regular basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) M/o Labour and Employment is not aware of any shortage of technically trained persons. However, in the context of globalization and economic liberalization skill level of the workers require upgradation.

(c) and (d) Various institutions in public and private sectors are engaged in imparting skill training to the new entrants to the labour force at different level to ensure the availability of technically trained personnel on regular basis.

*[English]*

#### **Wildlife Research**

2785. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether wildlife research, monitoring and training component of the Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries scheme has not received due emphasis;

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

(c) whether the Government had reviewed the scheme in the initial phase of Ninth Plan period;

(d) if so, the shortcoming noticed in the implementation of said scheme; and

(e) the steps proposed/taken to rectify the deficiency during the Tenth Five Year Plan period and the result achieved in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the contrary, wildlife research, monitoring and training components have been given due emphasis and importance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries". On the basis of the proposals submitted by the State Government in the form of Annual Plan of Operation, technical and financial assistance are provided

to the States for supporting wildlife research, monitoring and training.

(c) At the end of the Eighth Plan, the scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" was evaluated by five organizations, namely:

1. MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai
2. Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal
3. Development Alternatives, New Delhi
4. Indian Society of Wildlife Research, Calcutta
5. GEER Foundation, Gujarat.

(d) These were no major shortcomings noticed in the implementation of the said scheme. Instead, the evaluation teams had recommended for continuation of the scheme with enhanced funding.

(e) On the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments and subject to the availability of funds, assistance under the scheme has been extended to activities like procuring modern communication equipments, capacity building and training of staff, focused wildlife research and monitoring, improved infrastructure etc. This has led to a better understanding about the biodiversity and management of Protected Areas.

#### **Electronic Media Monitoring Centre**

2786. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up electronic media monitoring centre to monitor TV channels;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project and the amount released for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to set up Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) for content monitoring of private television channels and to check

the violations of Programme and Advertisement Codes prescribed in Cable Television Networks (Regulations), Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

(b) The total cost of the project is Rs. 11.65 crores out of which Rs. 2.90 crores has already been released.

(c) The project of EMMC is likely to commence in 2007, subject to availability of funds and other infrastructural requirements.

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MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 22nd August, 2006 at 11 a.m.

11.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 22, 2006/  
Savana 31, 1928 (Saka).*

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