

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, May 22, 2006/Jyaishtha 01, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Loss of lives in terrorist attack

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Members are aware, on 21 May, 2006, seven persons reportedly lost their lives and several were injured when terrorists hurled a grenade and fired indiscriminately on a rally at *Sher-e-Kashmir* Park in Srinagar. The House strongly condemns this cowardly act of violence. The House is of the firm view that such desperate acts of violence would in no way effect the ongoing endeavours for restoring peace in the Valley.

Let us take this opportunity to reiterate our resolve to eradicate the malaise of terrorism and rededicate ourselves to work for a lasting peace in Kashmir. We deeply mourn the loss of lives in this tragedy. The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the departed.

11.01 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have suppressed corruption in these two years...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: One of you may speak. I will hear your leader.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for suspending the Question Hour ...*(Interruptions)* On the one hand the achievement of the Governments in these two years are being harped on. I charge that corruptions has been supined up and abeted in there two years....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise it at the proper time, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadavji.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed Adjournment Motion.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue...*(Interruptions)* Nothing except abeting corruption has been done in these two years ...*(Interruptions)*

11.01½ hrs.

(As this stage, Shri Rajnarayan Budholia and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadavji, I will allow you to raise it after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal to you. I appeal to all the Leaders let the Question Hour function. Then, you raise it. I am not stopping any matter being raised.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please raise this issue at 12 O'clock.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing of whoever speaks is going on record.

[English]

Do not record it.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: There are so many important subjects. I have allowed them for discussion. If you do not want to discuss, tell us. There are important issues to be discussed. Notices have been given by you for discussion of various important issues. I am prepared to hear you. After the Question Hour, we shall listen to you. There is no difficulty for me to allow it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: It seems that some of the hon. Members are not prepared to let the House run.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Labour Force

*522. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the labour force available in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of labour force in the country at present out of the total population;

(c) the estimated percentage of labour force out of it engaged in agriculture, industry and service sectors;

(d) the facilities available to the labourers engaged in agriculture sector at present; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to improve the conditions of the agricultural labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Reliable estimates of labour force in the country are obtained through quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such quinquennial survey for which results are available was conducted during 1999-2000. As per this survey, percentage of population in the labour force was around 40.6% as per usual status approach. Percentage of employment in agriculture, industry and services sector was around 60%, 17% and 23% respectively.

(d) The Government have initiated several measures for the welfare of the labourers in the unorganized sector including agricultural labourers. Various labour laws like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen compensation Act, 1923; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Inter-State Migrant workmen (RECS) Act, 1979 etc. are applicable to these labourers.

The Government is implementing various welfare and employment oriented schemes and programmes through various Ministries/Departments for the rural poor including agricultural labourers. Some of such schemes are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana etc.

Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which provides for 100 days of employment every year to every household in the rural area. This will supplement the income of the labourers for their better livelihood.

There are schemes like Janshree Bima Yojana for persons below and marginally above the poverty line. The redesigned Universal Health Insurance Scheme provides health insurance for the persons living below poverty line.

(e) National Commission for enterprises in the unorganized sector headed by Prof. Arjun Sengupta has looked into social security measures for the unorganized

* Not recorded.

workers including agriculture labourers and submitted report to the Prime Minister.

Procurement of Foodgrains

*523. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

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

(a) the total quantum of foodgrains procured from the farmers during the last three years and the current year alongwith the price at which the said foodgrains were procured, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains including rice estimated and actually procured during 2005-06 and 2006-07 so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the current procurement is as per the estimates;

(d) the details of foodgrains released both in the open market and for welfare schemes during the said period alongwith the price thereof;

(e) whether the Government has made any review of foodgrain procurement procedure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The quantum of foodgrains procured in the last three years and in the current year are given in statement-I and II. The prices at which these foodgrains were procured are given in statement-III.

(b) The quantum of foodgrains estimated and actually procured during 2005-06 and 2006-07 so far, are given at statement-IV and V.

(c) The procurement of paddy/rice in KMS 2005-06 is more than the estimates. However, procurement of wheat in RMS 2006-07 is less than the estimates.

(d) Foodgrains released under TPDS, welfare scheme and Open Market Sales Schemes (OMSS) from 2003-04 to 2005-06 is indicated in statement-VI. Foodgrains under welfare schemes are issued at BPL rates except under SGRY, and the Village Grain Bank Scheme for which supply is made to beneficiaries "free of cost".

Prices of wheat under OMSS are basically fixed on a quarterly basis, keeping in view the acquisition cost and freight. These prices are fixed crop-year-wise and vary from region to region. The prices of wheat under OMSS for the crop year 2005-06 for the quarter January to March, 2006 ranged between Rs. 825 to 966 per quintal. Rice is generally sold under OMSS through tender.

(e) and (f) The Government continuously reviews the procurement operation to ensure that price support operations are made active.

Statement-I

Procurement of Rice and Coarsegrains

(In 000 tonnes)

State/U.T.	2002-03			2003-04		
	Rice	C. Grains	Total	Rice	C. Grains	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	Neg.	—	Neg.
Andhra Pradesh	2635	4	2639	4230	277	4507

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	—	17	—	17
Bihar	158	—	158	363	1	364
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	1291	—	1291	2374	3	2377
Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	1	1
Haryana	1325	—	1325	1334	199	1533
Himachal Pradesh	7	—	7	3	—	3
Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	2	—	2
Karnataka	—	1	1	—	16	16
Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	159	3	162	112	21	133
Maharashtra	152	52	204	308	60	368
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	890	—	890	1373	—	1373
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	7939	—	7939	8662	—	8662
Rajasthan	41	—	41	41	73	114
Tamil Nadu	107	—	107	207	—	207
Uttar Pradesh	1360	—	1360	2554	—	2554
Uttaranchal	232	—	232	323	—	323
West Bengal	126	—	126	925	—	925
Total	16422	60	16482	22828	651	23479

Neg.—Below 500 tonnes.

Procurement of Rice and Coarsegrains

(In 000 tonnes)

State/U.T.	2004-05			20005-06*		
	Rice	C. Grains	Total	Rice	C. Grains	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	—	1	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	3906	223	4129	3056	510	3566
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	Neg.	—	Neg.	1	—	1
Bihar	343	—	343	735	—	735
Chandigarh	19	—	19	13	—	13
Chhattisgarh	2837	11	2848	2885	9	2894
Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	1662	130	1792	2040	5	2045
Himachal Pradesh	2	—	2	—	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	1	—	1	3	—	3
Jharkhand	1	—	1	2	—	2
Karnataka	21	429	450	48	443	491
Kerala	33	—	33	91	—	91
Madhya Pradesh	42	2	44	131	3	134
Maharashtra	205	31	236	167	97	264
Nagaland	11	—	11	—	—	—
Orissa	1590	—	1590	1173	—	1173
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	9106	Neg.	9106	8837	—	8837

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	22	—	22	23	—	23
Tamil Nadu	652	—	652	732	—	732
Uttar Pradesh	2971	—	2971	2805	—	2805
Uttaranchal	316	—	316	324	—	324
West Bengal	944	—	944	1177	—	1177
Total	24685	826	25511	24243	1067	25310

Neg.—Below 500 tonnes.

*Position as on 15-05-2006.

Statement-II

Procurement of Wheat

(In 000 tonnes)

State/U.T.	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	—	—
Bihar	1	15	1	—
Chandigarh	Neg.	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	Neg.	Neg.	—	—
Delhi	12	2	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—
Haryana	5122	5115	4529	2228
Himachal Pradesh	1	Neg.	Neg.	—
Jammu and Kashmir	—	Neg.	Neg.	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	188	349	484	Neg.
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
Punjab	8938	9240	9010	6927
Rajasthan	259	279	159	2
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	1213	1741	560	36
Uttaranchal	67	54	40	Neg.
West Bengal	—	—	—	—
Total	15801	16795	14785	9193

Neg.—Below 500 tonnes.

*Position as on 15-05-2006.

Statement-III**Minimum Support/Procurement Price of
Wheat and Barley**

		(Rs. per qtl.)
RMS	Wheat	Coarsegrains (Barley)
2003-04	620#	500#
2004-05	630	525
2005-06	640	540
2006-07	650*	550

*does not include incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal.

#includes special drought relief price of Rs. 10 per qtl. for wheat and Rs. 5 per quintal for Barley.

**Minimum Support/Procurement Price of
Paddy/Coarsegrains**

(Rs. per qtl.)

	RMS	Paddy	Coarsegrains*
		Common	Grade 'A'
2002-03	530=	560=	500
2003-04	550	580	505
2004-05	560	590	515
2005-06	570	600	525

=includes special drought relief price of Rs. 20 for paddy, Rs. 10 for Bajra and Rs. 5 for Jawar/Maize/Ragi.

*includes Jawar, Bajra, Maize and Ragi.

Statement-IV**Estimated and Actual Procurement of Rice**

(In 000 tonnes)

State/U.T.	KMS 2005-06	
	Estimated Procurement	Actual Procurement
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.10	—
Andhra Pradesh	37.13	32.06
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
Assam	0.84	0.01
Bihar	2.34	7.64
Chandigarh	—	0.13
Chhattisgarh	26.10	29.03
Delhi	—	—
Gujarat	—	—
Haryana	15.72	20.40
Himachal Pradesh	0.05	—

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir	0.16	0.03
Jharkhand	0.13	0.02
Karnataka	1.84	0.48
Kerala	1.61	0.91
Madhya Pradesh	1.34	1.31
Maharashtra	2.17	1.67
Nagaland	0.18	—
Orissa	12.35	11.89
Pondicherry	—	—
Punjab	82.00	88.37
Rajasthan	0.33	0.23
Tamil Nadu	6.70	7.34
Uttar Pradesh	26.70	28.10
Uttaranchal	3.34	3.25
West Bengal	8.94	12.06
Total	230.07	244.93

Neg.—Below 1000 tonnes.

Actual Procurement upto 18-05-2006.

Statement-V**Estimated and Actual Procurement of Wheat**

State/U.T.	RMS 2005-06		RMS 2006-07	
	Estimated Procurement	Actual Procurement	Estimated Procurement	Actual Procurement*
1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	96.00	90.10	85.00	69.39
Haryana	52.00	45.29	42.00	22.29

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	20.00	5.60	25.00	0.38
Uttaranchal	1.50	0.40	1.00	Neg.
Madhya Pradesh	4.00	4.84	5.00	Neg.
Gujarat	1.00	—	—	—
Rajasthan	3.00	1.59	2.00	0.02
Bihar	2.00	0.01	2.00	—
Jharkhand	0.05	—	—	—
Delhi	0.45	0.02	0.02	—
Jammu and Kashmir	—	Neg.	0.05	—
Total	180.00	147.85	162.07	92.08

Neg.—Below 1000 tonnes.

*Position as on 18-05-2006.

Statement-VI

*The Releases Under TPDS, Other Welfare Schemes and OMSS
During 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 areas as under*

(In lakh Tonnes)

Offtake Under	2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
TPDS	132.67	106.63	238.48	164.64	128.90	293.54	191.56	120.38	311.94
Welfare Schemes*	114.37	75.16	189.53	64.46	39.20	103.66	57.01	36.94	93.95
Open Sale	4.04	9.25	13.29	0.08	2.39	2.47	0.20	10.49	10.69
G. Total	251.08	191.04	441.30	229.18	170.49	399.67	248.77	167.81	416.58

*Offtake includes lifting against backlog quota.

Sharing of Telecast Rights

*524. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government regarding mandatory sharing of terrestrial telecast rights of sporting events of national importance by the rights holders with Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Government has issued an order on 5th April, 2006 identifying such events in pursuance of policy guidelines for downlinking of television channels issued on 11th November, 2005. As per Para 5.2 of the downlinking guidelines, in case of cricket events these shall include all matches featuring India and the finals and semi-finals of International events (A copy of extracts of Para 5.2 of guidelines is given at statement-I.

(c) A copy of the order is placed at statement-II.

Statement-I

Policy Guidelines for Downlinking of Television Channels

5. Basic Conditions/Obligations

5.1 The Company permitted to downlink registered channels shall comply with the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

5.2 The sports channels/sports rights management companies having TV broadcasting rights shall with immediate effect share their feed with Prasar Bharati for national and international sporting events of national importance, held in India or abroad, for terrestrial transmission and DTH broadcasting (free-to-air) under the following conditions:—

5.2.1 The events of national importance shall be determined by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in consultation with Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Prasar Bharati and the concerned sports channels/sports rights management companies. In case of cricket events, there shall include all matches featuring India and the finals and semi-finals of international competitions.

5.2.2 The above conditions shall apply to all future events including those covered by existing contracts of broadcasting rights. However, in the case of cricket events whose broadcasting rights have been obtained by sports channels/rights management companies prior to the issue of the notification in the matter, the rights holders will be obliged to share the feed for all matches featuring India and finals of international competitions.

5.2.3 Prasar Bharati shall transmit the feed, free to air, on its terrestrial channel and carried through the terrestrial network and/or the satellite/DTH mode.

5.2.4 The marketing of the event's rights (terrestrial as well as satellite/DTH) will be decided through mutual negotiations between Prasar Bharati and the rights holder. The marketing rights should go to the party, which offered to maximize the revenue.

5.2.5 Revenue sharing formula of 75:25 in favour of rights holders without any minimum guarantee/opportunity cost should be applied.

In the event of any dispute, the matter shall be referred to an arbitrator to be appointed by Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice out of the approved panel of arbitrators.

Statement-II

No. 603/1/2005-BC-I

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

ए-विंग, शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001

'A' Wing Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 5th April 2006

ORDER

1. In pursuance of para 5.2 of the policy guidelines for downlinking of television channels issued vide notice no. 13/2/2002-BP and L/BC-IV dated 11th November, 2005 and after consultations with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Prasar Bharati and the Sports Channels and Sports Rights Holders Companies, it is hereby

ordered that live feeds, without any advertisements of the sports channel/sports rights holder, of following sporting events of national importance held in India or abroad are required to be shared with Prasar Bharati with immediate effect by sports channels/sports management companies having television broadcasting rights for broadcast on their terrestrial and DTH networks:—

A. International events

Sumer Olympics

Winter Olympics

Commonwealth Games

Asian Games

Afro-Asian Games

B. (i) Tennis:

- (a) Davis Cup—All matches featuring India and semi-final/final matches.
- (b) Grand Slam Tournaments—finals of all tournaments i.e. Men's single, Women's single, mixed doubles, Men's double, Women's doubles. Further that if an Indian plays then all matches featuring him/her in quarter-final and above.
- (c) WTA Championships—Same as for Grand Slam tournaments.

(ii) Hockey:

- (a) World Cup—All matches featuring India and semi-finals and finals.
- (b) Champions Trophy—All matches featuring India and finals.
- (c) Beighton Cup—Semifinals and final.
- (d) Indira Gandhi Gold Cup for Women—Semifinals and finals.

(iii) Football:

- (a) World Cup—Semi-finals and finals.
- (b) European Cup—Semi-finals and finals.

- (c) Asia Cup—All matches featuring India and semi-finals and finals.
- (d) Subroto Cup—Semi-finals and finals.
- (e) Santosh Trophy—Semi-finals and finals.
- (f) Federation Cup—Semi-finals and finals.
- (g) Durand Cup—Semi-finals and finals.
- (h) National Women Football Championship—Semi-finals and finals.
- (i) Junior National Football Championship—Semi-finals and finals.

(iv) Chess:

- (a) World Championship—Finals of the championship and all games featuring an Indian players in quarter finals and above.
- (b) Chess Olympiad—Finals of the championship and all games featuring an Indian players in quarter finals and above.

(v) World Championships in Billiard and Snooker:

- (1) Finals of the championships and all games featuring an Indian player in quarter finals and above.
- (2) The events in the list shall be firm for five years from the date of issue of this order.
- (3) In case an event mentioned in the list is not telecast by Doordarshan (except for reasons beyond its control) the event would be considered for deletion in the next annual review, after giving an opportunity to Doordarshan to explain their position.
- (4) The Ministry shall annually review the implementation of this order and consider new proposals, if any.

(Seema Jere Bisht)
Director (BC)
Tel: 2338 1863

**Recommendations of National
Forest Commission**

*525. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as per the present requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Forest Commission (NFC) has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made; and

(e) the follow-up action taken so far/likely 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, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The National Forest Commission has submitted its report on 28-3-2006.

(d) There are 360 recommendations made by the National Forest Commission, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) A committee has been set up in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India to examine areas on which action is needed.

Statement

*Recommendations of the National
Forest Commission*

- [1] Forests should be classified on the basis of their status, such as pristine, climax, managed and degraded forests. There is a need to undertake scientific research to assess the optimum forest/tree cover in a given area

according to the forest type and topography to meet the intended objectives. The quality of the forest should also be classified as 'open forest', 'dense forests' and 'very dense forests' and the rest may be in the form of grassland, glacier, desert, etc. Extent of forest cover in recorded forest boundaries needs to be separated from tree cover due to plantations of species such as coffee, tea, apple, mango, palm, orange, etc., as well as to exotics like lantana.

- [2] The National Forests Commission endorses the recommendation of the Forest Policy of 1988 that one-third of the landmass of India should be under tree cover, with 60% in the Himalaya.
- [3] The Commission is on the considered view that there is no need to amend the 1988 Forest Policy. The recommendations made by the National Forest Commission can be adopted within the broad framework of the existing Forest Policy of 1988.
- [4] Within the broad parameters of the National Forest Policy, each State should have its own forest policy statement, for the sustainable management of its forest and wildlife resources.
- [5] Making provisions in a National Forest Policy/ State Forest Policy statement cannot achieve the desired results unless these are properly implemented. A mechanism needs to be put in place at the Ministry of Environment and Forests and State levels to monitor implementation of forest policy provisions and suggest rectifications.
- [6] The Indian Forest Act, 1927, needs revamping, taking into account current requirements, inter alia:—
- (a) The revised version must give emphasis to the conservation of forestlands and not only forest alone. It must address itself to the ecology, biodiversity and overall

significance of forests including grasslands and wetlands and to forests as a biotic community and as a life-supporting factor to the local communities and to the populace downstream.

- (b) The term 'forest' needs to be defined for the purpose of the Act.
- (c) Non-timber Forest Products need to be defined.
- (d) Bamboo, including ringal and cane must be included in minor forest produce and excluded from 'tree', under Sec. 2 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- (e) There needs to be greater control over unsustainable biotic pressures—especially over grazing and tendu leaves, sal seed and fuelwood extraction.
- (f) Powers of summary eviction of encroachment may be vested with the local Divisional Forest Officer. 341.
- (g) Limits of penalties prescribed under the various sections of the Act be raised and there need to be more warrant cases.
- (h) Responsibility of prevention and control of fire needs to be fixed upon those responsible for the management of the forest concerned and punishments for non-compliance, have to be provided for and should be stringent.
- (i) Forest officers should be given the power of confiscation, including of vehicles used for illegal purposes under the Act.
- (j) A Central Board for Forestry with adequate functions and powers be set up.
- (k) Indigenous knowledge of the forest communities and their intellectual property rights in this regard need to be safeguarded.

[7] Felling regulations on private lands may be

restricted to 'Highly Restricted Tree Species', meaning such endangered and valuable tree species which are almost entirely found in forest areas. Some examples are sandalwood, red sanders, rosewood, khair, sal, deodar, bhojpatra, taxus, *Quercus semicarpifolia*.

- [8] Transit rules/regulations are preventive tools for forest protection and should continue on such highly restricted and endangered tree species only and there should be no restriction and regulation on the felling and removal of other trees planted on private holdings.
- [9] Under the Land Ceiling Act, no land ceiling shall be imposed on land under plantation of forest tree species. This will motivate the corporate sector and big farmers to invest in plantations.
- [10] As regards saw milling regulations/rules,
 - (a) The state government should assess the demand and supply of wood.
 - (b) The working capacity of the sawmills should be assessed by the respective State Government.
 - (c) The number of licenses should be based on the legal and ecologically sustainable timber supply and the working capacity of the sawmills.
- [11] In respect of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, no agency has been identified for the implementation of this Act. The implementing agency may be the Forest Department (FD), in coordination with other agencies, in areas under the control of the FD.
- [12] With respect to the Environment Protection Act, 1986, no agency has been identified for the implementation of this Act at the field level. The Forest department may be considered as an implementing agency for this Act in areas under its control. It may coordinate its efforts with those of other agencies.

- [13] The Forest Conservation Act, 1980, serves its purpose only in its existing stringent form. It may not be diluted or made less effective.
- [14] In respect of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002,
- List of endangered species in different schedules needs to be periodically reviewed.
 - Species may be added or deleted to the list on the basis of review.
 - Rules for community reserves and Conservation Reserves need to be framed.
- [15] As a statewide application may not be feasible to implement, it is recommended that specific crucial grasslands be selected for effective conservation, as part of the protected area network, or as a part of watershed management under the Environment Protection Act. Grazing would have to be regulated and fires prevented. Each area must have prescribed management practices, the emphasis being on harvesting grass rather than grazing it, which would result in augmentation of both the generation of grass as well as its nutrition value.
- [16] A policy should be formulated to regulate inter-state movement of livestock to enable the States to control grazing pressure on eco-sensitive areas.
- [17] The animal husbandry departments should relate the number of goats and sheep to the availability of natural fodder especially in such areas where these animals could cause further degradation to natural ecosystems.
- [18] Efforts be enhanced to improve cattle quality, as it is proven that improved varieties tend to be stall-fed and sent less to free-graze on rangelands.
- [19] The provision of a sustainable supply of fuel be undertaken by a newly created Fuelwood

Mission. Not only will this mitigate the drudgery of millions of women who have no option but to forage for every possible scrap of fuel, but also will reduce pressure on trees and shrubs whereby our remaining forest and trees will be well-protected. This can be started initially with a phased programme in and around forests and protected areas.

- [20] Alternative sources of fuel, especially liquid petroleum gas [LPG] connections, need to be provided to rural areas in and around forests. Solar energy also needs to be given a much greater impetus, especially in the mountainous and other areas where energy needs are greater and the sunshine available for a greater number of days in a year.
- [21] The sale of fuelwood head loads from forests by individual sellers must stop. Head loads should only be permitted for bonafide personal use of the local communities, as earlier. The forest departments should bring out fuelwood to depots and supply wood to those who are the current head loader-seller and who derive their livelihood from such sale, at subsidized/no loss basis, rather than the head-loaders being allowed to go into the forest.
- [22] In the interest of the survival of the land, people, forests and the practice of shifting cultivation itself, jhum be regulated to a more sustainable level. This can only be achieved by the State Governments themselves, with active assistance of the Government of India.
- [23] Some young members of the present generation of tribals are not keen to continue with jhum in many areas, and jhuming itself is becoming less and less remunerative. People are looking for alternatives like settled agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry, which must be extended to them forthwith. Recommendations made to wean away the 'jhumias' of the Northeastern states under Chapter 10, would also apply here as well.
- [24] The main objective of forest management

should be ecological security. For assessing the effectiveness of forests in contributing to ecological security on the basis of a number of parameters and paradigms such as volume of growing stock, biodiversity, health of forest soil, soil moisture, hydrology, carbon sequestration and crown density, the scope of work of the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun should be expanded and adequate infrastructure be provided for this purpose. Monitoring of ecological security should be done at five year's interval and a national level report should be published by the FSI. In addition, the FSI should undertake research required to conduct necessary forest surveys and assessments.

- [25] In order to ensure that forests meet the emerging and increasing needs of society, their conservation and management on scientific principles to enhance their ecological contribution and to increase their productivity, is necessary. A wellconserved and managed forest is very efficient in ensuring ecological security. For intensively and sustainably conserving and managing forests and improving their productivity, required resources, both physical and financial, should be made available in accordance with the provisions of the approved Working Plans.

- [26] Perhaps the most important contributions that the Central and State Governments can make to achieve the above objective, is to give forest conservation unstinted political support, without which financial and infrastructural support, crucial though they are, will not achieve the objective.

- [27] The future challenge to the forestry sector in India is to create an enabling environment to facilitate assessment, monitoring and reporting on national level criteria and indicators. These should be assessed periodically, through a set of simple formats to assess changes. Sustainable forest management (SFM) and its threshold also need to be defined.

- [28] There should be appropriate rural development and animal husbandry policies and projects to address issues of grazing and fodder for cattle. The grazing requirements of livestock of villages located in and around forests (within five kilometers), should be addressed within the carrying capacity of forest areas. The practice of unregulated grazing should gradually be replaced by stall-feeding.

- [29] The medicinal plants growing in forest areas play a very important role in primary health care of neighbouring communities who do not have access to hospitals or cannot afford to buy costly medicines. Besides, the knowledge of these medicinal plants is an intellectual property right of the forest dwellers, which must not be allowed to be lost. Special programmes should be undertaken by the State Forest Departments to conserve, manage, scientifically harvest and sustainably utilize medicinal plants found in forest areas. This endeavour, however, should not involve the removal of any forest cover, nor put at risk forests or forest ecology, either in propagation of medicinal plants or in their harvesting or removal.

- [30] Forests must play an important role in the sustenance of forest-dependent communities, especially the tribals, living in and around forests. While assessing the results of past systems of forest management in the Working Plans, the contribution of forests in sustenance of forest-dependent communities should also be assessed and recorded while revising the plans. The Working Plan prescriptions should clearly prescribe measures to enhance the contribution of.

- [31] For about two-third of the country's rural population living in areas where there are no forests, fuelwood demand should be met from agroforestry and farm forestry supplemented by agricultural 'wastes', biogas, liquid petroleum gas, solar energy, etc. There needs to be a very clear policy that each land owning

family in rural areas should grow sufficient number of trees on its land to meet its fuelwood requirement. It can be dovetailed with the agriculture policy in India wherein emphasis should be given to raising fuelwood for domestic needs, on private, communal and wastelands.

- [32] Approximately 1.73 lakh forest fringe villages/habitations, which are within and on the forest fringe, should be given special attention to provide substitution to wean them away from dependence on fuelwood. In this context a special programme could be developed to provide alternate energy, such as liquid petroleum gas, solar energy, biogas, etc.
- [33] The sale of fuelwood by individuals must be stopped. Persons requiring the fuelwood could obtain their requirement as per the norms of Joint Forest Management (JFM)/Gram Van based on sustainable use, but only the Forest Department (FD) should be permitted to extract fuelwood from the forest for sale, which should be on no loss no profit basis. Wherever FD is unable to provide this facility, it could be entrusted to the concerned JFM institution/Gram Van.
- [34] Attainment of self-sufficiency in forest products should be an important goal at state and national levels. For assessing country's self-sufficiency in forest products, database of demand and supply should be created and regularly updated at the state and national levels. At the time of formulation of five-year plans, strategies to meet forest product demands should be critically analyzed and appropriate programmes prepared and implemented to achieve this goal.
- [35] Joint Forest Management/Gram Van, particularly that which concerns areas undergoing significant demographic impact, involves a special approach and mindset. This presages specializations and training where sociological issues would be as important as

the technological requirement for tree propagation. Such specialization and training, therefore, needs to be adopted.

- [36] The objectives of management for Joint Forest Management (JFM)/Gram Van need to be revised and clearly stated to broadly include restoration and development of degraded forest areas in order to meet demands for fuelwood, fodder and small timber and also to contribute towards poverty alleviation. It must also be clearly understood by all parties that JFM is a social contract and that benefits and rights would only accrue if the people fulfil their obligations and duties.
- [37] The assistance of appropriate non-government organisations and Gram Sabhas/Panchayats, etc., should be taken in the afforestation activity.
- [38] Tree planting in open areas along railway lines, canals and roads, must be undertaken and adequate funds for both tree planting and their maintenance be provided for by the departments concerned. Assistance in tree planting may be acquired from the concerned State Forest Departments wherever required.
- [39] Urban population needs to have access to areas of nature and wilderness. Towns and cities may be encouraged to adopt suitable areas available near by, where areas where they can have communion with nature and at the same time forest and wilderness in the proximity of urban habitation could be nurtured and preserved.
- [40] The concerned municipal authorities need to prepare master plans for parks and green belts, selecting site-specific plant species for propagation. Cooperation of the State Forest Departments may be required in this regard.
- [41] Appropriate flowering and shade tree seedlings should also be made available to private house owners.
- [42] Management plans need to be prepared for

tracts holding substantial natural vegetation and vested with the military, paramilitary and police and the overall authority in charge of management assigned. The effort should be to both preserve as well as propagate natural vegetation and wildlife in so far as these do not affect the functions of the area.

- [43] If any forest/habitat linkages with other natural vegetation growth/forest area exist outside of these properties of the army, paramilitary and police, that continuity should be maintained by the authority in charge of that area.
- [44] If any harvesting of forest produce is to be done from the areas with the army, etc., any surplus should not be sold in the open market, but first offered to the neighbouring people to cut and carry away, under the supervision of the officer in charge.
- [45] The State Forest Departments should cooperate with the officers in charge of these areas to both preserve and augment their natural resources.
- [46] A number of forest areas have been declared protected areas as wildlife sanctuaries and national parks to conserve endangered wild animals, but not much thought has been given to identify and declare forest areas as protected areas, which are rich in plant diversity. Areas having populations of endemic and endangered plant species should also be declared as protected areas and all the forest sub-types of India should be covered in the network of such protected areas.
- [47] Water is one of the most important factors in increasing productivity and forests play an important role in maintaining sustained supply of water in the rivers and streams for irrigation, drinking, industrial and various other uses. Hence special emphasis should be given on water conservation and water harvesting, which can improve productivity substantially and will help in making more water available

to mitigate the water crisis. Water conservation in forests, therefore, deserves special attention and should be an important objective of forest and grassland management and adequate financial resources should be provided and should form an integral part of every forest working/management plan.

- [48] The Ministry of Environment and Forests should evolve a detailed mechanism for multi-stakeholder partnership comprising communities, governments and private bodies for funding increase in forest cover.
- [49] There should be some code for management of areas under forest/tree cover not under the control of the State Forest Departments and incentives should be provided for retaining tree growth for ecological security. The Government has an obligation and must play an important role in extending technical advice to them for increasing both tree-cover and productivity.
- [50] Unclassed forests should be covered under working schemes/working plans which should incorporate recorded rights and concessions of the people and portray the genuine bona fide personal and other needs of the local people.
- [51] Fires extending over 20 km² of forest and grasslands should be declared as a disaster by the concerned State Government.
- [52] Fire prevention and fire control deserve to be given a far greater importance than at present. Techniques need to evolve that are more appropriate and equipment provided, keeping in view the experience gained from a UNDP-assisted project of the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the 1980s. Entries in annual confidential reports of every field staff should reflect the work done or not done vis-a-vis fire control.
- [53] Since fire cases are underreported, in terms of number of occurrences, the qualitative damage caused and the area affected, by the

field functionaries, a mechanism should be developed for higher authorities to crosscheck these reports.

- [54] Protection against insect pests and diseases is not given the attention it deserves. Consequently, the productivity capacity of forests is reduced. The loss in nurseries and plantations is also sizeable. Strong research support is needed to provide protection against diseases and pests.
- [55] The use of pesticides, insecticides and rodenticides be regulated so that applications are done in consultation with the local wildlife departments in areas where threatened species occur and species-specific test be conducted before application.
- [56] Practices such as coating of seeds with pesticides be discontinued for less harmful measures or biological or organic pesticide methods be used.
- [57] The Agriculture and Forest Departments, Ministries concerned and Commissions set up by the Government of India coordinate, so that a holistic management of pesticides and their application are carried out, which would prevent the longterm damage to the land, air, water and species including man.
- [58] Environmental impact assessments that are mandated for every developmental project of a certain size must be carried out scientifically, in an un-biased manner and with enough autonomy. Such assessments must not only deal with pollution and deviation of forestland, but also with effects to water sources, species and local communities. Such clearances must necessarily be taken before the starting of any part of the project, so that a clearance is not redundant or a fait accompli.
- [59] Conditions made at the time of project clearance must be enforced. This would require periodic monitoring. If any significant condition is not fulfilled, the authority that has imposed

the condition must have the power to bring the project to a halt till the deficiency or omission is rectified. There must not be any ex-post facto clearance or approval.

- [60] Ecologists, environmental scientists and conservationists must be involved in developmental projects so that they may be conducted in as ecologically sound a manner as possible.
- [61] Greater integration must take place at local and regional levels between government departments involved in developmental projects and those involved in forest and nature conservation.
- [62] The Ministry of Environment and Forests, and State Forest Departments should create awareness and special cells to address the menace of invasive species. A policy document should be developed on the introduced and invasive species. Deliberate or misguided introduction of an invasive species should be considered as an offence.
- [63] A cell or nodal point needs to be established in the Ministry of Environment and Forests to monitor the status and control of exotics, perhaps in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India and the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, and to prepare and issue guidelines for restorative ecology to curb and remove exotics and regain indigenous biodiversity. The implementation of these guidelines and directives also needs to be monitored.
- [64] Research to find safe, biological or other applications for the control and eradication of weeds without the use of pesticides needs to be urgently started under the aegis of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education. Very little if at all has been done in this regard so far.
- [65] Attempts should be made to find commercial/ consumptive use of exotic weeds so as to

encourage their exploitation. The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and the Indian Institute of Forest Management should be involved in this expertise.

- [66] It is essential to start special schemes by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and State Forest Departments (especially of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh etc.) to protect their grasslands.
- [67] A centrally sponsored long-term scheme called Project Marine Ecosystems is necessary to focus attention on this aspect. As millions of fishermen would be involved in protecting and sustainably harvesting biodiversity, it is necessary to involve the Fisheries Department, Navy, Coast Guards, etc.
- [68] Establishment of a central coordination unit within the National Institute of Oceanography that will oversee coordination and implementation of the above mentioned policies and maintain a resource database, is necessary.
- [69] Review and assessment of the impact of priority lending in the fisheries sector (a five year action plan), is necessary.
- [70] Special plans for the dugong, giant clams, sea horses and finless porpoises and their respective habitats, should be prepared.
- [71] Corals are threatened everywhere for various reasons and would be more so with both for the conservation of corals and of biodiversity, as well as for coastal conservation. Marine protected areas need to be established for this purpose.
- [72] Management plans for coastal and shelterbelt plantations, which include mapping of habitat utilization patterns including sea turtle and sea birds nesting beaches, should be prepared.
- [73] There is an urgent need to establish trans-boundary protected areas and monitoring

mechanism, specially for corals, sea turtles, dugongs, whale sharks and whales.

- [74] Strengthening of the coastal regulation zone in the wake of the recent tsunami tragedy is vital.
- [75] Establishment of a dedicated IFS sub-cadre for conservation and a training centre for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation and management, are necessary.
- [76] An Institutional mechanism to empower Coast Guards to enforce the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, must be considered.
- [77] Mangroves should be officially classified as forests and mangroves found anywhere should be placed under the control of State Forest Departments. The important mangrove areas need to be made Protected Areas if they are not so covered already.
- [78] A concerted effort needs to be made to undertake plantation of mangroves wherever possible along the creeks, estuaries, deltas and shores, and of appropriate species of trees as wind breakers along the coastline and the dunes that back them.
- [79] A National Wetland Conservation Act should be framed.
- [80] Inclusion of all types of wetlands (freshwater, coastal, marshes, swamps, mangroves, water-logged areas) in the land use classification in the country should be done.
- [81] A National Wetland Biodiversity Register should be started.
- [82] An inventory of 'user groups' also should be prepared while collecting information for the biodiversity register. It should also list out the priorities of the communities on particular wetland resources.
- [83] To establish a National Wetland Inventory and Monitoring Programme and a National Wetland

Information System and therefore, to develop a sustained and serious programme for monitoring wetlands.

[84] The economic evaluation of wetlands must be computed and it must be integrated with National Resource Accounting.

[85] Wetland productivity studies on a long-term basis by identified organizations from different parts of the country need to be undertaken. This would bring out indisputable data on wetland productivity, which is many times more than that of other ecosystems. Moreover, it would be an excellent tool to check the wetland ecosystem health.

[86] International links and cooperation involving trans-boundary water issues and conservation of shared wetlands are important.

[87] At the outset, the Government of India should take leadership and commission a state-wise survey of people-conserved areas which would be appropriate to be designated as community reserves, and have them notified by the respective State Governments and then have management plans prepared for them providing annual financial inputs for specific items in the manner that is given to national parks and sanctuaries. A special centrally sponsored scheme needs to be prepared by Ministry of Environment and Forests in this regard.

[88] The people of the communities concerned must be encouraged and actually involved in conservation efforts. Their pride in respect of the Reserve must be acknowledged and enhanced. They must be made honorary wardens of the community reserve under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act.

[89] Governments must exercise caution in theoretically accepting or advocating the involvement of local communities in the preservation of wild fauna, other than where the communities

themselves are protecting fauna for religious sentiments. While it may not be difficult to involve communities in the protection of forests and grasslands whereby they can derive economic and personal benefit, it is a totally different matter to get local support for the protection of animals and birds, especially those that threaten human life or property.

[90] Local communities living in and around forest areas be trained in eco-tourism activities, which will not only help ensure their livelihood security but could facilitate their involvement in forest conservation. The rickshaw pullers at Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, are an excellent example.

[91] Urban communities need to be made aware of the impact of their consumption on forest resources. The awareness should mainly focus on scientific, ecological, aesthetic, economic, and spiritual and several other values associated with forests.

[92] Decision makers should also be made aware about the important role of education, awareness and training as a management tool.

[93] The existing textbooks should be revised to incorporate aspects of forest, wildlife and ecosystem conservation with local and real life examples. Although efforts have been made by agencies such as National Council of Education Research and Training and State Councils of Education Research and Training of certain states to introduce new textbooks on environment, a project-based approach and hands-on experience is the key to effective learning. The involvement of non-government organisations in formal education should be enhanced, which can play an important role in providing practical experience in nature conservation. The teacher is an important ally in education for forest and nature conservation. Capacity enhancement programmes through existing training institutes such as the State Council of Education Research and Training and DIET should be held on priority, with the

help of institutes involved in conservation education such as the CEE, Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi, Eklavya, Bombay Natural History Society, BVEERI and several other institutes.

- [94] Efforts should be made to strengthen existing programmes such as Green Corps Programme initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, by providing locale specific educational resources to the schools involved in this activity. Such programmes should involve local groups and non-government organizations in implementation and evaluation of the programmes.
- [95] It is recommended that formal training institutes where civil servants and armed forces are trained, need to incorporate forest and wildlife conservation as an important aspect of their induction training programme, as well as in-service training programmes.
- [96] State and Central Governments should convey the conservation message much more frequently and vigorously in state sponsored advertisements and Doordarshan-controlled channels.
- [97] Industries, which consume forest resources and affect forest areas adversely, should be identified and a comprehensive training programme should be evolved. Industries such as paper, pharmaceutical, mining and tourism could be the focus of such training. Environment-friendly practices adopted by certain industries should be documented and such information should be provided to other industries. The lending institutes, which provide financial support to large infrastructure development projects, should be made aware of potential damage to forest ecosystems. The professional auditors should also be oriented about forest conservation as an important part of auditing procedure.
- [98] The role media could play in spreading awareness is very crucial. Forest conservation should be a part of journalism curricula and

practicing journalists should regularly be oriented towards issues of nature conservation through workshops, field visits and briefing papers.

- [99] Traditional communal hunts—Paradh in Bastar and Akhand Shikar in Simlipal, Orissa—are a bane of the two tiger reserves concerned. While preventing physically these extremely destructive practices, all efforts must be made for the awareness and education of the tribals concerned and by finding symbolic alternatives to these ritualistic hunts.
- [100] The forest service should have well defined visions and goals. It is, therefore, strongly recommended that a statement 'Forestry Sector Vision 2020' should be prepared on priority. The National Forestry Action Programme cannot serve this purpose.
- [101] Forests that lie outside the protected area network should be sustainably managed through clear working plan prescriptions rather than only having a complete moratorium on felling.
- [102] A Forest Conservation Fund should be created to ensure adequate financial resources for forest and wildlife management through levy of a cess on sale of forest produce. Revenue generated from lease of mines in forest areas should be credited to the Forest Conservation Fund. Contributions to be made to the Forest Conservation Fund by corporate companies or individuals should be exempt from income tax.
- [103] Corporate funding should be invited for revival of degraded forests. Mechanisms for the same may be worked out.
- [104] Joint forest management should be a social contract, a quid pro quo, wherein the exercise of rights and benefits are subject to the fulfillment of specified duties and obligations, e.g. the yearlong protection of forest from fire, grazing, felling and degradation. If the beneficiaries do not fulfill their duties and

obligations, they should not avail the benefits occurring from forests.

[105] Currently, a major part of the fund made available to forests is utilized for joint forest management (JFM) activities and inadequate funds are available for proper management of non-degraded forests. More funds need to be provided for the management of non-degraded forests. Half of the forest revenue may be made available for management of non-degraded forests on the pattern of JFM.

[106] For a meaningful partnership, both partners i.e. Forest Department and local communities should be equal partners in joint forest management (JFM). Villagers may provide inputs for protection and some forestry operations through their labour. This approach will lead to a low-cost model of JFM, which is necessary for sustainability of the programme and for improving the benefits from JFM to village communities. Timber obtained by Joint Forest Management Committee members as their share should generate income for them. Sale by individual members and the related problem of illicit cutting in the garb of such sales must stop and such JFM societies need to be suspended.

[107] The objectives of management for joint forest management need to be revised and clearly stated to broadly include restoration and development of degraded forest areas in order to meet local village community (LVC)'s demands for fuelwood, fodder and small timber and also to contribute towards poverty reduction of LVC members.

[108] To give expression to the changed priorities of forests as contained in the Forest Policy of 1988, the working plans and working schemes of forests must give priority to conservation and to the enhancement of biodiversity, and thereby change the focus from the current continuing emphasis on production forestry.

[109] Each working plan should have one chapter

on Biodiversity Conservation, selecting compartments, which should be managed to enhance biodiversity.

[110] The nation's biodiversity needs to be assessed and inventoried in detail.

[111] A serious attempt must be made to rationalize protected area boundaries by implementing the recommendations of the committees appointed for this purpose earlier and taking up work in states where there may be no such reports. The leadership and funds must come from Ministry of Environment and Forests. In lieu of the areas that would be excised from the protected areas in pursuance of this effort, the states on their part would add other larger human settlement-free habitats to the protected areas concerned, or to others, within their states. There must be a quid pro quo, with the approval of the Supreme Court. By this exercise, a large number of human settlements on the periphery of the protected areas could be excluded, some huge protected areas which are only on paper like the Solapur Sanctuary in Maharashtra and the National Chambal Sanctuary between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, could be made practical and effective, as smaller sized protected areas. In lieu, other larger trouble-free areas could be added to the protected area system, the caveat being that deservation of inhabited areas from protected areas to be only done after the areas chosen to be added to the protected area system in lieu of those deservations, would be first notified as protected areas.

[112] In keeping with the Supreme Court directives, after undertaking a rationalization of park/sanctuary boundaries, those rights that need to be acquired should be acquired and those rights in sanctuaries that can be allowed to be exercised keeping the long-term conservation of that sanctuary in view, should be allowed to continue as per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act.

[113] In keeping with the 2002 Amendment of the

Wild Life (Protection) Act, parks and sanctuaries should be regarded as final and wherever legal action still remains in view of the said amendment, it should be completed in a time-bound programme.

[114] Though it would not be feasible to relocate all the human settlements that would still remain in the protected areas, certain settlements that are particularly problematic because they are in the middle of the protected areas or occupying some crucial habitat, could be motivated to move out voluntarily. The best solution would be to give resident communities a choice of degraded forestland away from the protected area (if non-forest land is not available) and more land than they would surrender, grants for building houses and all facilities that would be available under the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation, 2003. Non-government organizations must be involved to monitor the requirements of the people and a generous package must be provided. The land must come from the state governments, the resettlement costs from the Government of India, and no 'Net Present Value' would be calculated for the forestland to be allocated. The cost of translocation of villages from protected areas would thus be far lower than that projected (e.g. 3200 crores for 273 villages cited by the Tiger Task Force, 2005) and not all villages are required to be relocated from the protected areas. This work of translocation must be accorded very high priority and the central government must provide the funds in a phased manner.

[115] A clear reason for the establishment of a protected area be established from the outset, i.e. conservation of endangered species, representative wildlife habitat; tourism; ~~catchment area~~ protection of a dam, etc. Every protected area should be given a clear mandate and necessary conservation measures should be taken up with that mandate in mind. The

protected area manager should be judged whether that mandate has been achieved, and not by taking easy conservation options. New protected areas should be established in consultation with local people.

[116] Protected area managers do not have a clear mandate, vision and priorities vis-a-vis the protected area they are in charge of. Most protected areas do not still have management plans. This combined with the protected area manager's lack of knowledge and commitment leads them to undertake "development" of their protected area through construction activities like road building, constructions, watch towers, etc., which are often uncalled for and even detrimental to conservation.

[117] Each protected area should have a comprehensive management plan, which needs to be followed and revised periodically.

[118] The State Governments must forthwith stop illegal activities banned under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, such as the continued exploitation of protected area areas for commercial or other purposes, including collection of tendu leaves, sal seed, harra and mahua fruit, etc.

[119] The financial outlays given to protected areas, and to nature conservation and control of illegal wildlife trade, need to be substantially enhanced.

[120] A system should be developed where important records are maintained for posterity in each district/state. Here, proper training to record accurately and scientifically becomes important. A protocol for data maintenance, storage and retrieval should be devised. Each protected area should also develop a library where research reports and papers are maintained.

[121] A concerted effort be made to identify which sanctuary or portions thereof can be upgraded into a national park, where human habitations

- or rights do not exist or where they need to be acquired on a priority basis.
- [122] Whenever possible, protected areas should have linkages with other protected areas and habitats by extension of the protected areas over the corridors—either as national parks or sanctuaries and where that is not possible by establishing Conservation Reserves or Community Reserves. Tree cover over these identified linkages may also be achieved by encouraging and actively supporting van-vaniki and farm-/agroforestry on private lands. Such linkages be given adequate onground protection and ecologically harmful activities in these areas be restricted and regulated.
- [123] Linkages between management actions in protected areas falling in the same bio-geographic region must be kept in mind at all times.
- [124] In all endeavours and decision making related to wildlife tourism, the axiom would be that tourism must be in consonance with and subservient to the long-term conservation interests of the protected area, habitat or species it relates to, and never the other way round.
- [125] Entry into protected area must be regulated according to an assessment of the capacity of that protected area to absorb vehicles/tourists without impinging on the interest of wildlife and the habitat.
- [126] Besides the designated tourism zone, protected area authorities must choose alternate ranges to throw open to tourists on a one or two year rotational basis. In protected areas where there is a heavy rush of tourists, those visiting parks for longer periods may be refused re-admission to the designated tourism zone and first offered entry into the alternate range opened for tourism. In areas of low tourist pressure, the alternate zone may be offered as a choice.
- [127] No attempts to develop recreational facilities in the protected area or its buffer area should be permitted. Park managers must ensure that even private sector entrepreneurs do not do so.
- [128] Existing tourist complexes should be constructed in a way that they merge with the surrounding landscape and as far as possible use local material.
- [129] Resorts set up for wildlife and ecotourism must undertake to ensure that at least 60% of their staff and 40% of their salary expenses go to local residents of the area. This must be rigorously enforced, especially in tribal areas.
- [130] A clear reason for the establishment of a protected area be established from the tourism; catchment area protection of a dam, etc. Every protected area should be given a clear mandate and necessary conservation measures should be taken up with that mandate in mind. The protected area manager should be judged whether that mandate has been achieved, and not by taking easy conservation options. New protected areas should be established in consultation with local people.
- [131] Funds generated by tourism should not go to the public exchequer. Rather they should go for eco-development of the local communities, especially the tribals. A special fund should be created for this purpose, as has been attempted in some states. Donations made by visitors should also go into this fund, which could also cater to the welfare needs of the protected area staff. As funds given by Government of India are often kept back by the State Governments, such funds for individual protected areas could also provide an alternative source or routing financial assistance.
- [132] Besides being trained to serve as wildlife guides, local and tribal people should be involved in anti poaching activities. They should also be encouraged to develop and improve local handicrafts.

- [133] Protected area authorities must train and certify local wildlife guides to accompany tourists into the park. Any infringement of protected area rules by tourists must be punished by a suspension of the guide for a week in the first instance and for six months on subsequent occasions. A similar discipline should be enforced on vehicles for hire to visiting tourists or even those belonging to tourist resorts in the area.
- [134] Interpretation Centres should be developed to provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about the local flora and fauna and the role of the protected area in protecting and conserving the environment and wildlife. These centres can also be used for training the cadre of guides and motivating school children and youth.
- [135] Material in the form of user-friendly guidebooks on the protected area's, giving maps, flora and fauna and some information on the important rivers and other geographical features need to be published. They should also include information on the historical as well cultural importance of the area to make the visit informative and meaningful. As well as the "dos" and "don'ts" while visiting the protected areas.
- [136] A system should be developed where important records are maintained for posterity in each district/state. Here, proper training to record accurately and scientifically becomes important. A protocol for data maintenance, storage and retrieval should be devised. Each protected area should also develop a library where research reports and papers are maintained.
- [137] The Wildlife Wings and protected areas should be manned by personnel with interest and aptitude. A sub-cadre needs to be developed for this. This would ensure the four prerequisites—selection of the appropriate personnel, longevity of tenure, training and prevention of posting of unsuitable persons. If personnel of such requirements are not available from the IFS or SFS, they should be recruited from the open field.
- [138] An ecologist must be available on the staff or as an advisor to the managers of important protected areas.
- [139] The protected area managers, and not the territorial authorities of the Forest Department, should have full and effective control over their protected areas, and also of their buffers and corridors to the extent possible. Linkages with the local people should be built up in the buffers.
- [140] The Chief Wildlife Warden should have full and effective control, including financial control, over the protected areas and buffers and over the officers and staff, which man them.
- [141] The Chief Wildlife Warden needs to make entries in the annual confidential reports (ACRs) of territorial Conservator of Forests, DCFs and ACFs as to the work done by them vis-a-vis nature conservation.
- [142] The duties enjoined upon protected area managers and the Chief Wildlife Warden under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, needs to be conscientiously carried out in both letter and spirit.
- [143] Training and motivation must be provided to the protected area personnel, including promotional avenues and cadre management.
- [144] The forest service as a whole be mandated to combat wildlife crime and undergo basic level training in this regard. For combating specific wildlife crime (poaching, rading and smuggling), training be imparted to field wildlife staff, taking the assistance of specialized technical agencies, governmental or non-governmental, in doing so.
- [145] Intelligence gathering be given adequate resources as contingency funds allocated to the Chief Wildlife Warden and managers of important protected areas, and special groups

of personnel be trained in it and this be budgeted as a regular part of anti-poaching operations. Wherever possible, special "cells" to deal with organized illicit trade in wildlife be set up and suitable persons from the police or other departments be taken on deputation.

- [146] To assist the 'cells' to curb illicit trade in wildlife products, expertise in wildlife forensics should be developed in each state, preferably in an established institution or laboratory equipped with the requisite tools, in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India.
- [147] Each State and Regional Deputy Directors of Wildlife Preservation under the Government of India, should set up computerized database on illegal wildlife trade and the ongoing cases in court. These would feed a national level database in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- [148] The role of non-wildlife agencies in curbing wildlife crime is to be underscored and they be given adequate mandate, training and incentive to help Government curb wildlife trade.
- [149] All forest protection staff must have group insurance against death, disease and disability by the state to increase their morale and as a staff welfare measure.
- [150] The broad recommendations of the Subramaniam Committee report of 1994, especially the formation of the wildlife crime unit and the provision of legal training and support to wildlife law enforcement agencies, be implemented.
- [151] Government should enforce CITES more stringently and cooperate more with other nations in doing so, especially our neighbouring nations, as ultimately this would be in the country's interest in preventing illegal trade. Recently, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has decided to set up a ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-

WEN). Government of India must join the process and both provide and seek cooperation from this set-up, and endeavour to establish a similar set-up for South-Asia or South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation.

- [152] There have been numerous instances of wild animals being deliberately electrocuted by cutting overhead wires, amongst them elephants, rhinos and tigers. Livestock and humans have also perished. As far as possible, no electric lines be laid over national parks and sanctuaries and those that exist should be safeguarded against such vandalism and misuse.
- [153] Though two new categories of protected areas have now been recognized under the amended Wild Life (Protection) Act, namely, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves, hardly any new protected area under these two categories have been established. As demographic restrictions envisaged under these two categories are far less than in the case of national parks or sanctuaries, a definitive effort needs to be undertaken by each state to identify and designate protected areas under these two new categories. The Ministry of Environment and Forests needs to undertake a survey to identify areas, which have potential under these two categories of protected areas and need to persuade the States to establish them, providing financial and other support for the same.
- [154] Situations in which biosphere reserves can be set up be delineated and it be ensured that they follow the principles as laid down in the Man and Biosphere programme in so far as it is not inconsistent with domestic legislation relating to conservation and management of natural resources. It would also be useful to include biosphere reserves within the legal framework, either through a separate legislation or through its inclusion in the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 or similar legislation.
- [155] Biosphere reserves should not be established in lieu of national parks or sanctuaries but

when due to demographic factors the establishment of a national park, sanctuary, Conservation Reserve or Community Reserve is not feasible. It would also be improper to impose a Biosphere Reserve over an existing park or sanctuary, as that causes a dichotomy and confusion in approach and management.

- [156] Significant Wildlife habitats including biological corridors where immediate declaration as protected area is not possible, be designated as ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, (EPA) with a view to restrict certain identified hazardous activities as also change in land use pattern. Ecologically sensitive areas should also include areas such as elephant corridors, important bird areas, etc.
- [157] Specified areas, including buffer zones of protected areas be designated as ecologically sensitive areas (ESA) with a view to restrict identified hazardous activities. This process should be based on a comprehensive and realistic assessment of the current threat perception in the area surrounding a protected area. An ad hoc and arbitrary fixation of ESA, such as a blanket restriction, is likely to be counterproductive and can create hurdles in the creation of new protected areas (PAs). Control of effluents and emission levels must be enforced and PA managers must be involved in this control activity.
- [158] Since the power to declare protected areas largely vests with the State Government, similarly, the concurrent power to declare ecologically sensitive areas should also vest with the state government.
- [159] Mitigation measures for man-animal conflict must be both long-term and short-term. Short-term measures may include barriers after considering whether they act as barriers to wildlife movement or not, scaring and repelling techniques etc. Long-term measures must include establishment of animal corridors, elephants being a priority, attempting alternate

cropping patterns around forests and areas seriously impacted by wild ungulates and having wildlife clearances as a mandatory part of broader environmental clearances of development projects.

- [160] Catching and translocating animals should not be seen as the easiest and most politically-expedient solution to conflict, although it could be advisable in some cases and must be done only after the troublesome animals have been identified, and when the biology of the species and its needs are taken into account and monitoring measures are in place. Capture of social beings such as elephants in particular is counterproductive to conflict resolution, unless whole herds as social units are translocated. It must be borne in mind that according to the Wild Life (Protection) Act as recently amended, the capture of Schedule I animals should only be done after its release area has been identified and the release must be done in the prescribed time-frame.
- [161] Compensation mechanisms must be reviewed and schemes put under way in areas of man-animal conflict. Compensation must be paid immediately and without hindrance, and it must be commensurate with the damage caused and there must be transparency in the whole operation. Attempt should be made to have crop insurance against damage by wild animals around major protected areas.
- [162] A very important field of applied research and its extension to field application, which would greatly assist in reducing man-animal conflict, is identification of crops, which could be planted around protected areas and elsewhere to reduce the quantum of crop-raiding by species such as nilgai, blackbuck, wild pigs and elephants. Needless to say, such crops should be suitable for the area and be remunerative.
- [163] Except perhaps for the tiger, elephant and rhino, there is no long-term monitoring of most of our endangered species. As birds are easy to monitor and are a good indicator of habitat

quality, long-term monitoring protocols should be developed for all our protected areas. Universities and non-government organizations should also take up regular monitoring of birds and other wildlife outside protected areas. The Government of India should encourage and fund animal and bird monitoring and migration.

[164] Prioritizations such as that of Rodgers and Panwar (1988) and others brought out by the Wildlife Institute of India, be seriously considered and gaps in the protection of habitats of endangered species, unique or threatened ecotypes, deficiency in coverage of biome and biographic representation, or some other factor, be rectified by adding on such critical areas to the protected area network. Wherever possible, this should be by establishment of a National Park or Sanctuary. If it is not feasible to establish any of these two categories of protected area, then Conservation Reserves or where land is privately owned, Community Reserves could be established. The help of non-government organizations may be taken in this wherever considered appropriate.

[165] Ex-situ conservation should start complementing in-situ conservation, both from the captive propagation and educational standpoints.

[166] It is essential to store genetic material of gravely endangered species in gene banks, as a safeguard against extinction in the wild, and both the Zoological Survey of India and the Botanical Survey of India should ensure this. At an opportune time, not only can the species be regenerated in captive conditions, but if adequate measures have been taken, can also be introduced into the wild. A very significant development has been the establishment of the Laboratory for Culture of Endangered Species (LaCONES) by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) at Hyderabad, to undertake this important task. All support needs to be given to LaCONES in this regard to save the genes of endangered species and to help recover species from genetic 'degeneration'.

[167] As a very valuable experiment both to restore a locally extinct mega-species and to conserve its endangered prey-base and habitat, as well as to inculcate national pride and interest, a serious effort be made to re-introduce the cheetah into the wild in India.

[168] If any captive reared population of any species is sought to be introduced into the wild, it must be carefully and clinically assessed to ascertain that they do not carry pathogens, which could be conveyed to the wild population.

[169] Scientific re-assessment of the status of each species/taxon should be done by experts and thereafter they be reassigned under the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. Such reassessment should be done every five years.

[170] All those species that are in Schedule I, the Government of India, with the help of State Forest Department and experts, should start Species Recovery Plans. Sufficient funds and expertise should be provided for Species Recovery Plans. The aims should be that once these Species Recovery Plans are successfully executed, and the status of the species is improved, it could be down listed to Schedule II or Schedule III. It should be considered a credit to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the concerned state Forest Department that a species has recovered and is no longer under threat of extinction. For some species it may take 15-20 years to recover, but it should be seen that systems are in place that help the species to recover. Periodic monitoring of the status of each species would be very essential. At the same time, if status of a particular species deteriorates, it should be upgraded to a higher Schedule and a Species Recovery Plan is started. Even for so-called common species, whose populations are on the decline, there should be targeted recovery plans, mainly by saving their habitats. An indicative list of species for whom recovery plans need are a top priority, are: Malabar ivet, hangul, wild buffalo, Nicobar

megapod, Andaman teal, white-winged wood duck, pygmy hog, greater adjutant stork, Ladakh ural, Gangetic dolphin, Jerdon's courser, vultures, and greater one-horned rhinoceros.

[171] Project Elephant Tiger have shown that by targeting rare and flagship species, many habitats and associated species can be saved. However, there are many species/habitats that are not covered by these two Central government schemes, e.g. grasslands, wetlands, high altitude mountain, riverine and marine environment. Certain species and their habitats need urgent attention of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and state governments to formulate projects in the fashion of Project Tiger. The snow leopard, the great Indian bustard, the Gangetic dolphin and the dugong are prominent examples for this purpose.

[172] To protect the highly endangered great Indian bustard (less than 500 left in the whole world), lesser florican, Bengal florican and other grassland associated flora and fauna, Project Bustard should be initiated. As protection of grasslands would greatly benefit livestock, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry should also be involved. These bustards are found in at least ten states of India and therefore, it is vital to develop a centrally coordinated and funded scheme.

[173] The snow leopard of the Himalaya is one of the most famous flagship species of the ecosystem where it lives. This ecosystem is also very fragile and coming under increasing human impact. Most of the rivers of north India originate from snow leopard habitats, so it is in the national interest to protect and nurture such habitats. As the snow leopard is found in five states (Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh), it is necessary to develop a centrally funded and coordinated scheme called Project Snow Leopard. An attempt had been made in this direction in the 1980s, but Ministry of

Environment and Forests later merged the scheme with the on-going C.S.S. on development of national parks.

[174] The lion has established permanent habitats in the Girnar, along the Saurashtra coast, Hipavadli in Amreli district and elsewhere. The Government of Gujarat should declare Girnar as a sanctuary and bring the outlying lion population in Saurashtra within an overall lion conservation programme, and approach the entire lion populations on a zonal or landscape basis.

[175] India has five species of sea turtles and the world's largest known turtle breeding beaches for the Olive Ridley sea turtle (Gahrimatha, Devi and Rushikulya river mouths in Orissa). Mechanized fishing trawlers have created new problems for these sea creatures, as they have to come to the beach to lay eggs, sometimes twice a year. As the turtles found near the coasts of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat and Andaman and Nicobar Islands face various problems, some general and some site-specific, a centrally-sponsored scheme is necessary to save them. Moreover, the State Forest Departments are not geared to protect turtle habitats. Only a long-term central scheme would be effective.

[176] The terrestrial tortoises are today one of the most threatened group of animals in the country. The commonest species, the star tortoise, is affected by illegal trade. The Travancore tortoise and the Assam tortoise are gravely endangered due to habitat destruction and other factors. Recovery Plans are needed for these species.

[177] The Wildlife Institute of India, in collaboration with countries/organizations which have the requisite expertise, must evolve techniques suitable for group capture of species like the nilgai, blackbuck and wild pig. After due testing, the techniques should be transferred to the

states, who should set up special 'cells' for such capture and translocation.

[178] Thereafter, locally excess animals and those that are proving to be intractably harmful to crops and other property, need to be captured, relocated and rehabilitated where they could be accommodated without causing the same problems to the local people. In this endeavour, the Government of India should render financial support, at least in the initial phase.

[179] In this operation, every effort must be made to reduce the trauma and injury and the chances of contraction of pathogens during captivity. The period of captivity must be very short.

[180] After careful analysis and overcoming or mitigating the factors leading to local extinction or reduction, certain species need to be re-introduced in some protected areas. For this again, special techniques for capture and translocation need to be evolved. Some examples of this category are the reintroduction of rhinoceros and the eastern swamp deer in Manas; the gharial in the Brahmaputra and Beki in Assam; the gaur in Bandhavgarh; the blackbuck in Kanha; the tiger in Sariska; the wild buffalo from Indravati to Barnawapara in Chhattisgarh or Kanha in Madhya Pradesh; the hog deer in Corbett National Park; the pygmy hog in Nameri National Park and elsewhere in Assam and, of course, the lion in Kuno-Palpur in Madhya Pradesh. Besides, the possibility of introducing the brow-antlered deer from the captive populations, in Pobitora in Assam, needs to be explored. This would be a special case of introduction into a new habitat, as its previous habitats in Manipur are now not viable any more and the total world population of this taxon is now confined to the Keibul Lamjao National Park in Manipur. All endeavours must be made to bring back the Siberian crane to Bharatpur, if necessary, from the more numerous eastern population now migrating between China and Russia. The need to undertake a re-

introduction of the cheetah in India, after careful study and prior preparation, has been mentioned elsewhere.

[181] The re-introduction of the lion in the designated protected area of Kuno-Palpur be expedited on a priority basis. The Chairman of the National Board of Wildlife could request the Chief Minister of Gujarat for the translocation of lions that have strayed out of the Gir, to the project site of Kuno-Palpur.

[182] Studies be undertaken by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology of Hyderabad to identify the extent of genetic 'swamping' occurring in the current populations of wild buffalo and in sample areas in the case of the red jungle fowl and wild pig. The studies also need to identify the surviving populations that can be termed as truly wild and parameters to judge the wild specimens of these species.

[183] The same studies should recommend corrective/administrative action to curb the threat and to retrieve the situation to the extent possible, with special recovery plans for the wild buffalo and for wild pig in the Andamans.

[184] Investigations leading to practical recommendations, be carried out to prevent future inbreeding between domestic and wild jungle fowl, pig and wild buffalo, specially around protected areas.

[185] In the interim period, a special effort and plan needs to be undertaken to save the surviving wild buffalo populations that are apparently least genetically "swamped" and at the same time the most threatened, in Chhattisgarh.

[186] The Ministry of Environment and Forests and State Forest Departments develop centres of restoration ecology and to remove exotic species, even from a national park, after thorough investigation. The Ministry of Environment and Forests should develop a nodal agency that should look in to this problem and involve ecologists, conservation non-government organizations and media.

- [187] Strict guidelines should be developed for the removal of exotic trees and restoration of natural habitats. No commercial interest should be involved to remove exotic trees and they could be supplied first to the local people as per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. However, the money generated from the sale of such timber should go back to the protected areas.
- [188] The following species are candidates for priority intervention by the Indian Armed Forces, Border Security Force Indo-Tibetan Border Police and coast guards. It is recommended that species programmes be initiated in conjunction with them for these species.
- [189] Northern Command—Ladhak: black-necked crane, snow leopard, Tibetan argali, ibex, Ladakh urial, Tibetan antelope and Tibetan gazelle; Jammu and Kashmir: markhor, hangul, western tragopan Eastern Command: clouded leopard, snow leopard, Tibetan gazelle, Tibetan argali, and takin; Orissa: Oliver Ridley turtle Southern Command—Gulf of Mannar: Dugong, corals; Lakshadweep: Leatherback turtle, hawksbill turtle, giant clams and corals; Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Leatherback turtle, hawksbill turtle, dugong, whales, sharks, giant clams, Nicobar megapod Western Command—Gujarat: Dugong and whale shark Central Command—Musk deer, western tragopan, Himalayan tahr and serow.
- [190] The Indian Armed Forces can arrange environmental training programmes for officers and jawans through their Green Governance initiative. Army training manual on environment can be developed in a structured format, which will then form an integral part of Army training.
- [191] Army, Navy, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force and coast guards should also contribute in prevention of smuggling of wildlife products along the borders.
- [192] Weaning away of the jhumias from shifting cultivation by improved animal husbandry, horticulture, settled agriculture, apiculture and other appropriate agricultural and pastoral practices and occupations. In this context, it is pertinent to note that the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad has reported (1989) that approximately 4.5 lakh families of this region were practicing shifting cultivation and that the total cost of weaning one family away from shifting cultivation was Rs. 50,000. This would have made the total outlay worth Rs. 2,250 crores, which was not too high a requirement if phased over some 10 or 15 years. The situation may have changed, but a detailed assessment of the acceptable alternatives and the financial requirements thereof need to be carried out and given the highest priority in administrative attention and allocation.
- [193] While the process of weaning away people from shifting cultivation must be encouraged, in the meantime;
- Increase security of land tenure for shifting cultivators for both the agricultural and fallow phases by reconsidering the classification of shifting cultivation areas and categorizing them a agricultural land with adaptive forest management in the fallow period.
 - Strengthen and capacitate customary institutions for improved local level governance, management of tribal, community-based natural resources, and tenurial access and control.
 - Reorient existing credit policies to be sensitive and proactive to situations where common property regimes apply.
 - Encourage coordination among different government agencies that have responsibilities for aspects of shifting cultivation especially forestry, agriculture, rural development.

- [194] Propagation and sale of medicinal plants in the North-East would be a very promising proposition to provide to the land-owner in the region an alternative to jhuming. A special ecologically sustainable programme needs to be undertaken in this regard.
- [195] Bamboo is the most versatile crop of the North-East and its management and protection can be best served if the propagation, cultivation, management, harvesting, value addition and marketing is done through a "mission mode" and the mandate is with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Bamboo is a fire-succession plant and grows profusely in the North-East. There must be facilities for its commercial usage.
- [196] Agroforestry is another very viable alternative. But to ensure its success there should be no hindrance to the harvest, transportation and sale of the produce. Mizoram has taken up teak plantation on a large scale. But the farmers must be enabled to extract this tree without waiting for government clearances.
- [197] ICAR Centre at Barapani has developed many models for agro-climatic zone settled agriculture, with horticulture/poultry etc. to make livelihood selfsustaining and remunerative. This activity needs to be encouraged and supported.
- [198] The Central Government and the North-Eastern Council must play a much more proactive role in forest conservation and in the phasing out of shifting cultivation. This would include greater financial allocations, more schemes for afforestation, regeneration, eco-development, agriculture, animal husbandry and development of local arts and crafts.
- [199] Village Councils and individuals have donated land for the setting up of parks and sanctuaries, and in some instances have sold forestlands as well. Murlēm and Dampa in Mizoram, Mehow in Arunachal Pradesh and Nokrek in Meghalaya are some examples. This trend must be encouraged and the local people should be

associated with the protected areas and must derive economic benefit from them through tourism, etc. The people of Murlēm are prepared to add another 50 sq. km. to the Murlēm National Park if an alternative road to the village was developed for them and some eco-development activity was initiated.

- [200] Wherever possible, Community Reserves under the Wild Life (Protection) Act be set up on community lands and sacred groves called Lyngdohs in Meghalaya and the concerned tribal community should be involved in its conservation and management and a sense of pride in these protected areas should be inculcated. In this respect; A complete inventory of sacred forests in the region should be undertaken. These should be registered either with the Autonomous District Councils or with the State Forest Department under the existing Acts and Rules. The survey for different components of biodiversity in each sacred forest should be completed on an urgent basis. The sacred forests should be brought under the protected area network, including Community Reserves, without altering the land ownership status. The interventions, if at all required, as in case of degraded ones, may be designed by the government agencies jointly with the communities. Due approval must be taken from the traditional institutions administering the sacred forests, before initiating such interventions. There should be an umbrella scheme of the government for conserving the community forest areas including the sacred forests. Development of adjoining community forests areas is essential to meet the biomass needs of the community, thereby reducing the pressure on the sacred forests. Such schemes should be implemented jointly by the Forest Department and the concerned traditional institution. Under the scheme, provision should be made for incentives to the tribal people, who are conserving/preserving the sacred forest. The sacred forests can no more be protected based only on religious beliefs. Therefore, it is

essential to educate the people about the scientific value of such forests and the conservation ethos should be blended with the religious beliefs. The diversity of ecosystem services derived from the sacred forests must be recognized and valuation of such services must be done. The policy for adopting the 'user pay' principle in respect of these services must be developed and the benefits must be given to the people who are protecting the sacred forests.

- [201] In forests, prone to organized or large scale violations or insurgency, special protection staff or para-military forces need to be deployed to prevent illicit felling, encroachment, infiltrations, smuggling and poaching, especially on the international borders and in insurgency affected areas.
- [202] The Forest Survey of India needs to be assigned the task of periodically undertaking detailed remote-sensing of the forest areas and tree cover to assess qualitative changes, including extent of invasion of exotics and changes in the type of tree cover.
- [203] The forest of the various communities, individuals and of the Forest Department itself needs to be cadastrally surveyed and physically marked and mapped. 364
- [204] Disputed boundaries between the North-Eastern States has created problems of lack of control, resulting in encroachment and illicit felling. Boundary disputes must be settled as urgently as possible, under the aegis of Government of India.
- [205] There is illegal traffic of wood, wildlife and forest products between the Northeastern States and Myanmar on one side and Bangladesh on the other. This must be stopped by the paramilitary forces on the borders.
- [206] Establish the institutional infrastructure for democratic decentralization by creating clear and secure tenure over the forest resource to

be decentralized. The respective governments should designate suitable lands in the villages or in urban areas as Village Forests. Chapter III of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 already has provisions for the constitution of village forests on lands recorded as Reserve Forests. Amendments may be made in the section 28 to accommodate all types of lands, not Reserve Forests only, for being eligible to be declared as Village Forests. In such villages or urban areas where Reserve Forests are not available, any other category of forests, or any common land which may or may not have forests but has the potential to be developed as forests, may be notified as Village Forests, or in urban areas, Smriti Van (Memorial Forest), municipal forests, avenue plantations, or green reserves. For the purpose of constitution of VF, a village or an urban area shall be a habitation in which people live as a unit. This unit may not necessarily overlap with the existing revenue village boundary, but has the defining features as enumerated in the Panchayati Raj (Extension into Schedule Areas) Act, 1996.

- [207] The Government should develop the framework for creating democratic forestry institutions (DFIs) at primary, secondary and tertiary levels across the whole country with an aim to increasing the efficiency of the ongoing decentralisation. The DFIs at above levels may respectively correspond to Van Panchayat at the village or urban habitation, e.g., ward level, Van Samiti at the block or equivalent level in the urban areas level, and Van Parishad at the district level. A Van Panchayat should have jurisdiction over the respective Village Forest, and should be constituted of all resident adult members of the village, and the membership should be suo moto abrogated once one becomes non-resident of that village.
- [208] Government and other organizations should foster local accountability by choosing to work with and build-on on only such democratic forestry institutions, which are constituted by due process of election, or consensus of the

cross-section of the participating community. Further, the DFIs should be accountable to weaker sections of the village or urban community (e.g. Scheduled Castes, minor groups within Schedule Tribes, women of weaker sections, widows, womenheaded households).

[209] The responsibility and the powers to manage the forestry resources should continue to rest with the democratic forestry institutions. The democratic forestry institution shall be a member of Panchayati Raj Institutions at the respective level, and for this purpose suitable amendment may be brought in the Panchayati Raj Act, 1993 also. 365

[210] In the initial years of institution building, the Government should subordinate the objectives of forestry management to accommodate the needs of the local people. Disadvantaged sections of the village or urban community must be included at the decision making level of the democratic forestry institutions. Favouring democratic process in the short run will help build institutions able to take up sustainable management in the long run.

[211] Forests should be maintained as a 'public good' over which each member of respective democratic forestry institution would have equitable access. Private tenures should not be created in the forests by way of monopoly lease or regularisation of encroachments therein. In case of diversion of forestlands for non-forestry purposes, or for grant of forestry leases to private or public companies, concurrence of the democratic forestry institution at the appropriate level should be made mandatory.

[212] Ecologically sound traditional practices should be identified, and formally recognized and incorporated in the forest management plans. Similarly, the livelihood strategies of the members of the primitive tribal groups should be properly incorporated in these plans.

[213] The Government should provide adequate

funds and fund raising power to enable democratic forestry institutions to fulfil their mandate. The fund raising power at appropriate level of democratic forestry institution may include powers to borrow, levy charges, fines or compensation, raise tax or fees, and transfer funds. Commercially valuable and ecologically sound resource-use opportunities should also be available to the democratic forestry institution in addition to subsistence use of the resources. Accounting standards should be developed, and each level of democratic forestry institution should ensure the maintenance of these standards.

[214] The members of democratic forestry institutions, as individuals or groups, need to be made aware of the opportunities available with other schemes and programmes in the government or the non-governments sector, and should be suitably supported to forge these linkages. Capacity of officials in this regard should be a continuous process.

[215] Simple but effective extension mechanisms should be introduced to reach the outputs of research to the common people. One such mechanism is establishing Van Vigyan Kendras at the Block level. Where Krishi Vigyan Kendras are operating, these may be made responsible for education, research, training and extension in forestry matters also. The compulsory environment education in schools and colleges should be based on the ecology of the local natural resources.

[216] The Union Government should oversee the decentralization process and provide essential support, including capacity building, to the democratic forestry institutions at all levels to enable them to manage their forests.

[217] Since decentralization of forests is creating a new set of right-regime, the existing records of rights be reviewed in view of the ecologically sustainable capacity of forests, to ascertain the minimum essential requirements of the local community with respect to the forest products.

- [218] The country's forests must now be looked upon as ecological entities—regulators of water regimes, watersheds and catchments, gene pools, habitats of wildlife, providers of the needs of the neighbouring communities and as treasure troves of the nation's natural heritage. The country's needs of timber, fuelwood, fodder, industrial wood, and medicinal plants must mainly be met with plantation forestry and through agroforestry, which thus must receive much greater attention and support than now. This would also require a change in the role of forests, forestry and forest personnel, with corresponding change in recruitment, training, attitudes and mindset.
- [219] Plantation forestry must be on degraded forest areas. It must add biomass, not substitute it, even if the tree growth in such degraded areas would not be as good as in areas requiring removal of existing good forest cover for plantation purposes.
- [220] The focus of agroforestry must filter down to the tahsil/block levels. While the responsibility in this regard would rest mainly with the agricultural departments and institutions, the forest departments must cooperate and support by providing quality seedlings and technical guidance and by enabling the farmers to freely harvest, transport and sell their produce. All restrictions on the harvest of trees, transport and sale of timber etc. must be removed.
- [221] There needs to be a much greater coordination and close cooperation between State Forest Departments, State agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry and fisheries departments. If the State agriculture departments are to take a lead in agroforestry, they must take on board forest officers and staff for technical help to the extent required. At the national level, there should be a close collaboration between Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Agriculture for the advancement of agroforestry.
- [222] Import of timber and import duty thereupon should be regulated to keep agroforestry remunerative to the farmer.
- [223] Tissue culture and cloning needs to be practised for multiplication of planting material. For this, quality seed and material needs to be obtained by the Forest Departments.
- [224] If the forest departments themselves cannot changeover to the new biotechnology methods of multiplication mentioned above, they should establish linkages with approved institutions and registered private growers who would undertake the task for them. Department of Biotechnology has already recognized The Energy Research Institute, the National Chemical Laboratory and the Jainarayan University of Jodhpur for multiplying trees and bamboo through tissue culture.
- [225] The need of medicinal plants cannot be met with from forests alone, even with their improved management. There is a great scope for growing medicinal plants on private agriculture holdings, which would require the supply of planting material, marketing assistance, and technical inputs at least in the initial stages, and this must come from the State agriculture departments with inputs from State forest departments as well.
- [226] Bamboo has multifarious uses and is in increasingly short supply, especially in the north, central and western India. Bamboo cultivation has great prospects as a remunerative crop under agroforestry and can be grown along field boundaries and in homesteads. Bamboo propagation thus needs to be made a national priority, for State Forest Departments, State Agricultural Departments, and local bodies including panchayats and Gram Sabhas.
- [227] Assistance and cooperation of concerned panchayats, Gram Sabhas and appropriate non-government organizations need to be taken in agroforestry extension.

- [228] The State Forest Departments must establish appropriate extension services to provide necessary technological support to tree growers. In order to provide single-window-services to farmers, agroforestry extension should be handled by the extension services of the agricultural universities and agriculture departments. Subject matter specialists in forestry species should be posted at Krishi Vigyan Kendras and in other appropriate extension units undertaking forestry extension.
- [229] Wood-based industries should also be encouraged to supply certified quality planting stock to farmers and to enter into buyback arrangements with them for the raw material produced by them. The farmers should be free to sell to the market if they get higher prices.
- [230] Liberal credit facilities at lower interest rates may be channelized through banks and other financial institutions to farmers to raise tree and bamboo plantations.
- [231] Suitable lands outside village forests, falling in the category of permanent agricultural fallows or wastelands fit for agriculture (e.g. canal side lands), or problem lands (e.g. usar, ravines, etc.), should be assigned to individuals or groups for tree cultivation in any form (including agroforestry, farm forestry, silvi-pasture, horti-silviculture), and suitable incentives should be designed and put in place to promote tree planting on lands distributed to the landless persons.
- [232] Ecological relations of species with their environments should be documented.
- (a) Ecological keystone species in major forest types should be identified.
 - (b) Optional an truly obligate physiological or behavioural relationship among species should be identified and studied.
 - (c) Key agents in biogeochemical cycles and energy flow chains, and quantify the rates of nutrient and energy transfers should be identified.
- [233] Genetic markers for identification of plus strains of important tree species for forestry and utilitarian purposes should be developed.
- [234] Soil processes in forest ecosystems, particularly aboveground—belowground interactions including role of mycorrhizae in forest regeneration and rehabilitation should be studied, and indicators of soil quality be identified.
- [235] Carbon sequestration of degraded forests using forestry practices should be improved, and carbon sequestration by major forest types be evaluated.
- [236] The role of coarse woody debris in forest regeneration/restoration should be determined.
- [237] Pollutant sensitivity of major tree species and the response of forest to carbon dioxide and nitrogen enrichment should be determined; the impacts of toxins and pollutants in perturbing biogeochemical cycles be considered.
- [238] Tree species for urban forest in different agro-climates should be designed and identified.
- [239] Biodiversity database for major forest types should be developed and the uses of this biodiversity be examined.
- [240] The effect of changes in ecosystem structure and functioning in response to global biophysical and sociological impacts on the delivery of ecosystem services, both tangible and non-tangible, should be documented.
- [241] The linkage of ecosystem services to human well-being should be determined, and the level of well-being dependency on ecosystem services for different forest systems under different socio-economic conditions be evaluated.
- [242] Robust analytical framework and methodological foundations for valuation of ecosystem services and their delivery across social groups should be developed.

- [243] Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education should assess the local research needs of States and prioritize.
- [244] Forest Departments and the Government of India should encourage universities and organizations to take up research proactively, particularly applied research; the topics/areas for required baseline data collection and research should be identified, researchers be supported, and the findings of applied research in the working/management plans be incorporated.
- [245] Research permits, getting of which is a difficult task, should be given without arbitrariness and quickly, provided certain conditions are met. Each management plan should list: (i) research required, (ii) research carried out in the area, and (iii) publications and summary of findings that are relevant to the management plan.
- [246] Long-term research on grassland ecology, fire, flood, invasive species, forest regeneration, wildlife diseases, inter-relationships and inter-dependence of species, groups and habitats, multidisciplinary integrated research encompassing scientific and socioeconomic aspects related to protected area management, reintroduction, rehabilitation of species, etc. should be undertaken in different eco-regions with proper funding by the government and provision of facilities by the Forest Department. Research for making use of ethnic knowledge in wildlife conservation and management, and applied research to obtain intellectual property rights capable of benefiting the local communities and the country, should receive special attention.
- [247] ICFRI (Indian Council of Forest Research and Education) institutes should focus on basic research, and on research relating to national or regional problems which cannot be handled by State Forest Research Institutions (SFRIs), such as genetics and tree breeding, wood science and technology, forest hydrology, chemistry of forest products and their utilization, bio-pesticides, global warming, biodiversity conservation and management, forest sociology including participatory management, and forest economics. Strong linkage should be undertaken forestry research in the same State. Networking of scientists working in these research organizations on common problems needs to be done.
- [248] A quinquennial review of the research projects should be undertaken by a committee of outside experts in respect of each research institute. An expert committee may be constituted to critically examine and recommend revamping and refocusing forestry research in the country.
- [249] The outlay on forest research needs to be very substantially enhanced.
- [250] Keeping in view the paucity of personnel in forestry research, certain thrust areas of research in forestry should be put on contract to agricultural or other universities, as well as private institutions engaged in such research activities. Simultaneously, the extraneous posts of research officers in State Forest Departments, who do no research as such but merely help in providing posts for unwanted personnel, should be abolished.
- [251] Appointment of faculty should be done through a constant interaction with the State officials. A committee consisting of the director, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), one professor, and a representative of the Ministry of Environment and Forests should screen the officers and draw up a list. The officers who have put in a minimum of ten years service and having a very good service record, aptitude and a competence in teaching should only be eligible for appointment. Since there is a dearth of young and willing officers at the level of DCF in the cadres, the faculty positions in the IGNFA should be made flexible and filled up at the level of DCF or Conservator of Forest, depending on the suitability and availability of officers or by getting suitable persons from outside the service. The criteria of selection

should not be seniority of service or plain experience, but a combination of experience and aptitude with a greater emphasis on the latter. A detailed guideline of such a selection process should be worked out by the IGNFA in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forests. Only those members of Indian Forest Service/State Forest Service should be eligible for selection for a faculty position in IGNFA or training colleges/schools, who must have had at least 10 years service and should have annual reports of not lower than 'very good', besides having an aptitude for teaching.

- [252] Seniority should also not be the only criteria for selection of director of the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy. The Ministry of Environment and Forests should ensure that the officer selected is suitable for this very important post and delivers what is expected of him as the head of the premier forest academy of the country.
- [253] The recruitment of the faculty, their assessment and tenure of deputation for the faculties of the Directorate of Forest Education, should be on the same lines as recommended in the case of the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy.
- [254] Keeping in view the low intake at the level of State Forest Service and Forest Range Officers by the State Governments, there is need to review the mandate of the Directorate of Forest Education, the utilization of the existing infrastructure and of the upgradation of the post of the Director, Forest Education.
- [255] The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) should be granted autonomy on the pattern of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the DG, ICFRE should be made Chairman of the Board of Governors, ICFRE. The post of the DG, ICFRE should be made equivalent to the level of Secretary, Government of India.
- [256] Since the major clients for forestry research are the State Forest Departments which do not

have funds to sponsor paid research projects and there is not much scope for the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education to generate its own financial resources except for a few externally aided projects, the Ministry of Environment and Forests must increase the plan and non-plan allocation to the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education for pursuing research activities as per the National Forestry Research Plan. At least five per cent of the revenue from forests should be earmarked for forestry research. The States must increase the allocation to the State Forest Research Institutes, and other research units for carrying out research.

- [257] There is an urgent need to review the mandate of the institutes and fix research priorities for each institute/advanced centre, based on themes and regional research needs, to maintain focus on critical forestry issues. An 'Expert Committee' may be constituted to critically examine and recommend the revamping and refocusing of forestry research in the country and which should be need based applied research.
- [258] More emphasis should be given on field oriented applied research.
- [259] Certain glaring omissions in the field of applied research remain. This was shown, for example, by the sal-borer infestation in Madhya Pradesh. The knowhow to deal with this periodically recurring menace to one of the most widespread and valuable biomes in the country's forests, has made no progress since what was advocated in the 1940s.
- [260] There needs to be much greater attention given to research to achieve biological control over exotic weeds like eupatorium, Mikenia, Strobilanthes, lantana, mimosa and parthenium, which are a serious threat to the regeneration of natural forests.
- [261] The non-plan component of grants-in-aid must be increased to meet the establishment

expenses, so that the plan funds could be utilized for only research activities.

[262] For attending to the State's specific problems and research needs, there should be a separate State Forest Research Institute in each state with autonomy on the pattern of the Kerala Forest Research Institute and these must undertake field oriented research in close coordination with the State Forest Department (SFD). This can be done through reorganizing the Silvicultural Wing of the SFD. The institute should be manned by competent officers and scientists. The useful findings should be widely disseminated. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education should avoid duplication in their own research work.

[263] Strong linkages must be ensured between State Forest Research Institute, ICFRE (Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education) institutes and agricultural universities undertaking forestry research in the same State. Networking of scientists working in these research organizations on common problems, should be done.

[264] There has to be an in-built system of dissemination of research results to the State Forest Departments, other stakeholders, trainees in forest academy/colleges/schools etc. through conduct of refresher courses, seminars, workshops, electronic and print media. Effective linkages should be established between all the research institutes and the beneficiaries of research. The Ministry of Environment and Forests may devise mechanisms for quick transfer of research results to the stakeholders and receive feedback from them.

[265] Detailed procedures for selection of IFS (Indian Forest Service) officers and scientists on research and training posts should be formulated. The officers with adequate aptitude, experience and real interest in the areas of responsibilities of a particular post should only be appointed. The IFS officers who are not performing must be given one year's time to

perform. If they fail to do so, they should be repatriated to their cadres.

[266] The working of the Indian Institute of Forest Management should be reviewed and the curricula of various courses being organized by the Institute should be suitably modified. The 'perspective plan' for the faculty must be completed on a priority basis and action taken for filling up all the vacant posts.

[267] The an Institute of Forest Management should publicize its achievements and strengths in the field of forest management, education and training, to improve its image and attract consultancies and projects.

[268] The problems with the staff at the an Institute of Forest Management need to be sorted out.

[269] The Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute must have a detailed vision paper for the next 20 years. The Institute must have constant interaction with industries and other stakeholders for deciding research priorities and other activities to be taken up. Adequate grants-in-aid should be made available to carry on with research and extension activities and for facilitating the work of the institute.

[270] Assessment of research needs of the Wildlife Institute of India should be carried out in consonance with the current wildlife strategy/ action plans and policies of the Government of India. The Institute must lay more emphasis on applied research on field related problems pertaining to management of wildlife, especially those related to the reduction of man-animal conflict and to develop methodologies and applications for the capture, translocation and rehabilitation of problem animals.

[271] The Wildlife Institute of India must also devise short-term courses for various levels of forest officers (DCF, Conservator of Forest and Chief Conservator of Forest) which can be sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

- [272] A thorough assessment of role identification of the officers on deputation should be undertaken to utilize the potential of officers in full, to supplement and complement the needs of the Wildlife Institute of India. Vacancies need to be filled up and the posts allocated to spheres now requiring attention and priority.
- [273] Trainees receiving long-term training at Wildlife Institute of India must be posted
- [274] Each manager of a protected area should have received training at Wildlife Institute of India. There should be an incentive by way of an allowance, to achieve this end.
- [275] The States must fully utilize the "slots" of training available to them at Wildlife Institute of India and indeed, should ask for more than the present quotas.
- [276] Develop a dynamic database under the geographical information system domain at the Wildlife Institute of India for monitoring changes in prime wildlife habitats, for facilitating adaptive management.
- [277] Establish a special laboratory for forensics and conservation genetics at the Wildlife Institute of India and to disseminate knowledge in this regard to the States.
- [278] To grant real autonomy to the Wildlife Institute of India as contained in the Memorandum of Association.
- [279] The zonal establishments of the Forest Survey of India (FSI) should be strengthened with enough budgetary and staff support so that more periodic information on forest resources can be made available to State Forest Departments. Since field verification and interpretation of the data obtained through satellite imagery is very essential and is to be done on a time-bound basis, the staff and budgetary requirements of the zonal offices of the FSI should be properly assessed and they should be provided with adequate finances and essential field staff, which can be kept on a contractual basis. Two more zonal officers, one exclusively for the North-East and the other for the western region needs to be established.
- [280] The Ministry of Environment and Forests must impress upon the State Governments the need to ensure that the forest training institutions are administered and managed properly and the posts are filled with willing and competent officers.
- [281] Forestry personnel have to be equipped with necessary tools for managing forests according to emerging needs of the civil society and in view of the increasing pressures on the forests. Hence, there is need to regularly review the contents of training being imparted to forestry personnel at various levels, at least once in five years, and the training be modified suitably.
- [282] The Forest Development Corporations (FDCs), in their current mandate and functioning, are redundant. Their existing work can readily be transferred to territorial forest divisions and afforestation wings, if any. Some of the staff of the FDCs may be transferred with the charge. The mandate and role of Forest Development Corporations need to be reviewed and other functions assigned to them. The FDCs can also be entrusted with the work of fuelwood supply, to extract and supply fuelwood in lieu of the ongoing practice of sale of 'head load' fuelwood in towns and cities and which therefore can be stopped. The people currently extracting and selling fuelwood could be given fuelwood from established depots of the FDCs and they in turn can sell them. But extraction of fuelwood from forests for the purpose of sale must remain the monopoly of the Forest Department.
- [283] The Forest Development Corporations should be given the task of extending forestry to grassland/watershed management in government lands outside of forests, as well

as to cooperate with agriculture departments in the extension of farm and agroforestry.

- [284] The State governments must ensure that all the administrative and scientific posts in these institutes are filled up in time with competent and willing personnel and adequate facilities and incentives are provided so as to attract the best talent for manning these institutions. These posts must not be a preserve of in-service personnel, but should be filled up with recruitment of the best possible talent, within the State Forest Department as well as from universities and from the open market.
- [285] A separate Department of Forests and Wildlife within the Ministry of Environment and Forests should be created to ensure adequate importance and attention to the management of natural resources. Forestry related subjects of biodiversity, mangroves, wetlands, medicinal plants, forestry issues under climate change and combating desertification, which are being dealt mostly by the forest departments in the State Governments, should be transferred to the proposed new department, from the Environment Wing. This department should also handle coastal development, National Wasteland Development Board and watershed management in areas having forests, as well as coastal conservation involving the biota. The new department also needs to be given adequate resources to fulfill its duties.
- [286] On most of the international forestry issues wherein India has a larger stake as a developing nation, generally wider consultations are not held among the forest officials within the Ministry as well as with the State Forest Departments. As a result, in international consultations the country does not get the benefit of collective work experience of a wider section of foresters. Even the officers do not get to know the latest happenings in the sector at the global level, which have a bearing on the development of forestry and wildlife at the national and regional levels. Appropriate mechanisms should be evolved for wider consultations and dissemination of information to foresters at the national and State levels.
- [287] Presently, there are no detailed defined duties and responsibilities for various levels in the forestry hierarchy, except the mention of some broad duties in the forest codes/forest manuals of the State Forest Departments. Detailed job description for all levels including that of the ministerial staff should be documented by revising the forest codes and it be given to all the personnel. Need based training for the personnel at different levels should be arranged.
- [288] For efficient administration and better coordination among the various wings of the State Forest Department, it is necessary to have a single line command. Only the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest should report to government on policy issues.
- [289] Over the last three decades, there has been an immense change in the aims and objectives of managing forests and wildlife resources in keeping with emerging 374 needs of the civil society. However, the structure of the State Forest Departments (SFDs) including the strength of the frontline staff has not undergone adequate changes. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry should undertake a detailed review of the structures of various SFDs and issue appropriate guidelines to States in the next two years, for the restructuring of each State/Union Territory State Forest department.
- [290] Accountability of officers at various levels in the forestry services needs to be closely laid down and monitored, to improved their performance.
- [291] For the welfare of the service (housing, educational facilities for children, conveyance, facilities for maintaining physical fitness, grievances handling and counseling etc.), the State Governments should establish Forest Services Beneficiary Funds.

- [292] Professional knowledge of the forest staff, especially the field staff is very poor in respect of the procedural requirements to prosecute a case in court. They need to be provided regular training in legal requirements pertaining to search, seizure, evidence collection and prosecution in court. Legal cells need to be established in each State to pursue the backlog of court cases and in hiring good lawyers in important cases.
- [293] In States where the backlog of pending cases pertaining to forest offences is especially large, the High Court could be requested to appoint special courts to hasten the process of law.
- [294] Grievances redressal cells should be established at circle and headquarters level to address the problems and grievances of the subordinate staff.
- [295] The delegation of administrative and financial powers should be reviewed and for efficient administration and service delivery to the society, there has to be more devolution of these powers to the middle level management and the field officers, with corresponding increase in accountability.
- [296] Professionalism should receive priority within the department. Measures to reduce unnecessary administrative work at different levels are necessary, as these consume a major time and attention of senior staff and hampers technical and professionalism improvement and specialization.
- [297] The State governments must complete demarcation of forest boundaries, and mutation in revenue records. The process requires financial and technical capacity building of forest settlement offices. A trained team of surveyors be equipped with global positioning system and other technical tools to carry out the process of demarcation. Forest maps should be updated after demarcation and be incorporated in the working plans.
- [298] Staff and vehicles of the Forest Departments are requisitioned for non-forestry purposes, the advantage of which is taken by wood and wildlife poachers. Such requisitioning must be avoided.
- [299] In view of prevalent threats to forests and forest personnel who unlike the police have to function alone or in very small units, the forest field staff need to be armed and need to be given protection under the law in the exercise of their duties, as is given to the police and the paramilitary forces, under section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code. They need to be safeguarded against wrongful accusations under the various anti-SC/ST (Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes) atrocities legislations and need to be provided reasonable and just indemnities in fabricated cases.
- [300] Making frontline staff a satisfied lot is a most important tool for achieving effective conservation and management of forest. For this, it is necessary that their housing problem is addressed. Keeping in view the remoteness of the posting of the frontline staff, they are not in a position to keep their families at their place of posting. It is, therefore, recommended that Forest Housing Corporations be created by every State Government to construct primarily family accommodations for the frontline staff. An adequate corpus fund be allotted to the proposed.
- [301] Forest administration should take advantage of forestry education in the universities by at least giving preference in selection for the posts of forest officers.
- [302] Recruitment to forest rangers should be from amongst B.Sc. Forestry graduates produced by universities imparting forestry education. Induction training in the forest rangers colleges will, however, still be necessary for trainees who might already be forestry graduates.
- [303] Forestry should be recognized as a subject for

competitive examinations in state and All India Administrative Services.

[304] In view of the serious shortage of forest staff at the field level, the general ban by the State Governments on filling up of vacant posts should not apply to the field posts of wildlife guards, forest guards, foresters and others upto the level of forest range officers. Tribal and other backward communities need to be given preference in the filling up of the vacant posts of Forest Guards, and educational qualifications need to be relaxed in the case of such recruits.

[305] The number of beat guards needs to be substantially increased and a revision of beat areas needs to be done state-wise. No change has been done in this regard since before Independence. Each State needs to appoint a committee to go through the exercise of re-delineating beat boundaries.

[306] The field staff is also poorly provided for by way of transport, communication and other facilities required in the better exercise of their duties. A state-wise assessment needs to be carried out and these basic requirements have to be provided to make the field staff more effective for protection work, on a priority basis.

[307] Specialization is a prerequisite in forestry to enable the service to fulfill its role in conserving the forest ecosystems and its biota, in extending forestry within and without existing forests, and in fulfilling the needs and aspirations of the people vis-a-vis forestry. Experience has shown that specialization in real terms can only be achieved by restructuring the personnel setup and setting up specific subcadres, by changing recruitment rules and by providing the complementary training and cadre management. Four broad areas of specialization for purposes of developing sub-cadres are recommended. They are:—

(a) Forest conservation, including protection, harvesting and sale of forest produce;

(b) Extension forestry, including plantations and nurseries, joint forest management, grassland and watershed management and eco-development outside Reserve Forests;

(c) Wildlife management, including management of protected areas and their buffers and corridors; collection of basic data, control of wildlife trade and taxidermy, etc. implemmentation of international conventions pertaining to nature conservation; and

(d) Research, training, working plans, technical support to agro-and farm forestry.

[308] However, a detailed and impartial study needs to be commissioned to define in detail, (i) which precise work spheres should be assigned to the respective subcadres (ii) what should be the required strength of each sub-cadre for the Indian Forest Service and other cadres in the States (iii) guidelines for the cadre management of the various sub-cadres.

[309] The same study referred above should also consider as to what changes are required in the recruitment rules for the individual specialized sub-cadres, and the training and training periods required for recruits with degrees in subjects related to forestry and forestlands like botany, biology, zoology, ecology, forestry, ethology, environmental sciences, etc., and for those recruits who have other science degrees. But weightage has to be given to those recruits who have graduated in subjects related to forestry as against those who have science degrees not related to forestry and ecology, and this should be reflected in the period of induction training. This, in itself, will encourage candidates to opt for relevant subjects in their college education.

[310] It is a regrettable fact that very few amongst the present personnel of all cadres of forest services would opt for the proposed sub-cadres of categories u, c and d mentioned in the

recommendation 308 above. They would vie to remain in the traditional work sphere of the service—territorial forest divisions and in the harvesting and marketing of forest produce. This mindset and the lack of specialization that emanates from it, is one of the main reasons for the setting up of specialized sub-cadres. The needs and interests of forestry and forestlands are paramount and hence the services at all levels must be organized to suit the current job requirements, and not the other way around. Once the cadre strength at various levels for categories b, c and d of the proposed sub-cadres are worked out, a certain number of ex-cadre posts would have to be kept in each sub-cadre, so that if an adequate number of appropriate personnel from the existing forestry staff do not opt for them in the initial stages, the required manpower could be recruited from the open field, both through deputation and through competitive examinations. Once the recruitment for different sub-cadres begins and the recruits are imparted the requisite training, the problem of vacancies would not persist.

- [311] In order to take care of the training required to be imparted to equip Indian IFS training at Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy should be of three years duration, followed by one year training in the State on different assignments.
- [312] Training for the staff at field levels, i.e., forest guards, wildlife guards, foresters and forest rangers, need priority. Direct recruitment may be only at the level of forest guards and forest rangers to improve promotional avenues in subordinate services. All those promoted to the level of foresters and forest rangers should undergo one-year training. No person should be appointed as forest guard, wildlife guard, forester or forest ranger without receiving training prescribed for these posts. It should be ensured that every frontline personnel gets at least two promotions/equivalent pay scales in his career span.
- [313] Forestry research and training in the State

should be integrated and conducted at the State Forest Research Institute (SFRI). The existing Forest Rangers Training College or Foresters Training School in the State should be upgraded as SFRI. It will help in making available competent faculty for training and will ensure quick transfer of research results to the trainees.

- [314] Each forest training institution may have a 'training forest' to be managed by the institution, where all operations should be done by the trainees as a part of their training.
- [315] Pattern of staffing in most of the States and union territories is similar, but for the National Capital Territory (NCT), Delhi, where IFS officers are posted as Conservator and Deputy Conservators as per cadre allocation of the AGMUT (Andaman, Goa, and Mizoram Union Territory) cadre, there is no welldeveloped structure of forest rangers and others. It is recommended that cadre strength, and recruitment rules of all categories of frontline staff be framed by government of the NCT, Delhi by making them at par with the other States/union territories; but ensuring that personnel presently working here are not put to any hardship in this process.
- [316] A strategy is required for improving productivity of degraded forests (10-40% crown density) by assisted regeneration and afforestation through joint forest management in forest areas near villages, and by the Forest Departments in areas away from the villages. This would involve prevention of fire and effective reduction/elimination of biotic pressures.
- [317] A strategy is needed for meeting the needs of construction timber, panel, pulp paper, packaging and particle board panel and chip board industries, through quick growing high yielding plantations of softwoods.
- [318] A new strategy for social and agroforestry be evolved, which would include planned

involvement of forest-based industries in the distribution of high quality seedlings, with buy-back guarantee to the farmers, to ensure qualitative support to the planting programme and market support for the produce. This is to help bring about an additional 10 million ha. under farm forestry/agroforestry and to meet substantially the needs of industry.

[319] In order to promote tree plantation on government revenue wastelands, a survey on the availability of such areas be carried out and at the same time some pilot projects involving van panchayats/village communities, government departments and the investor in such plantations, be formulated in states where such land is available.

[320] Establishment of a forum for periodic discussion between Ministry of Environment and Forest, Ministry of Industry and Commerce and recognized associations of wood-based industries, to review and evolve a rational import export policy and review tariff rates keeping in view local demand, supply and market conditions, would be useful.

[321] It is necessary to assess the demand and supply scenario of forest products, including exports and imports, to make projections for 2020 A.D. and to suggest strategies to bridge the gap between demand and supply of raw material for forest based industries.

[322] The efforts to develop cottage industries should be concentrated in farm forestry areas. It is also necessary to evolve a strategy to ensure availability of raw material in adequate quantity and quality at a competitive prices to the small entrepreneur. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and non-government organisations have a major role to play. Linkages with such organizations/institutions need to be established and strengthened.

[323] Cooperation between forests authorities, community groups and industry is required.

[324] There needs to be a detailed advance planning and more attention given to the formulation of any new international arrangements and agreements at both global and regional levels, pertaining to forests and wildlife, so that interests and needs of the country are well safeguarded.

[325] There also need to be a far more concentrated effort to implement in both letter and spirit, the national duties and obligations envisaged in international agreements to which India is a party, and not just merely participate in the periodic meetings related to these instruments and to give vocal support. Many of these international instruments and agreements including those related to suppression of illegal trade, have a direct bearing on the conservation of the country's biodiversity and natural resources and it is in India's interests to give full cooperation and seek the same, at both regional and international levels.

[326] There needs to be greater financial inputs provided to fulfil these international obligations, and there needs to be a nodal cell to monitor the follow-up action and implementation of each instrument, within the Forest and Wildlife Wing of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

[327] We may also learn lessons from other regional instruments such as the Amazonian and Central African and establish regional instruments, at least at the South Asian regional level, for the purpose of achieving cooperation and collaboration of the countries concerned vis-a-vis international commitments and obligations pertaining to wildlife and forests in the Asian region.

[328] The views of India should be framed well before international negotiations and after wider consultation from all stakeholders.

[329] The size of the delegation for the participation in different conventions and international meetings is very small. Since almost one fourth

the land mass in the country belongs to the forestry sector and around 28% population of the country have dependence on forests, there is need to have an adequate delegation representing all sectors of the country, including industry, non-government organisations and individual experts.

[330] It was observed that many forest-related international instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Commission on Sustainable Development are not dealt with by the Forest and Wildlife Wing of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. This needs to be rectified.

[331] A national level coordination committee for forest resource accounting (FRA) should be constituted to provide technical support and strengthening networking of concerned institutions/agencies, with a view to promote use of FRA at all levels (national/state/local). The committee shall comprise institutions and individuals including economists, ecologists, and physical science experts working in the area of forest resource data generation, valuation and accounting, alongwith the practitioners. The committee would work out a dynamic formula based upon paradigms and parameters which can be revised from time to time as more data becomes available and better norms get evolved.

[332] The data requirements for natural resource accounting are very high and the Central Statistical Organisation should create a cell or a separate wing to generate the required data on a continuous basis. Major data gaps are inconsistent data from different sources in the forest sector as well as other line departments, and the lack of resource inventory data. Some of the specific data gaps are forest resource stocks and exploitation data, change in forest stock, time series data on ecosystem services provided by forests and biodiversity, data on

encroachment, data on resources drawn from forests by industrial units and data on intermediate consumption by industrial units, etc. On account of lack of data from secondary sources, primary level studies need to be conducted to cover varied dimensions to bridge the existing data gaps.

[333] As forests have multiple stakeholders and multi-sectoral linkages, the knowledge generated and the formula of assessment and accounting shall be disseminated in the form of working or policy papers on developing the framework for valuing forests, to guide the formulation of a policy in respect of forest resource accounting, which would then determine the valuation of forests, forestlands and their goods and services and put the assessment of their valuation in its true perspective.

[334] A manual containing basic concepts, methodology for economic valuation and accounting of forests and forestlands may be prepared for handy use by the end users. Necessary capacity building regarding a new system of forest resource accounting should also be done amongst the personnel of forest departments who are expected to be involved in implementing the proposed system.

[335] The new system of forest resource accounting (FRA) proposed through the efforts of the expert group shall comprise tools and techniques of capturing values of tangible and intangible goods and services provided by forests and shall produce a set of accounts for systematically recording such values in the system of national accounts. The proposed system can be implemented at the functional unit level, which may be a division or State level. Since the forest sector is a dynamic sector and any change in it will have a multiplier effect on itself as well on other sectors, it is essential that the exercise of valuation and accounting be taken on a regular basis. For this purpose, it is proposed that the exercise should be made as a component of the existing working plan

preparation exercise. As the Working Plan is prepared every 8-10 years, the FRA shall also be automatically done. In fact, if FRA exercises are performed first, important signals can be generated for the new working plan itself.

- [336] While fulfilment of requirements of the community from adjoining forests cannot be denied, the fact remains that the 'forests' are a national wealth and their protection and preservation must be viewed from that angle and not only from regional, sectoral, ethnic or political standpoints.
- [337] Forest-rich States, which are having forest/tree cover more than the target fixed in the National Forest Policy, 1988, should be provided special incentives to maintain that area under forest/tree cover, but their demand for compensation cannot be acceded.
- [338] Forest-deficient States should be provided incentives to increase their forest/tree cover, but the content and approach of this incentive should of course be different.
- [339] While there should be no dilution in implementing the Forest Conservation Act and the existing guidelines are fairly balanced, care should be taken that legitimate demands for basic needs should be cleared without any delay, while safeguarding the long term interests of forests, wildlife and the environment.
- [340] The National Forest Commission is of the considered opinion that the proposed Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act would be harmful to the interests of forests and to the ecological security of the country. It would be bad in law and would be in open conflict with the rulings of the Supreme Court. Another legislation, therefore, needs to be framed providing the forest dwelling communities a right to a share from the forest produce on an ecologically sustainable basis and Ministry of Environment and Forests could be asked to do the needful, after taking into

account the inputs of the State Governments as recommended by the Sarkaria Commission as a subject under the concurrent list.

- [341] Forest encroachments to the extent of 3.60 lakh per annum have already been regularized. If any State feels that any encroachments done prior to 25-10-1980 still remains unsettled, the concerned State governments could appoint commissions, perhaps headed by judges, to finalize the claims within a time frame. Settlement of such claims and disputes arising therefrom should be done by quasi-judicial bodies and not left to the discretion of Gram Sabhas.
- [342] The Bill implies that tribals would be permitted to exploit forests for commercial purposes and not only for bona fide livelihood purposes as was originally intended, with only the concerned Gram Sabha empowered to decide as to what exploitation would be unsustainable. The extent and nature of forest exploitation on an ecologically sustainable basis must be decided by forest managers in consultation with the local communities, who would have first charge over any forest produce extracted, to meet their bona fide livelihood requirements, and an economic share of any surplus produce that may be disposed off thereafter.
- [343] The proposed legislation should not apply to national parks and sanctuaries, which are the last havens of hope for the nation's forests, wildlife, wilderness and biodiversity. The villagers that remain within them have their pattas and rights and encroachments within them must not be condoned. Many communities themselves wish to resettle outside of such protected areas and this must be facilitated and alternative forestland provided. The politically motivated and ecologically suicidal proposal of providing temporary rights in these protected areas for a period of five years and then if they are not relocated in that period the rights to become permanent, is a mere facade, and considering the past record and political

motivations will never be achieved and the grant of such rights will irrevocably impair the ecological viability of protected areas.

[344] The clause that no encroacher should be evicted from forestland under his occupation till the recognition and verification of his claims are completed, with no time limit for such a process, is again self-defeating and will give an impetus and license to more encroachments in forests and to corruption. Such a provision must not apply, at least to national parks and sanctuaries, if not to all forests.

[345] There is an ambiguity in the Bill about the applicability of laws. If the laws of the land pertaining to forests and wildlife are to apply to all tribals and non-tribals, this must be clearly stated and the current confusion about duality in the application of law to tribals and non-tribals, be done away with.

[346] It is recommended that to provide an incentive to the forested States to retain and augment their forests, it would be appropriate if additional allocations could be given by Government of India annually, commensurate to the quantum of forest held by the State and the efforts being made by the State to implement national policies for the conservation of forests and watersheds. Such annual grants must be linked with conservation performance and not just forest area alone. The quantum of annual aid given must have a certain matching grant quotient from the State concerned and which must be in addition to current State outlays on forest conservation and not just substitution of ongoing expenditure and must go entirely for forest conservation and must be directly linked with qualitative and quantitative improvement of forest cover, periodically to be reviewed by the

[347] The allocation to the forestry sector must be increased, both in central and State budgets,

and must not be less than 2.5% of the total plan outlay.

[348] To finance the normal forestry operations like fire protection, regeneration etc. funds should be made available to State forest departments, either by increasing non-plan expenditure or covering this under plan expenditure

[349] Whereas the Supreme Court order not to harvest forests as per the working plan prescriptions without getting funds for regeneration must be honoured in letter and spirit, forest working must not be stopped for want of funds and funds must be made available for regeneration.

[350] Funds for plantation should be grouped under two sub-heads—one for achieving plantation target for that year and another for advance work for the next year.

[351] In the subsequent year funds for raising plantation in that year should commensurate with the target set and the funds made available for advance work in the previous year.

[352] 20% funds of all the Rural Development Programme should be incurred on forestry and watershed operations as was done in case of NRER and RLEGP.

[353] All disaster management programmes of the Central and State Governments must have a component of forestry, which should not be less than 5% of the total outlay.

[354] Efforts should be made by Central and State Government to obtain adequate funding from external sources to fulfill the NFAP targets.

[355] Before accepting funding both from donors and lending agencies, the executing agencies namely, the State governments, must provide in real terms matching/required contributions, which should be additions to and not substitution of existing funding, and also make provision for continuing the posts and the

programme that have been initiated, after the project has come to an end.

- [356] Fund releases should be timely and in keeping with the requirement. Funds should not be held up by the states to improve their own financial ways and means situation.
- [357] Programmes under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) 2005 should also be extended to forestry operations.
- [358] Currently, industries pay a 2% cess on water, which goes to the concerned Pollution Control Boards. However, water is a commodity that is regulated by forests and most rivers have their upper catchments in forests. At least half of the 2% cess should go to the concerned SFDs or, more appropriately, the cess be enhanced to 4% with half going to SFDs.
- [359] An independent mechanism of the appropriate status be set up to prioritize and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the National Forest Commission and to draw attention of the concerned implementing agencies where implementation is deficient.
- [360] To assess and advise on the conservation needs and priorities of forests and grasslands, of biodiversity and wildlife, and of the civic society in this regard in future, it is recommended that a National Forest Commission be set up from time to time.

[English]

Procurement of Minor Crops

*526. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government procures minor crops including millets, small grains etc. from the farmers in the poorest and most backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total quantum procured during the last three years;

(c) the portion of the said quantum distributed under

Public Distribution System and other programmes for employment generation;

(d) whether any assessment has been made regarding the adverse impact of distribution of wheat and rice on the demand of those minor crops; 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) As per existing policy of Government coarsegrains (maize, bajra, ragi, jowar and barley), for which the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is fixed for each marketing season, are being procured by the State Government's under price support operations. The State Governments are making arrangements for procurement of coarsegrains by opening purchase centres with required manpower, infrastructure and facilities for making payments to farmers. The quantity of coarsegrains procured during KMS 2003-04 to KMS 2005-06 is as follows:—

KMS		Quantity in lakh MT
2003-04	—	6.51
2004-05	—	8.27
2005-06	—	10.66*

*As on 15-5-2006.

(c) A statement showing the details of lifting of coarsegrains allocated to States out of stocks procured during the last 3 years is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) A survey undertaken by the NSSO shows a large decline in cereals consumption from 50 kilogram per capita per annum (kpca) in 1972-73 to 25 kpca in 1999-2000 occurring across all income classes and in a regionally widespread manner. The High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy in its Report submitted in July, 2002 noted that due to change in dietary patterns in the past years consumption of coarse cereals has declined in favour of wheat and rice. Simultaneously the use of coarse cereals for purposes other than human consumption like poultry/animal feed and industrial use etc. has increased.

Statement*Coarsegrains distributed under TPDS during the last 3 years*

(Quantity in MT)

KMS 2003-04

State	Coarsegrains	Quantity Allocated	Quantity lifted
Rajasthan	Bajra	30,000	5,432
	Maize	14,952	5,089

(Quantity in MT)

KMS 2004-05

State	Coarsegrains	Quantity Allocated	Quantity lifted
Gujarat	Maize	20,400	19,908
Karnataka	Ragi	48,723	48,723

(Quantity in MT)

KMS 2005-06

State	Coarsegrains	Quantity Allocated	Quantity lifted
Rajasthan	Maize	42,260	7,912
Gujarat	Maize	84,464	—
	Jowar	11,718	—
	Bajra	4,800	—
Madhya Pradesh	Maize	2,800	2,788
	Jowar	220	220
Sikkim	Bajra	100	—
Chhattisgarh	Maize	8,694 MT	—

Note:—For KMS 2005-06 in the case of Gujarat the stocks are in transit from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The stocks are being lifted by the State Governments of Sikkim and Chhattisgarh.

Expansion of AAY*527. **SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:****SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:**

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to expand the 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana' to cover more families living below poverty line under the scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the subsidy given to States under the said scheme has been enhanced;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps formulated to implement the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in all the States and Union Territories effectively?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched in December 2000 to benefit 100 lakh poorest of the poor families by providing them 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month, at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. of wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. of rice.

In April 2002, the scale of issue of AAY families was increased to 35 kg. from 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month.

In 2003-04, the AAY scheme was expanded by 50 lakh families, in 2004-05 by another 50 lakh families and in 2005-06 by a further 50 lakh families, taking the total coverage to 250 lakh families.

(c) and (d) The food subsidy amount released under AAY has steadily increased with the expansion of the AAY and increase in the scale of issue. Food subsidy released in respect of foodgrains distributed under AAY during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Subsidy released under AAY (Rs. in crore)	
2003-04	—	3161.22
2004-05	—	4967.46
2005-06	—	6417.94

(e) Detailed guidelines for proper identification of families and implementation under the AAY, including guidelines for the identification of additional families has been circulated to all States/UTs. The implementation of the AAY scheme is being periodically reviewed.

Task Force on Micro Irrigation

*528. **SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force on Micro Irrigation had recommended coverage of 3 million hectare under micro irrigation in the country during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the extent to which the said target has been achieved so far;

(c) whether the Government has made adequate allocation for that purpose as recommended by the Task Force; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation was formulated which was approved by the Central Government in December, 2005. The Scheme was launched in January, 2006 and Operational Guidelines issued thereafter. Based on the Work Plan received from the States a sum of Rs. 280.46 crore was released to the States. States will have to be given sometime to report progress on the implementation of the Scheme, as funds for the same have been released in March, 2006 for covering an area

of 2.17 lakh ha. under drip and sprinkler irrigation. During 2006-07, Rs. 520.00 crore has been earmarked in the budget for the above scheme. It is expected that the target of 6.2 lakh ha. will be covered under Micro Irrigation by the end of Xth Plan.

TV Transmitters in Rural Areas

*529. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of TV transmitters installed and functioning in rural areas in the country particularly Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) whether a number of projects are lying pending for a long time due to lack of financial and technical sanction;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Currently, one thousand four hundred T.V. transmitters are functioning in the country including eighty-four in Uttar Pradesh. These provide coverage to urban as well as rural population in their respective coverage zones. Multichannel TV coverage has been provided to the entire country (except Andaman and Nicobar Islands) through Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service "DD Direct Plus". It is possible to receive DTH signals anywhere in the country with the help of a small sized dish receive unit. New transmitters are not, therefore, contemplated now.

Projects are formulated and processed for financial approval from time to time taking into consideration the position of the prevailing Five Year Plan and availability of resources. Presently no transmitter project is pending for financial approval.

[English]

Implementation of National Child Labour Project

*530. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) in various districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of ongoing NCLP in the country, State-wise;

(c) the details of funds allocated and utilized during 2004-05 and 2005-06 under the project;

(d) whether there is any system for overall supervision, monitoring and evaluation of NCLP; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in 250 districts of 21 states in the country for rehabilitation of working children. Under the scheme, children withdrawn from work are put into the special schools, where they are provided education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition and health checkup etc. State-wise details of the NCLPs are in the statement enclosed.

(c) An amount of Rs. 89.00 crore and Rs. 102.40 crore has been allocated under the project for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively out of which, the utilization of funds during 2004-05 and 2005-06 was Rs. 83.10 crore and Rs. 102.32 crore respectively.

(d) and (e) The Projects are being monitored through the periodical reports submitted by the District authorities to the Ministry. At the National level, a Central Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Secretary (Labour and Employment) monitors the overall functioning of the Scheme. The State Governments also monitor the functioning of the child labour projects at their level. In addition, the projects are being regularly inspected by the State and Central government officials to ensure proper implementation of the scheme.

Statement*List of Districts covered under NCLP Scheme*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of District	Name of the Districts
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	Anantapur, Chittor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Kurnool, Medak, Nalgonda, Khammam, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddy, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, Warangal, West Godavari, Mehbubnagar, Adilabad and Krishna.
2.	Assam	3	Nagaon, Kokrajhar and Lakhimpur.
3.	Bihar	24	Nalanda, Saharsa, Jamui, Katihar, Araria, Gaya, East Champaran, West Champaran, Madhepura, Patna, Supaul, Samastipur, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Nawada, Khagaria, Sitamarhi, Kishanganj, Begusarai, Banka, Saran, Purnia and Bhagalpur.
4.	Chhattisgarh	8	Durg, Bilaspur, Rajnandgaon, Surguja, Raigarh, Dantewada, Raipur and Korba.
5.	Goa	1	Goa.
6.	Gujarat	9	Surat, Panchmahals, Bhuj, Banas Kantha, Dahod, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad and Rajkot.
7.	Haryana	3	Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panipat.
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	Jammu, Srinagar and Udhampur
9.	Jharkhand	9	Garwah, Sahibganj, Dumka, Pakur, West Singhbhum (Chaibasa), Gumla, Palamu, Ranchi and Hazaribagh.
10.	Karnataka	17	Bijapur, Raichur, Dharwad, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban, Belgaum, Koppal, Tumkur, Devangere, Haveri, Mysore, Bagalkot, Chitradurga, Gulbarga, Bellary, Kolar and Mandya.
11.	Madhya Pradesh	17	Mandsaur, Gwalior, Ujjain, Barwani, Rewa, Dhar, East Nimar (Khandwa), Rajgarh, Chhindwara, Shivpuri, Sidhi, Guna, Betul, Shajapur, Ratlam, West Nimar (Khargon) and Jhabua.
12.	Maharashtra	13	Solapur, Thane, Pune, Ahmadnagar, Sangli, Kolhapur, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Nanded, Nasik, Yavatmal, Dhule and Beed.
13.	Mizoram	1	Aizwal.
14.	Nagaland	1	Dimapur.

1	2	3	4
15.	Orissa	18	Angul, Bargarh, Bolangir, Deogarh, Gajapati (Udayagiri), Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Cuttack and Balasore.
16.	Punjab	3	Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Amritsar.
17.	Rajasthan	23	Jaipur, Udaipur, Tonk, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Alwar, Jalor, Churu, Nagaur, Chittaurgarh, Banswara, Dhaulpur, Sikar, Dungarpur, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Bundi, Jhalawar, Pali, Bhilwara, Ganganagar and Barmer.
18.	Tamil Nadu	13	Chidambaranar (Tuticorin), Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Pudukkottai, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri, Chennai, Erode, Dindigul and Theni.
19.	Uttar Pradesh	42	Varanasi, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Bulandshahar, Saharanpur, Azamgarh, Muzaffarnagar, Gonda, Kheri, Bahraich, Balrampur, Hardoi, Barabanki, Sitapur, Faizabad, Badaun, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar, Rae Bareilly, Unnao, Sultanpur, Fatehpur, Shravasti, Pratapgarh, Basti, Sonbhadra, Mau, Deoria, Banda, Ghaziabad, Jaunpur, Rampur, Bareilly, Lucknow, Meerut, Etawah, Agra, Ghazipur, Mathura and Etah.
20.	Uttaranchal	1	Dehradun.
21.	West Bengal	18	Burdwan, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, North 24-Parganas, South 24-Parganas, Kolkata, Murshidabad, Midnapore, Maldah, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Nadia, Hugli, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Bihar and East Midnapore.
Total		250	

Note: Districts highlighted in the list are those which have been included under the scheme in the Tenth Plan.

[Translation]

Implementation of NAIS

*531. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States and the Union Territories in the country where the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has not been implemented;

(b) the details and the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented in all the States; and

(d) the details of the Insurance Companies implementing NAIS?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), at present, is not being implemented by Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Chandigarh, Daman and Diu, Delhi, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep. The NAIS is voluntary for States/Union Territories and they are free to opt or not opt in favour of the scheme.

(c) NAIS is open to all the States/UTs including those which have not implemented the scheme so far. It is for the States/UTs to exercise their option in favour of implementation of the scheme.

(d) NAIS, at present, is being implemented by Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) which was set up at the initiative of the Government of India in December, 2002. The company is promoted by General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC); National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and four Public Sector General Insurance Companies.

[English]

Import of Wheat

*532. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:

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

(a) the quantum of foodgrains particularly wheat procured so far during the current season, State-wise;

(b) whether the quantity of wheat estimated to be procured is likely to be less this year;

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

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the procurement;

(e) whether the Government proposes to import additional quantity of foodgrains including wheat to bridge the shortfall over and above the five lakh tonnes of wheat already imported;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether some countries have requested the Government to relax the conditions for the import; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) State-wise procurement of foodgrains including wheat (in RMS 2006-07 and KMS 2005-06) is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The quantity of wheat likely to be procured in the Rabi Marketing Season 2006-07 is 95 lakh tonnes. Procurement of wheat has been low due to lower than the initially projected production, high ruling market prices, more aggressive purchase by the private sector and market arrivals of wheat are significantly lower than the last year.

(d) In order to increase procurement the Government of India has announced an incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per qtl. for procurement of wheat over the MSP of Rs. 650.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken a decision on 22-4-2006 to import additional 30 lakh tonnes of wheat through STC over and above the 5 lakh tonnes of wheat already being imported.

(g) and (h) In view of the representation received from a view countries and from several trading companies, and to ensure wider participation, tender specifications have been amended in the tender floated by the STC for 30 lakhs tonnes on 8-5-2006. The changes primarily relate to moisture limits, test weight, testing and analysis methods, and phytosanitary parameters.

Statement

Procurement of Foodgrains in the Current Season

(In 000 tonnes)

State/U.T.	Wheat RMS 2006-07	Rice KMS 2005-06	Coarsegrains KMS 2005-06
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	—	3056	510
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Assam	—	1	—
Bihar	—	735	—
Chandigarh	—	13	—
Chhattisgarh	—	2885	9
Delhi	—	—	—
Gujarat	—	—	—
Haryana	2228	2040	5
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	—	3	—
Jharkhand	—	2	—
Karnataka	—	48	443
Kerala	—	91	—
Madhya Pradesh	Neg.	131	3
Maharashtra	—	167	97
Nagaland	—	—	—
Orissa	—	1173	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—
Punjab	6927	8837	—
Rajasthan	2	23	—
Tamil Nadu	—	732	—
Uttar Pradesh	36	2905	—
Uttaranchal	Neg.	324	—
West Bengal	—	1177	—
Total	9193	24243	1067

Neg.—Below 500 tonnes.

*Position as on 15-05-2006.

Monitoring of Ground Water Levels

*533. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board monitor ground water levels regularly;

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

(c) the number of ground water wells identified for collection of samples with regard to quality of water, State-wise;

(d) whether monitoring for 2005-06 has been completed in all the regions; and

(e) if so, the details of report submitted by each region so far along with action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors ground water levels regularly through a network of 15640 observation wells throughout the country. Water levels are monitored four times in a year during the months of January, April/May, August and November. The main objective of ground water level monitoring is to observe the trend of water level fluctuations. The data generated is used for assessment of ground water resources, which is carried out jointly by CGWB and the States.

(c) Ground water monitoring wells are also used by CGWB for collection of ground water samples once in a year during pre-monsoon (April/May) period for knowing the regional ground water quality. In addition, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have 321 water quality monitoring wells. State-wise distribution of these wells is given in the statement enclosed.

Besides, CGWB collects water samples from various ground water structures and exploratory wells during hydrogeological surveys which include water quality problems and their extent, from geogenic sources like fluoride, arsenic, salinity etc.

(d) Monitoring of ground water levels for the year 2005-06 (April/May, 2005, August, 2005, November, 2005 and January, 2006) has been completed in all the States.

(e) All the ground water level monitoring data has been submitted by the concerned Regional Offices of CGWB to its Central Headquarters. Based on this data, ground water level scenario is prepared for different periods and is given during the meetings of Crop Weather Watch group in the Ministry of Agriculture.

This data is presented in the form of a Year Book which includes analysis of the data and preparation of various maps like depth to water level maps, water table contour maps and water level fluctuation maps to study the declining trend etc. the scheduled target for completion of such reports for 2005-06 is September, 2006. Data is available in all the Regional Offices of CGWB for dissemination to user agencies as and when required.

Statement-I

State-wise Distribution of Observation Wells of CGWB used for Collection of Ground Water Samples and Water Quality Monitoring Wells of CPCB

Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of observation wells of CGWB used for collection of ground water sample	Water quality monitoring wells of CPCB
1	2	3	4
States			

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19	—
3.	Assam	381	10
4.	Bihar	373	20
5.	Chhattisgarh	516	4
6.	Delhi	87	—
7.	Goa	53	—
8.	Gujarat	966	26
9.	Haryana	426	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	85	20
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	206	—
12.	Jharkhand	208	—
13.	Karnataka	1499	—
14.	Kerala	864	15
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1325	6
16.	Maharashtra	1496	25
17.	Manipur	25	5
18.	Meghalaya	38	5
19.	Mizoram	—	2
20.	Nagaland	17	—
21.	Orissa	1214	15
22.	Punjab	261	6
23.	Rajasthan	1373	37
24.	Tamil Nadu	906	2
25.	Tripura	42	7
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1218	25
27.	Uttaranchal	44	1
28.	West Bengal	909	30

1	2	3	4
Union Territories			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	63	—
2.	Chandigarh	16	7
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	10	—
4.	Daman and Diu	4	1
5.	Pondicherry	15	13
6.	Lakshadweep	—	15
Total		15640	321

Prasar Bharati

*534. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government had consumed a Group of Ministers (GoMs) for strengthening the Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the recommendations made by the GoMs in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) In order to strengthen the working of Prasar Bharati, the Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on 7th March, 2006 to inter alia consider the following issues pertaining to it:—

(i) Capital Structure and funding pattern for Prasar Bharati;

(ii) Restoration of Section 22 of the Prasar Bharati Act;

(iii) Continuation of facilities of accommodation,

health and education to the employees until they join Prasar Bharati;

(iv) Financial package and service conditions to be offered to the employees for joining Prasar Bharati;

(v) Filling up of essential category posts in AIR and Doordarshan;

(vi) Amendments, if any, to Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, in the light of working of the Act;

(vii) Transition to commercial Audit; and

(viii) Other related issues, if any.

(c) The first meeting of the GoM was held on 18-5-2006 to consider the above matters relating to Prasar Bharati.

(d) Does not arise.

Growth of Dairy Co-operatives

*535. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) proposes to provide consultancy and technical knowledge to dairy co-operatives across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the dairy co-operatives in private sector has urged NDDDB to help in promoting their products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which NDDDB has responded thereto?

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

NDDDB provides free of cost, the following consultancy services and technical knowledge to the dairy cooperatives across the country:—

1. Technical assistance in the areas of Animal Breeding, Nutrition and Health.
2. Technical assistance in Procurement, Marketing and Information Systems.
3. Technical assistance in the areas of Processing, Quality Assurance and Dairy Plant Management.
4. Assistance in preparation of project reports for financial and technical assistance from NDDDB/ Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

NDDDB also provides consultancy and technical assistance to the dairy cooperatives, on chargeable basis in the following areas:—

1. Training programmes for Board members, farmer members and employees of dairy cooperatives conducted at NDDDB and its training centres.
2. Execution of dairy projects, chilling centres, cattle-feed plants and allied infrastructure etc. on turnkey/consultancy basis.
3. Transfer of technology and process know-how.
4. Testing for monitoring quality of cattle-feed and mineral mixtures.
5. Karyotyping and other services provided by NDDDB's genetic laboratory.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Dose not arise in view of (c) above.

**Review of Coastal Regulation Zone,
Notification, 1991**

*536. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 in view of Tsunami;

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

(c) whether the Government had constituted Swaminathan Committee to review the same;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the present status of implementation of the recommendations?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan in June, 2004 to carry out a quick but comprehensive review of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, in the light to the findings and recommendations of all previous Committees, judicial pronouncements, representations of various stakeholders and suggest suitable amendments, if necessary, to make the regulatory framework consistent with well established scientific principles of coastal zone management. The report of the Committee was received in February, 2005 and the Ministry accepted the recommendations in April, 2005. The major recommendations of the Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Committee are as follows:—

- (i) Implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.
- (ii) Development along the coastal stretches based on demarcation of setback lines taking into account the vulnerability of the coastal to natural and manmade hazards.
- (iii) Inclusion of the ocean zone in coastal management strategy.
- (iv) Setting up of Institutional structures to address the policy and legal issues.
- (v) Programme for pollution abatement of coastal waters.
- (vi) Identification and mapping of the coastal eco-sensitive areas such as mangroves, corals, turtle breeding areas, etc. for their conservation and protection.
- (vii) Development of bioshields along the coastal stretches.

(e) Government has taken steps to implement the recommendations of the Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Committee Report. These include the following:—

- For the purpose of demarcating Vulnerability Line, the Ministry has involved and assigned the work to scientific institutions namely, Survey of India, Dehradun, Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, Centre for Earth Science Studies, Trivendrum and Department of Ocean Development, New Delhi.
- The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) has been assigned to prepare a National Action Plan for prevention of pollution of coastal waters from land based activities.
- The Ministry has posed a project proposal to the World Bank seeking technical and financial assistance for mapping and demarcation of the coastal areas, preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans, institutional building and control of pollution of coastal and marine waters.

[Translation]

Decreasing Population of Wild Animals

*537. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

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

(a) the population of wild animals, particularly lions, in the country, sanctuary-wise and park-wise during the last three years and the current year, separately;

(b) whether their population is on the decline;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed/taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Sanctuary-wise and Park-wise population of wild animals is not collated at the national level. However, the State-wise population of major species of wild animals, as reported by the States, based on the last three census, is placed at statement. The population of lions, found only in Gir, Gujarat, is also shown.

(b) No, Sir. As reported, the population of lions has increased from 327± in 2001 to 359 ± 10 in 2005.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is the constant endeavour of the Central and State Governments to improve the habitat of the wild animals inhabiting the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries so that a viable population of wild animals, including lions, is maintained. Financial and technical assistance for habitat improvement, strengthening of infrastructure, communication systems, census, research, eco development, etc., is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries". "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant".

As reported by the Government of Gujarat, adequate infrastructure including wireless communication, vehicles, quarters, check posts, etc. have been provided in Gir National Park. Regular patrolling, anti-poaching operations, monitoring and awareness programmes to enlist people's support are carried out. Eco-development is pursued for enlisting people's support.

Statement
State-wise Population of Major Species of Wild Animals

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Tiger		Leopard		Asiatic Lion			Elephant	
		1997	2001-02	1997	2001-02	1995	2001	2005	1997	2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	171	192	138	505	—	—	—	57	74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	**61	98	NR	—	—	—	1800	1607
3.	Assam	458	354	246	248	—	—	—	5312	5246
4.	Bihar/Jharkhand	103	110	203	164	—	—	—	618	772
5.	Goa/Daman and Diu	6	5	25	41	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	1	0	832	999	304	327	359 ± 10	—	—
7.	Haryana	—	—	25	NR	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	821	NR	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	NR	7	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	350	401	620	NR	—	—	—	6088	5838
11.	Kerala	73	71	16	NR	—	—	—	3600	3850
12.	Madhya Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh	927	937	1851	2206	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	257	238	431	513	—	—	—	—	—

14. Manipur	—	—	NR	NR	—	—	30	12
15. Meghalaya	*	47	NR	NR	—	—	1840	1868
16. Mizoram	12	28	28	NR	—	—	22	33
17. Nagaland	*	23^	NR	42	—	—	158	145
18. Orissa	194	173	422	457	—	—	1800	1841
19. Rajasthan	58	58	474	481	—	—	—	—
20. Sikkim	*	NR	NR	NR	—	—	—	—
21. Tamil Nadu	62	60	110	41	—	—	2971	3052
22. Tripura	*	NR	18	NR	—	—	70	40
23. Uttar Pradesh/ Uttaranchal	475	535	1412	2168	—	—	1200	1667
24. West Bengal	361	349	108	331	—	—	276	328
25. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	15	NR	—	—	—	—
26. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	NR	—	—	35	40
Total	3508	3642	7893	8203	304	359 ± 10	25877	26413

Sl.	Name of the State	Rhino			Sangai			Wild Ass	
		1993	1999	2006	1997	2001	2004	1999	2004
1	2	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	1440	1684	2004	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar/Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa/Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	2839	3863
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh/ Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	147	162	180	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*[English]***Encroachment of Forest Land**

*538. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:

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

(a) whether there has been an alarming increase in the cases of encroachment on forest land in the country;

(b) if so, the details of area/percentage of encroached forest land as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether certain laws permit the usage of forest land for other purposes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the existing laws are required to be amended to check the encroachment;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps initiated in this regard so far;

(g) the total area cleared by the Government for non-forestry purposes during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(h) the steps proposed/taken to maintain the ratio of forest and ecological balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No report indicating alarming increase in the cases of encroachment on forest land in the country has been received. However, there are reported cases of encroachment in States. The details are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes, with the prior approval of competent authority.

(e) and (f) The provisions in the existing laws are sufficient to check the encroachments.

(g) State-wise statements showing details of areas cleared by the Ministry for non forestry purposes under forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, during the last three years and the current year are placed at statement-II and III respectively.

(h) National Forest Policy-1988 stipulates that 33% of the geographical area should be under forest and tree cover. As per the State of Forest Report 2003, 23.68% of the geographical area of country has forest and tree cover. Government has taken number of initiatives to achieve this goal as indicated below:—

1. Legal measures for protection of forest areas such as Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof.
2. Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Working Schemes.
3. Financial measures like providing assistance to the States/Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
4. Other measures like creation of Protected Areas, Substitution of Wood etc.
5. Guidelines for rationalizing of felling and transit regulations for tree species grown on non-forest private lands to promote large scale afforestation in non-forest areas.
6. Involvement of local people in protection, conservation and management of forest areas through Joint Forest Management initiative.

Statement-I**State-wise Encroachment of Forest Lands and Eviction**

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Encroachment of lands as on 31-03-2004 (in hectare)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	295383.000
2.	Assam	299710.000
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3887.810
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2057.490

1	2	3
5.	Bihar	251.869
6.	Chandigarh	0.000
7.	Chhattisgarh	150495.000
8.	Delhi	0.000
9.	Daman and Diu	87.960
10.	Dadra and Naga Haveli	614.350
11.	Gujarat	22139.540
12.	Goa	1012.000
13.	Haryana	1274.060
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2841.875
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	9284.000
16.	Jharkhand	48438.410
17.	Karnataka	67710.000
18.	Kerala	7290.000
19.	Lakshadweep	0.000
20.	Maharashtra	79641.730
21.	Manipur	533.240
22.	Meghalaya	6584.490
23.	Madhya Pradesh	138110.585
24.	Mizoram	18759.616
25.	Nagaland	0.000
26.	Orissa	42605.530
27.	Punjab	6812.806
28.	Pondicherry	0.000
29.	Rajasthan	6712.742
30.	Sikkim	3499.640

1	2	3
31.	Tamil Nadu	17555.564
32.	Tripura	59336.150
33.	Uttaranchal	9668.000
34.	Uttar Pradesh	27214.630
35.	West Bengal	13834.536
Total		1343346.622

Statement-II

*State-wise details of diversions of Forest Land
under FC Act, 1980*

Case=Status: During:-01/01/2003 to 31-12-2005

Approved+Inprinciple

State/UT	Number of cases Approved+ Inprinciple	Total Land Diverted (Ha.)
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	67.548
Andhra Pradesh	70	5,338.14
Arunachal Pradesh	25	4,661.98
Assam	44	1,208.12
Bihar	11	68.953
Chandigarh	3	7.539
Chhattisgarh	73	11,040.24
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20	3.111
Daman and Diu	0	0
Delhi	0	0

1	2	3
Goa	13	219.167
Gujarat	153	9,584.31
Haryana	134	204.986
Himachal Pradesh	255	1,883.73
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0
Jharkhand	64	6,265.20
Karnataka	116	5,484.49
Kerala	23	10,110.57
Lakshadweep	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	85	48,427.25
Maharashtra	151	8,562.76
Manipur	3	121.72
Meghalaya	6	102.185
Mizoram	4	209.984
Nagaland	0	0
Orissa	83	7,264.75
Pondicherry	1	0.96
Punjab	979	3,056.20
Rajasthan	63	2,673.51
Sikkim	53	506.02
Tamil Nadu	29	365.185
Tripura	24	5,652.55
Uttar Pradesh	79	27,314.54
Uttaranchal	253	21,953.90
West Bengal	3	312.607
Total	2825	182,672.19

Statement-III**State-wise details of diversion of Forest Land under FC Act, 1980**

Case=Status: During:-01/01/2006 to 18-05-2006

Approved+Inprinciple

State/UT	Number of cases Approved+ Inprinciple	Total Land Diverted (Ha.)
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	9.24
Andhra Pradesh	18	1,890.61
Arunachal Pradesh	4	52.506
Assam	11	40.604
Bihar	3	0.832
Chandigarh	2	0.683
Chhattisgarh	26	5,269.65
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	2.975
Daman and Diu	0	0
Delhi	0	0
Goa	3	129.888
Gujarat	42	218.476
Haryana	86	42.435
Himachal Pradesh	88	538.378
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0
Jharkhand	1	89.336
Karnataka	15	458.785
Kerala	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	23	2,980.12

1	2	3
Maharashtra	26	727.156
Manipur	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0
Mizoram	0	0
Nagaland	0	0
Orissa	10	943.253
Pondicherry	0	0
Punjab	191	65.954.04
Rajasthan	9	946.783
Sikkim	13	31.28
Tamil Nadu	0	0
Tripura	4	86.12
Uttar Pradesh	0	0
Uttaranchal	7	248.648
West Bengal	2	348.116
Total	589	81,009.91

[Translation]

Modernisation of Consumer Fora

*539. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has approved a Rs. 300 crore scheme for modernization of consumer fora during the remaining part of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the facilities proposed to be provided under the said scheme; and

(c) the manner in which the said fund is proposed to be spent alongwith the State-wise allocation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. The Planning Commission has allocated the following amounts to different schemes for upgrading the facilities and modernization of consumer fora during the remaining part of the Tenth Five Year Plan:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Allocated during 2006-07 (in Crores of Rupees)
1.	Integrated Project on Consumer Protection	46.00
2.	Computerisation and Computer Networking of Consumer Fora	20.00
3.	Construction of National Commission Building	03.50

(b) to (c) The details of the above schemes are as under:—

(I) Integrated Project on Consumer Protection

This scheme has been formulated to provide financial assistance to the States/UTs to supplement their efforts in strengthening the consumer fora by filling in gaps in infrastructure for which a provision of Rs. 46 crores has been made in the budget of 2006-07. The amount to be disbursed to each State/UT for this purpose would be decided on the basis of benchmark of minimum facilities for each District Forum and State Commission. The details of the scheme are in the process of finalisation in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

(II) Computerisation and Computer Networking of Consumer Fora

This scheme involving an expenditure of Rs. 48.64 crores was launched in 2004-05. The scheme is being implemented through the National Informatics Centre (NIC) on a turn key basis. It aims to provide IT solutions to achieve e-governance, transparency and efficiency in the working of the consumer fora for time bound delivery of redressal of consumer grievances. Rs. 20.00 crores has been provided for this scheme for the year 2006-07.

(III) Construction of National Commission Building

The scheme of construction of the building of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission was sanctioned in 2003-04 at a total cost of Rs. 11.00 crores. The building is to be constructed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). The provision for this scheme in 2006-07 is Rs. 3.50 crores.

[English]

Procurement of Oilseed

*540. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and actual procurement of oilseeds particularly mustard made by National Agricultural Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) during the current year;

(b) whether the delay in release of funds by the Government to NAFED for procurement of mustard has led to delay in the process of procurement;

(c) if so, the details and reasons therefor and by when the said funds are likely to be released;

(d) whether the Government has fixed any time limit for payment of minimum support price to the farmers for their oilseed production;

(e) if so, the steps taken to ensure adherence to the said limit for payment of remunerative price to the farmers; and

(f) the steps taken to streamline the procurement of oilseeds particularly mustard in view of its bumper production in the country, particularly in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRISHARAD PAWAR): (a) The purpose of Price Support Scheme (PSS) is to stabilise the market. Therefore, no target in terms of quantity is fixed for procurement of oilseeds including mustard. During the current Rabi crop season, NAFED, as a Central nodal agency has, so far, procured a total quantity of 20.75 lakh

MT of mustard seed, 22,486 MT of safflower seed and 23 MT of sunflower seed under PSS.

(b) and (c) Under PSS, only Fair Average Quality (FAQ) stocks are procured. There has been no delay in the process procurement for any reason.

(d) and (e) The finance for payment to farmers for their produce, procured under PSS, is arranged through Cash Credit Limit (CCL) and Letters of Comfort issued by the Government to various Nationalised/commercial banks. Soon after availing finance against CCL/Letters of Comfort, NAFED makes payment to the farmers. NAFED, as a Central agency, has been advised to utilize the amount to make payment to the farmers only.

(f) In view of the bumper production of mustard seed in the country during Rabi 2006, NAFED, as central agency, has made adequate arrangements for procurement of mustard seed like; availability of gunny bad, storage space, transportation. Besides, the Government has approved letters of comfort/cash credit limit to Rs. 4000 crore for undertaking procurement of mustard seed during Rabi 2006.

Outlay for Agricultural Research

*541. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of plan outlay earmarked to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) has declined from 0.61 per cent in 2004-05 to 0.56 per cent in 2005-06;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to revive and encourage agricultural diversification when the outlay earmarked for agricultural research is dwindling;

(d) whether the DARE has evolved new projects/initiatives to address the emerging issues in various sectors; 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 percentage of Plan Outlay of DARE with respect to total

Central Plan Outlay of the country was 0.61 per cent during 2004-05 which declined to 0.54 per cent during 2005-06. The total Central Plan Outlay of the country during 2004-05 was Rs. 162947.29 crore, which increased to Rs. 211253.49 crore during 2005-06 hence, due to substantial increase in the total Central Plan Outlay of the country during 2005-06 over the year 2004-05, there was some decline in the percentage share of DARE. However, in absolute terms there was an increase of Rs. 150 crore during 2005-06 over the Plan Outlay of Rs. 1000 crore during 2004-05.

(c) As the Plan Outlay of DARE was increased substantially during 2005-06 over the year 2004-05, the Department could meet the requirement of its Plan funds for implementation of approved programmes/schemes including diversification in agriculture.

(d) and (e) The details of new activities/initiatives are given in statement enclosed.

Statement

Xth Plan New Activity

1. Newtwork Programme on Insect Biosystematics [Part of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Division of Entomology].
2. Newtwork Programme on Transgenics (Part of of Indian Agricultural Research Institute/ National Research Centre on Plant Bio-technology).
3. Newtwork on Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change (integral part of All India Coordinated Research Project-Agro meteorology).
4. Network on Organic Farming (as an integral part of All India Coordinated Research Project-Cropping System Research).
5. Veterinary Type Culture (Part of National Research Centre-Equine).
6. Project on "Seed Production in Agricultural Crops and Fisheries" (Directorate of Seed, Mau).
7. Application of Microorganisms in Agriculture

and Allied Sectors (sub-scheme with NBAIM, Mau).

8. National Agricultural Innovative Project, New Delhi (World Bank Funded).

Deduction In Payment to Sugarcane Farmers

4489. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cooperative sugar mills in Maharashtra have been enforcing deductions from payments due to farmers supplying sugarcane, as deposits to be utilized for modernization/expansion of the mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such mills, amount collected and conditions for return;

(c) the details of mills where such funds were utilised for modernization/expansion during the last three years;

(d) the mills which have repaid the said deposits alongwith interest and those who defaulted to repay indicating the sums outstanding against each mill; and

(e) the action taken against defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The question pertains to the Government of Maharashtra who have informed that as per the provisions of bye-laws of respective cooperative sugar factories and on the basis of policy adopted by the Minister's Committee headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State of Maharashtra, the sugar factories deduct deposits from sugarcane payment of sugarcane growers. The maximum period of deposits as per bye-laws is 10 years. The rate of interest to be paid to the cane growers has to be decided by the Board of Directors of respective co-operative sugar factories. The deposits so collected are to be utilized for the purpose of undertaking expansion, bye-product units and other capital expenses. After expiry of period of deposits, the repayment thereof is normally made in five yearly equal instalments. In the State of Maharashtra, at end of 31-3-2005, in all 27 sugar factories have deducted Rs. 14,826.28 lakhs for

expansion and Rs. 2939.19 lakhs for modernization of which, after repayment, outstanding amount of deposit for expansion is Rs. 9,501.24 lakhs and for modernization Rs. 1,034.98 lakhs.

Impact of Doordarshan Channel Abroad

4490. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

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

(a) whether the Doordarshan has floated a tender to conduct a study on the impact and reach of DD-India Channel in USA, UK and the Middle East;

(b) if so, whether Doordarshan has short listed companies for conducting study to promote India abroad for Middle East only;

(c) if so, the reasons for not including USA and UK therein; and

(d) the steps being taken to include USA and UK for conducting study on the impact and reach of Doordarshan of DD-India Channel in these countries?

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

(c) After examining the requirements of Doordarshan, it was decided to conduct a study in the Middle East only as no study for USA, UK is felt necessary at the present.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are no reasons to doubt our need to be present in USA and UK. Therefore, no study is required.

Endangered Animal Species

4491. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Laboratory for conservation of Endangered Animal Species;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to conserve their genetic diversity?

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

(b) In order to infuse new technology in the field of assisted reproduction and molecular characterization of the endangered species, a Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) has been established at Hyderabad in collaboration with the Central Zoo Authority, Department of Biotechnology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the Forest Department, Andhra Pradesh.

(c) In order to conserve the genetic diversity of endangered animals, the laboratory has already collected DNA samples of about 50 endangered species of Indian wild animals and preserved in DNA Bank. Further activities in the field of assisted reproduction (AI) have been established in White backed vultures. Births through AI technique have been achieved in ungulates like Blackbuck and Spotted deer. Efforts to breed large cats through AI technique and cloning are also underway.

Census for Rhinos

4492. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the census on rhinoceros due for 2004, in Kaziranga has since been undertaken this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per information received from the State Government, the Rhino Census in Kaziranga National Park was due to 2005 after a period of 6 years since the last census in 1999. Due to heavy rains and other technical reasons, it had to be postponed to the next season i.e. March, 2006. Census has now been conducted from 25th to 27th March, 2006.

(b) The Rhino population as per the census in 2006 in Kaziranga has been estimated as 1855, thereby showing an increasing trend as follows:—

Sl. No.	Year of census	Population
1.	1991	1129
2.	1993	1164
3.	1999	1552

[Translation]

Conservation of Natural Resources

4493. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a review statement from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources on the Management and status assessment report of all tiger reserves of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An independent evaluation of tiger reserves has been carried out by a panel of experts, which has been peer reviewed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The report and the review would be placed before Parliament.

Female Beedi Workers

4494. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has studied the condition of the female beedi workers;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Commission;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide social security viz. pension, insurance and health care facilities to these workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Major recommendations made by the National Commission for Women are as follows:—

- The Government should initiate suitable action to protect the benefits and provide healthy service conditions for the women beedi workers.
- The system of middlemen should be abolished as it leads to exploitation of the workers.
- All the companies must be registered and identity cards must be issued to all the workers working both in organized and unorganized sectors.
- The triple benefit scheme of provident fund, pension and gratuity must be implemented.
- The Health Department should initiate measures to start special dispensaries to treat problems arising out of hazards in the industry.
- Regular health check-ups should be conducted by the government doctors.
- The Labour Department should take special measures to protect the interests of women beedi workers.
- The Women's Welfare Department should provide the women with iron tablets as the doctors identified severe anemic conditions, in addition to other health problems, in these workers.
- There should be awareness camps to improve their working conditions.
- Creches and childcare centers should be established to look after female worker's children so that the children are not exposed to the hazards.
- Minimum wages should be paid to all workers working both in registered as well as non-registered establishments.

(c) and (d) Under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund

Act, 1976, various welfare schemes have been formulated in the sphere of Health and Medical-care, Social Security, Education, Housing and Recreation to extend the benefits to the beedi workers including female beedi workers. Group insurance scheme is being run for these workers wherein, benefit of Rs. 10,000/- for natural death and Rs. 25,000/- for accidental death is payable. The beedi worker is not required to pay any premium towards this scheme. Health care is provided to these workers and their dependants through 4 hospitals and 206 dispensaries all over the country. Three more hospitals at Mukkudal in Tamil Nadu, Sagar in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar Shariff in Bihar are nearing completion. In addition, reimbursement of medical expenditure incurred in recognized hospitals on treatment of serious diseases like Heart ailments, Kidney transplantation and Cancer etc., is admissible to them. The maximum limit of reimbursement is Rs. 1.30 lakh for heart ailment, Rs. 2.00 lakh for kidney transplantation and for cancer the full cost of treatment is reimbursed. Female beedi workers are entitled to maternity benefit amounting to Rs. 1000/- upto two deliveries. Amount of Rs. 5000/- is granted to widow beedi worker and also widow of beedi worker for conducting marriage of first two daughters.

[English]

World Food Programme in Madhya Pradesh

4495. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Madhya Pradesh where land conservation programme under 'World Food Programme' has been undertaken;

(b) whether the Government has included or proposes to include some more projects thereunder; 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) The World Food Programme (WFP) has not undertaken any exclusive Land Conservation Programme in Madhya Pradesh. However, WFP provides food assistance, through its Food for Work Project, to the daily wage labourers engaged by the Forest Department of Madhya Pradesh in Plantation/Afforestation activities. This

project is being implemented in the districts of Betul, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Khargone, Badwani, Dhar and Jabua. At present, there is no proposal to expand the scope of this project due to constraints of resources.

Import of Edible Oils and Vanaspati

4496. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirement of edible oil and vanaspati in the country;

(b) the installed vanaspati production capacity in the country;

(c) the quantum of vanaspati imported annually from countries other than Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka; and

(d) the quantum of vanaspati imported annually from Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka under unrestricted quota?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) According to the projections for oilseeds/edible oils made for the Tenth Five Year Plan, the annual requirement/demand for edible oils (including vanaspati) in the country in terms of consumption of edible oils based on behaviouristic approach amounted to 11.85 million tonnes in 2005-06 compared to 11.30 million tonnes in 2004-05.

(b) As per available information, the annual installed vanaspati production capacity in the country is estimated at 50.05 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) The quantum of vanaspati imported annually from Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka under Free Trade Agreements (FTA) is as under:—

Year	Quantity in tonnes		
	Nepal*	Bhutan	Sri Lanka
2004-05	62332	—	22049
2005-06 (upto 15-02-06)	99378	5465	172812

Source: Department of Commerce/Department of Revenue
*Under Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, the duty free quota for vanaspati is restricted to 1 lakh tonne per annum.

No precise data is available regarding the quantum of vanaspati imported annually from countries other than Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. However, it is nominal as compared to imports from the said countries.

[Translation]

**Allotment of Iron Ore Reserve to
Private Sector**

4497. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mountains of iron ore reserves at Raoghat in Kanker district reserved for Bhilai Steel Plant is reported to have been allotted to the private sector;

(b) if so, whether the steel plants at Bhilai and at Vishakhapatnam under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) are facing the problems of raw materials;

(c) if so, the corrective steps being taken to meet the situation;

(d) whether the private allottee of iron ore at Raoghat would supply raw material to any foreign country;

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

(f) the remedial steps proposed to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Promotion of Bamboo-based Industries

4498. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has a proposal to promote Bamboo-based industries in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives likely to be granted to set up Bamboo-based units in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture has proposed to set up a National Bamboo Mission (NBM) for the development of bamboo sector in the country. Following activities under NBM are proposed to be undertaken for the bamboo industries in the country including Orissa:—

1. Setting up of village level Micro Processing Units.
2. Setting up of Cluster Facilitation Centres.
3. Setting up of Primary Processing Units.
4. Branding and labeling, etc.

[Translation]

Development of Mutant of Groundnut

4499. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Plant Genetic Medication Bureau of Indian Council for Agricultural Research has got registered three newly developed mutants of groundnut and one mutant of small leaf; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Five germplasm lines including mutants of groundnut from National Research Centre for Groundnut have been registered at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR). Besides the pentafoliate leaf mutant from Regional Agricultural Research Station, (Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh and a small leaf mutant from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay have also been registered at the NBPGR. The details of the above mentioned germplasm lines are as follows:—

Registration No. (INCR No.)	National identity (IC nos)	Donor Identity	Developer
01032	IC-296811	PBS-24004	NRCG, Junagadh
01033	IC-296811	PBS-30008 (Girnar 1 NLM)	NRCG, Junagadh
01034	IC-296813	PBS-30017 (Girnar 1 LYM)	NRCG, Junagadh
03096	IC-296913	PBS-29031	NRCG, Junagadh
03037	IC-296815	PBS-30138	NRCG, Junagadh
03038	IC-29617	TOGS 635 (pentafoleate leaf mutant)	RARS, ANGRAU, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
04041	IC-296613	Small leaf mutant	BARC, Trombay

*[English]***Committee on Starvation Deaths**

4500. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted to study the alleged starvation deaths of Kolam Tribals in Yavatmal district in 2003 has since submitted its report;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) To study the alleged starvation deaths of Kolam Tribals in Yavatmal districts in 2003, no Committee has reportedly been constituted by the Central Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Committee on Problems of Farmers**

4501. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Committee to look into the problems of farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of issues to be considered by the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has set up National Commission on Farmers to examine various issues confronting Indian farmers and to recommend policies and programmes for accelerated and diversified development of agriculture and its allied sectors.

Besides, an Agriculture Coordination Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to evolve a systematic approach to policy formulation on issues pertaining to agriculture and to promote inter-sectoral and inter-departmental coordination in planning and implementation.

*[English]***Assessment of Agricultural Research and Extension System**

4502. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the health of agricultural research and extension system and its ability to cope with the challenges that Indian agriculture faces; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Department has a number of mechanisms for assessment of the health of agricultural research on discipline/problem perspectives, which are as follows:—

- (i) At the institute level there are Staff Research Council (SRC) and Research Advisory Committee (RAC).
- (ii) At the Regional level, there are eight Regional Committees to address the agricultural problems pertaining to agro-climatic and agro-ecological regions of the country.
- (iii) In addition, Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) is constituted for each of the Institute/Coordinated Projects to assess the research programmes taken up for five years and to suggest the appropriate strategies for future.
- (iv) The Department has established a network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) at the district level. The KVK aims at assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology/products on farming system perspectives.

A number of technologies related to crop production, crop protection, livestock production and management, fishery, and post harvest and value addition have been developed.

**Assistance to State Governments
under CADP**

4503. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central assistance is granted to the State Governments under the Command Area Development

Programme (CADP) for completion of major irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and assistance released under the CADP to the States during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government has received request from the Government of Gujarat for extending assistance under the Programme to complete minor irrigation projects; and

(d) if so, the details and the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Under the Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme, Central assistance is not provided to the State Governments for completion of major irrigation projects but the same is provided for on-farm development works in the commands of irrigation projects, correction of System Deficiencies, desilting and renovation of Minor Irrigation tanks within the commands and software activities like trainings, adaptive trials, demonstrations etc. only (both for major and medium projects and in case of hilly states, for minor projects also).

(b) Under the Programme, 50% central assistance is provided for construction activities and 75% for the software activities subject to the prescribed cost norms. The details of Central assistance provided to the States Governments during the last three financial years and during the current financial year are given below:—

Year	Central Assistance provided to States under CADP (Rs. in crores)
2003-04	141.44
2004-05	141.51
2005-06	196.50
2006-07	25.1 (upto 18-5-2006)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Forest Hill Resort

4504. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints that a Forest Hill Resort has come up in Punjab on forest land in violation of laws under the Forest Conservation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Punjab had received complaints about construction of a Forest Hill Resort in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and penal action was initiated accordingly. Meanwhile, violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was taken note of by the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana as a Writ Petition. The Hon'ble High Court later passed order on 12-10-2004 directing demolition of the said Resort. The proprietor of the Resort filed a Special Leave Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the said order of Hon'ble High Court. The Ministry of Environment and Forests also being one of the respondents in the said Special Leave Petition has filed an affidavit in the matter stating that the construction of Forest Hill Resort is in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The matter is still sub-judice.

[Translation]

Wheat Storage

4505. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme for keeping the wheat of the farmers in Government godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits farmers are likely to get under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations have formulated schemes for keeping the agriculture produce of farmers including wheat in Government godowns.

(b) Farmers may store their wheat and other agricultural produce in Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) warehouses as well as State Warehousing Corporation warehouses.

(c) (i) CWC allows 30% rebate in applicable storage charges for the benefit of the farmers for their stocks stored in CWC warehouses.

(ii) Credit facilities/soft loan are provided to the farmers by the banks on the strength of the warehouse receipt issued by CWC against their deposit.

(iii) Wheat is stored in scientific manner and storage losses are minimized.

Productivity of Sugar

4506. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average productivity of sugar from sugarcane has not increased over the previous decade as compared to the other countries due to the lack of proper training and research;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to introduce better technology and research to improve the productivity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER

OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRISHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) As per information available in the Directorate of Sugar, the average sugar yield per hectare in India during the years 1995 to 2004 has increased by 27.13% over the years 1985 to 1994. The performance of India is better to some countries like Australia (5.45%), Mexico (12.75%), South Africa (2.49%) and Thailand (9.32%), whereas performance of some other countries like Argentina (40.39%) and Brazil (57.2%) is better than India.

[English]

Regulation in Commodity Exchanges

4507. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose restrictions and regulation in multi commodity exchanges for gold trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Forward Trading in various commodities including gold are subject to various regulatory measures such as limit on open position, imposition of margins on the outstanding purchases and sales, price bands etc. These regulations are part of the contract designs of the commodities approved by the Forward Markets Commission (FMC), which is the regulator for futures trading in commodities under the provisions of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952, and are accordingly applicable to gold trade in Multi Commodity Exchanges. According to FMC, these regulatory measures are adequate for regulating futures trading in gold in the Multi Commodity Exchanges.

Satellite Radio Services

4508. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision on the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regarding issues relating to Satellite Radio Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government has proposal to grant licence for L-B and Terrestrial repeater; and

(e) 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) These recommendations are being examined in consultation with other Ministries/Departments of the Government. As such no time frame can be indicated.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has no proposal at present to grant license for L-B and Terrestrial repeater.

Effluent Treatment Plants for SSI

4509. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for enabling the Small Scale Industries (SSI) to set up pollution control equipment for treatment of effluents; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been undertaken by the Government for enabling the Small Scale Industries (SSI) to set up new and upgrade the existing Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) to treat the effluents for control of pollution. The funding pattern for establishment of CETP is as following:—

- State subsidy 25% of the total project cost;
- Central subsidy 25% of the total project cost;
- Entrepreneurs contribution 25% of the total project cost;
- Loan from financial 30% of the total project cost.

(b) While no funds have been so far released for the current year for establishment of CEPTs, during last three years financial assistance was provided to the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Punjab to the tune of Rs. 1198.80 lakhs, Rs. 121.20 lakhs and Rs. 3 lakhs respectively for the same.

[Translation]

Cattle Diseases

4510. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh for controlling the cattle diseases;

(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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) No specific proposal for controlling the cattle diseases has been received. However, under the on-going Tenth Plan Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely (i) Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD), (ii) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication (NPRE) and (iii) Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) several proposals have been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh including controlling the cattle diseases. Amount revalidated/released to Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years under above three schemes is as follows:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the scheme	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Revalidation	Release	Revalidation	Release	Revalidation	Release
(i) ASCAD	6.79	184.00	184.00	216.12	219.35	0.00
(ii) NPRE	29.19	10.00	9.80	40.00	11.81	35.00
(iii) FMD-CP	0.00	98.00	98.00	15.00	52.52	130.00

Water Projects in Orissa

4511. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the Government of Orissa in regard to some water projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the said proposals so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The details of project proposals received from the Government of Orissa for techno-economic appraisal in Central Water Commission and their status of appraisal are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Project	Category	River/Basin	District Benefited	Date of receipt	Benefits (Th. Ha.)	Estimated cost (Rs. Crore)	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Improvement to Taladanda Main Canal and Distributory No. 12 with its system	Major	Mahanadi	Cuttack/ Jagatsinghpur	Autust, 1999	13.237	57.36	A
2.	Mahanadi basin development plan	Major	Mahanadi	Cuttack/ Jagatsinghpur	October, 2003	342.00	3493.10	A
3.	Master Plan for Drainage Development in Coastal belt of Orissa	Major	Mahanadi	Balasore, Bhadrak, Jaipur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Puri, Khurda, and Ganjam	November, 2003	761.29	570.77	A
4.	Upper Udanti Irrigation Project	Medium	Udanti/ Mahanadi	Nuapara	February, 2003	8.00	68.37	A
5.	Upper Kolab Extension Project	Major	Kolab/Godavari	Koraput/Nawrangpur	September, 1998	19.28	71.66	B
6.	Ib Irrigation Project	Major	Ib/Mahanadi	Sundergarh	February, 1998	106.280	1140	B
7.	Ong Dam Project	Major	Ong/Mahanadi	Baragarh	March, 1997	34.50	304.66	B
8.	Burtang Irrigation Project	Major	Burtang/ Mahanadi	Nayagarh	January, 1998	31.00	227.25	B
9.	Mahendratanya Irrigation Project	Medium	Mahendratanya/ Vamsadhara	Gajapati	March, 2000	9.504	100.98	B

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10.	Manjore	Medium	Mahanadi	Dhenkanal	August, 1991	10.43	37.70	B
11.	Rukura Dam Project	Medium	Manjore/ Brahmani	Sundergarh	May, 1993	7.65	15.15	B
12.	Dhauragoth	Medium	Barabanki/ Mahanadi	Dhenkanal	September, 1996	3.01	16.80	B
13.	Upper Lanth	Medium	Lanth/Tel/ Mahanadi	Bolangir	November, 1997	6.105	48.99	B
14.	Samakoi	Medium	Samakoi/ Brahmani	Angul	February, 1999	10.886	43.85	B
15.	Hadua Irrigation Project	Medium	Hadua/ Mahanadi	Cuttack	February, 2001	5.728	61.48	B

A: Under techno-economic appraisal in Central Water Commission.

B: Accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources with certain observations.

[English]

Encroachment of Ridge Area

4512. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 657 dated November 28, 2005 regarding Encroachment on Ridge Areas and state:

- (a) if the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Efforts are being made to collect the information.

Reduction in Sale Prices of DMS Products

4513. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production and sale of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) milk and milk products recorded during the last three years and the target fixed during 2006-07;

(b) whether the DMS has reduced its cost of production over the years due to its increased capacity utilization;

(c) if so, whether the DMS proposes to reduce its sale price as a result thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) A statement showing the total production and sale of Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) milk and milk products recorded during the last three years and targets fixed for 2006-07 is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir. DMS has reduced its cost of production over the years due to its increased capacity utilization.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. DMS does not propose to reduce sale price of milk and milk products because selling price is decided keeping in view the cost of production and also the market price of other competitors.

Statement

The Production and Sale of Milk and Milk Products during the Last Three Years (2003-04 to 2005-06)

I. Production and Sale of Milk

(In Lakh litres/Average per day)

Year	Production	Sale of Milk*
2003-04	2.73	2.52
2004-05	3.51	3.32
2005-06	3.67	3.50

*Including custom packing for Mother Dairy.

II. Production and Sale of Milk Products

Sl. No.	Products	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Production	Sale	Production	Sale	Production	Sale
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ghee (In M.T.)	452.25	295.13	483.91	576.15**	658.88	593.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Butter (In M.T.)	74.12	53.71	25.20	41.18**	38.85	33.84
3.	Flavoured Milk (In Thousand 200 ml. pouches)	703	698	617	611	517	514
4.	Yoghurt and Dahi (In thousand 100 Gm. Kullars)	1427	1418	1389	1323	1354	1344
5.	Paneer (In M.T.)	55.02	54.99	59.72	59.58	59.97	59.74
6.	Chhachh (In Thousand 200 ml. Pack)	103*	102	151	147	195	193

Note: * The production/sale of Chhachh in 200 ml. pouches was introduced w.e.f. 27-05-2003.

** Sale includes previous year stock also.

III. Targets for Production and Sale of Milk and Milk Products for 2006-07

Sl. No.	Products	Target for 2006-07
1.	Milk (In lakh litres/Ave. per day) (including Mother Dairy packing)	3.75
2.	Ghee (In M.T.)	600
3.	Butter (In. M.T.)	35
4.	Flavoured Milk (In Thousand 200 ml. pouches)	550
5.	Yoghurt and Dahi (In thousand 100 Gm. Kullars)	1400
6.	Paneer (In M.T.)	60
7.	Chhachh (In Thousand 200 ml pack)	200

[Translation]

Revival of Sugar Industry

4514. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had held a meeting with the officers of Bihar for the revival of the sick sugar industry in the State;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A meeting was held on 13-02-2006 at Patna to explore the possibilities of setting up of new sugar mills and rehabilitation of the sick sugar mills of Bihar.

As per the information furnished by the Government of Bihar, an incentive package has already been announced by the Government of Bihar for establishing of new sugar mills and expansion of capacity of the existing private sugar mills. So far, 39 private sector investors have shown their interest in installing new sugar mills and reopening of closed sugar mills. In addition to this, three working sugar mills have shown their desire to expand their capacity. With regard to rehabilitation of sugar mills of Bihar State Sugar Corporation, a liquidation application has already been filed in Hon'ble High Court of judicature at Patna.

[English]

Anthrax Disease in Gir Sanctuary

4515. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a highly infectious anthrax disease has hit the neighbouring villages of Gir Sanctuary in Gujarat, killing domestic animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to arrest the spread of the disease;

(d) whether the Government proposes to check the seriousness of the disease and take steps to save the Gir lions and other wild animals habitants of the sanctuary; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Incidence of Anthrax disease has been reported in confined condition from one village namely, Dedakiyali, Mendara Taluka, Junagadh District near Gir Sanctuary in February 2006. The Gujarat Animal Husbandry Department reported the deaths of 14 cows in the village.

(c) The district administration has ordered and ensured the isolation of infected animals, safe disposal of carcasses and vaccination of all domestic animals in the village.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Prophylactic measures like disease monitoring and prevention have been taken by the park management of Gir.

Parliamentary Consultative Committees

4516. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise guidelines for the constitution, functioning and procedure of Parliamentary Consultative Committees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new guidelines would be implemented?

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. The guidelines were last revised and implemented only in September, 2005.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Improvement in Ground Water Level

4517. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Lake Authority of India's projects taken up during the last one year, aimed at recharging ground water level;

(b) whether the Authority has drawn any specific schemes for improving ground water level in the country and allotting special funds to States;

(c) if so, the details of funds released to the State Governments including Karnataka;

(d) whether NGOs are involved in this exercise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India is implementing National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and management of polluted lakes in the country. During the last one year, five projects have been sanctioned under NLCP. In so far as Karnataka is concerned, the programme is coordinated and implemented by Lake Development Authority, created by Government of Karnataka as an autonomous body. The details of projects approved during last one year (2005-06), cost approved and fund released to State Governments, including the State of Karnataka, is given below:—

Sl. No.	Project	Cost approved (Rs. in crores)	Funds released (Rs. in crores)
1.	Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir	297	40.00
2.	Veli Akkulum Lake, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	24.56	4.30
3.	Chanapatna Lake, Hasan, Karanataka	4.97	0.87
4.	Akkamahadevi, Haveri, Karnataka	2.64	0.92
5.	Sharanabaveshwara, Gulbarga, Karnataka	4.89	1.25

The NLCP aims at conservation and management of lakes which are polluted from discharge of domestic and industrial wastes. The ground water recharge and its improvement is incidental.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Management of Agriculture in Karnataka

4518. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Government of Karnataka regarding overall management of agriculture during the last three years and the current year;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) For the overall management of agriculture, under the Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme which has been devised by integrating various schemes, the allocation, Central Assistance released and utilization in respect of Karnataka are indicated in the statement enclosed.

A sum of Rs. 1847.76 lakhs remained as unutilized with the State Government as on 1-4-2006 and a sum of Rs. 59.90 crores has been allocated to the State for implementation of the scheme. A sum of Rs. 29.95 crores (50% of the allocation) as 1st installment to the State have already been released.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Unspent Balance	Release	Utilization
2003-04	5500.00	220.12	5580.00*	5681.23
2004-05	5700.00	118.89	11872.44*	6471.47
2005-06	4700.00	5519.86	4702.58	8374.68
2006-07	5990.00	—	—	—

*Includes additional Central assistance.

[Translation]

Hindi Service of Voice of America Radio

4519. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindi service of Voice of America Radio having world-wide coverage is being discontinued while time slot of Urdu service is being enhanced;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any initiative to restore the same in view of popularity of the said service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Government of India has no control over the programming of, and content broadcast by, foreign Radio Channels.

(c) Does not arise.

Subsidy to CCI

4520. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidy for the purchase under minimum support price is provided to Cotton Corporation of India by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal regarding payment of subsidy has been sent to the Government for the purchase of cotton under the minimum support price by the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Limited in the State of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on the said proposal?

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 Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) is reimbursed the losses, if any, incurred by it for carrying out the Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations for cotton as the Nodal agency of Government of India.

(b) During the financial year 2004-05, the Cotton Corporation of India, incurred a loss of Rs. 166.99 crore, which was fully reimbursed by the Government of India. During the financial year 2005-06, the losses incurred by the CCI, were estimated provisionally at Rs. 224.63 crore, of which Rs. 148.68 crore were reimbursed by the Government of India.

(c) and (d) The Government of Maharashtra has requested the Government of India to appoint Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation Ltd. (MSCCGMF) as an agency for MSP operation of cotton in the State of Maharashtra directly on behalf of the Government of India so that it should get the agency commission and reimbursement of any losses under MSP operation of cotton on the lines of CCI.

However, the Government of India, has only appointed the MSCCGMF as a State agency for monopoly cotton procurement scheme of cotton in the State of Maharashtra upto 30-6-2006, subject to the stipulation that in the operation of the Scheme, there will be no financial liability on the part of the Government of India.

Development of Ghoghla Fish Landing Centre

4521. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation for the development of Ghoghla fish landing centre in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and

Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture had in January, 1998 accorded approval to the proposal of Daman and Diu Administration for construction of fish landing centre at Ghoghla at a total cost of Rs. 52.12 lakhs with 100% central assistance. A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been released to Daman and Diu Administration in two instalments by September, 2001. The Daman and Diu Administration has reported that the project has been completed and the fish landing centre has commissioned in September 2002. The UT administration has proposed expansion of the Ghoghla fish landing centre for which the UT administration is to confirm availability of land and environmental clearance.

Verification of News

4522. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any Departmental Cell to verify the authenticity of the news telecast and published by the electronic and print media in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the programmes of TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through cable network are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programme Code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Print media is independent of Government control in respect of publication of news.

[English]

Development of Petrochemicals Sector

4523. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the government for the development of Petrochemicals sector;

(b) whether private companies have also shown

interest in the development of petrochemicals sector in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Petrochemical Sector is deregulated and delicensed. There is no investment proposal in petrochemicals sector by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. Government plays the role of facilitator in the development of petrochemicals sector. However, oil and gas Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have announced Petrochemical ventures.

(b) and (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to furnish the information. The same will be laid on the Table of the house.

(d) Does not arise.

Incentives to Industries

4524. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give special incentives to the industries which are adopting recycling and eco-friendly conservation practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Industries are encouraged to conserve natural resources and minimize pollution under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, wherein there is provision for a rebate on water-cess paid by the industry fulfilling certain criteria. They are entitled for 25% rebate on the cess payable upon installation of a water treatment plant. Industries are also required to comply with the general and source specific environmental

standards for abatement of pollution notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Further, registration of recyclers for recycling of hazardous wastes is provided under the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2003. Financial assistance is also provided for studies on waste minimization and establishment of Waste Minimization Circles (WMCs) in Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs).

Financial Assistance to Cooperative Societies

4525. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has offered any financial assistance to the cooperative societies in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions laid down therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of Andhra Pradesh thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Under the Central Sector Scheme of Assistance to NCDC Programmes for Cooperative Development, against the sanctioned amount of Rs. 154.15 crore, an amount of Rs. 50.70 crore was released during the year 2005-06 to cooperative societies in Andhra Pradesh. Out of the financial assistance of Rs. 50.70 crore, an amount of Rs. 42.23 crore was released as loan and Rs. 8.47 crore as subsidy.

(c) Does not arise.

Advertisement Industry

4526. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the growth in the advertising industry has been assessed during the last three years;

(b) if so, the turn-over of the industry during each of the last three years;

(c) the share of electronic and print media in this industry, separately;

(d) whether the Government has any plan for development of this industry in future;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the total share of the Government in advertisement out of the total advertisement business during each of the last three years; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to increase its share in the growth of advertisement industry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Advertisement industry is predominantly in the private sector and information relating to the turnover in the advertising industry is not being maintained by this Ministry. However accordingly to data released by two private agencies, the Television Audience Measurement (TAM) Media Research and Price Waterhouse Coopers Pvt. Ltd. the total turnover in the advertisement industry for the last three and two years respectively, (collated figures) are as under:—

TAM Media research

(Rupees in Crores)

	2003	2004	2005
Electronic	4488	5092	5729
Print	4784	5464	6223
Others (cinema, ooh and Internet etc.)	928	1044	1148
Total	10200	11600	13200

Price Waterhouse Coopers Pvt. Ltd.

	2004	2005
Electronic	5040	5750
Print	5440	6270
Total	10480	12020

(d) and (e) This Ministry does not have any such plan at present.

(f) The Union Government's expenditure on advertisement business during the last three years released through DAVP is as under:—

Year	Total Expenditure
2003-04	Rs. 180.43 crores
2004-05	Rs. 201.20 crores
2005-06	Rs. 328.20 crores

(g) The Government's objectives predominantly being governed by social and non-commercial considerations, the growth of advertisement industry is mainly dependent on the private sector.

BRT System

4527. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system to help reduce pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), the Central Government is envisaged to promote all proven technologies for public transport including Bus Rapid Transit system. State Governments/cities are expected to carry out techno-economic evaluation of

different alternatives and adopt the most optimal technology that meets the city specific needs including reduction in pollution.

Production of Iron

4528. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes large scale production of iron ore in the State of Jharkhand in view of the availability of iron ore in plenty in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of proposals sanctioned for setting up of iron ore plants in Jharkhand in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Horticulture Crops

4529. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in acreage under horticulture crops in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the additional production of said crop recorded during the said period, 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) As per the data received from National Horticulture Board (NHB), the total acreage under horticulture crops in the country increased from 19.45 million hectares during 2003-04 to 20.24 million hectares during 2004-05. It is estimated to have increased to 21.19 million hectares during 2005-06.

The total production of horticulture crops in the country increased from 157.83 million tonnes in 2003-04 to 169.84 million tonnes in 2004-05. It is estimated to have increased to 182.39 million tonnes in 2005-06. State-wise details of the production during this period are enclosed in the statement enclosed.

Statement***State-wise Production of Horticulture Crops during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06***

(In 000' MT)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06(P)
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	149.2	158.1	158.1
Andhra Pradesh	12525.1	13663.0	15052.8
Arunachal Pradesh	218.9	218.8	218.8
Assam	3158.2	3189.6	3412.9
Bihar	16822.2	16189.0	16189.0
Chandigarh	2.8	2.8	2.8
Chhattisgarh	1979.2	1636.2	2522.5
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	20.6	20.6	20.6
Daman and Diu	0.1	0.2	0.2
Delhi	652.8	652.8	652.8
Goa	313.2	307.2	307.3
Gujarat	6981.3	9402.6	9651.5
Haryana	3018.8	3268.2	3498.3
Himachal Pradesh	1470.3	1739.7	1684.8
Jammu and Kashmir	1752.7	2170.7	2327.5
Jharkhand	1493.5	3798.3	3789.9
Karnataka	10147.9	10566.9	10794.8
Kerala	9453.1	9293.0	9774.9
Lakshadweep	54.3	54.3	54.3
Madhya Pradesh	3653.4	4129.5	4745.3
Maharashtra	14460.7	15246.8	15613.5
Manipur	417.0	417.0	437.0
Meghalaya	555.8	555.8	557.1

1	2	3	4
Mizoram	107.1	107.1	107.1
Nagaland	163.7	163.7	159.1
Orissa	9915.3	10000.7	10408.7
Pondicherry	139.9	140.6	140.6
Punjab	3249.5	3390.2	3581.2
Rajasthan	2878.6	3019.2	3397.0
Sikkim	112.7	118.3	155.1
Tamil Nadu	11252.2	13683.6	15344.2
Tripura	871.1	908.3	908.3
Uttar Pradesh	17325.3	18850.6	20378.2
Uttaranchal	1130.0	1778.5	1679.1
West Bengal	21115.2	20724.6	24618.3
Total	157834.9	169839.7	182391.6

P=Provisional.

Production of Cardamom

during the said period?

4530. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the area under cultivation and quantum of production of cardamom recorded alongwith its value during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the details of the exports and imports of cardamom

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 all India area and production of cardamom alongwith its value in current and constant prices for the last three years are shown in the table below:—

A: Area in '000 Hectares
P: Production in '000 Tonnes
Value: Rs. in Crore

Year	A	P	Value	
			Current Prices	Constant Prices 1999-00

1	2	3	4	5
2003-04	95.6	16.7	658.0	546.0
2004-05	95.2	16.9	573.0	546.0

Source (1) Directorate of Economics and Statistics, M/Agriculture.

(2) National Accounts Division, Central Statistical Organization.

(b) The details of export and import of cardamom during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are shown in the table below:—

Export of cardamom

Q : Quantity in Tonnes

V : Value : Rs. in Crore

Item	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
Cardamom (Small)	882.0	47.1	757.0	36.9	650.0	23.9
Cardamom (Large)	1450.0	20.6	924.0	12.3	950.0	11.3

Source : Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Import of cardamom

Q : Quantity in Tonnes

V : Value : Rs. in Crore

Item	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
Cardamom (Small)	323.0	8.6	60.0	1.4	352.0	3.9
Cardamom (Large)	4319.0	42.6	4141.0	43.7	4100.0	40.1

Source : Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

[Translation]

DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

Pak Wheat in Lieu of Indian Sugar

4531. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

(a) whether the Government has sent any proposal to the Government of Pakistan to supply wheat to India in lieu of sugar being supplied to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal with the Government.

Baghlihar Hydro-Electric Project

4532. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made changes in the Baghlihar Hydro-Electric Project in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Government has kept the scheme for construction of dam on Sindhu river in abeyance;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has abandoned the proposal for construction of reservoirs on Sindhu and its subsidiary rivers;

(f) if so, whether the power generation by the project would be affected in case the reservoirs and dams are not constructed;

(g) if so, the extent thereof;

(h) whether the Government propose to discontinue the power generation from Sindhu river; and

(i) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The design of the Baghlihar Hydro-Electric Project in Jammu and Kashmir was finalized in the year 1992. The basic parameters of the project have not been changed. However the design of the certain features of the dam has been changed for various technical reasons. These changes primarily relate to the size and the orientation of the spillways.

(c) to (g) The Indus Waters Treaty permits India to construct storage dams upto an extent of 0.25 MAF for general storage purposes and 0.15 MAF for power storage purposes on the Sindhu. At present the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has not firmed up any plans to construct dams on the Indus to utilize these allocated waters.

(h) and (i) No, Sir. 8 Run of the River Projects have been constructed on the Sindhu River which are operated as per need.

[English]

Irregularities In Selling of Bottled Water

4533. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any National Level Survey to check out the irregularities in the selling of 'bottled water' in the organized water market;

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

(c) if not, the other steps taken to check such irregularities in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Bureau Indian Standard (BIS) has informed that no survey has been conducted.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As informed by BIS, necessary guidelines have been provided through Gazette Notification GSR 759(E) and GSR 760(E). The guidelines states that no person shall manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale bottled water except under the Bureau of Indian Standard Certification Marks. The BIS has also informed that the responsibility to enforce the above notification rests with Ministry of Health and its implementation in States by State implementing authority. However, responsibility with regard to certification of product for its quality rests with BIS. Further, in order to create awareness, BIS organizes workshops in association with State Governments and Industry Associations. Recently, a symposium was organized at Hyderabad by BIS alongwith Ministry of Consumer Affairs of Government of Andhra Pradesh to create the public awareness.

[Translation]

**Irregularity committed in purchase of
Urea Plant**

4534. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether some irregularity has been detected in purchase of Urea plant located in Shahjahanpur by Krishak Bharti Co-operative Limited (KRIBHCO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the partnership company of KRIBHCO has stepped out of the said deal; and

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

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 irregularities have so far been detected in the purchase of the urea plant at Shahjahanpur by KRIBHCO. However, a report is being sent to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Arrears of Payment to Hospitals from ESIC

4535. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy arrears of payment to the hospitals from the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in Kerala and that the approved hospitals insist on advance payments from beneficiaries;

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

(c) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. There are no arrears of payment of any hospital in Kerala pending with ESIC. The advance payments are made by the ESI Corporation on valid sanction of the Director of Insurance of Medical Services, Trivandrum, Kerala and Government of Kerala for Super Speciality Treatment in approved hospitals from the revolving corpus fund and not by the beneficiaries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Board/Commission for Flood Control

4536. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are separate Boards/Commissions for Flood Control in the States;

(b) if so, under which Flood Control Board/Commission in West Bengal falls;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make a separate Flood Control Board/Commission for the Northern part of said State from where at least 31 rivers crosses;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be constituted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir. Ganga Flood Control Board with Ganga Flood Control Commission as its secretariat for Ganga basin states, and Brahmaputra Board for Brahmaputra and Barak basin states are the Central Government organisations for the purpose. Some Flood Control Boards have also been set up in some of the States.

(b) Major flood prone area of West Bengal state falls under the jurisdiction of Ganga Flood Control Commission. Farakka Barrage Project takes care of the erosion problem within its jurisdiction along river Ganga.

There is also a North Bengal Flood Control Commission under the Government of West Bengal for planning and taking up flood management works on rivers flowing through North Bengal area.

(c) to (e) As a follow up action on the direction of the Prime Minister after unprecedented flood in July 2004 and severe erosion in the states of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal, the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India constituted a Task Force for Flood Management/ Erosion Control under the chairmanship of Chairman, CWC in August 2004 with representatives of State Government, Central Ministries/Organisations and eminent experts as members of the Committee to examine the flood and erosion problem in Assam and neighbouring states, West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force has proposed setting up of Sikkim and North Bengal River Management Board. Besides, a proposal for setting up North East Water Resources Authority (NEWRA) is also under consideration of the Government.

The principal Secretary to Prime Minister reviewed the status of constitution of NEWRA in a meeting held on 23-01-06. Apart from other issues and decisions it was decided that it would be necessary to empower NEWRA to accord statutory clearances under various regulations/statutes. As decided during the meeting a Small Working Group has been constituted with a representative from Planning Commission, Ministry of Power, PMO and Ministry of Water Resources by Prime Minister Office, vide MPO ID No. 450/50/C/2/05/ES-I dated 28-02-2006 on North East Water Resources Authority.

[Translation]

Shortcomings in Copyright Act

4537. SHRI KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether cable operators and organizations associated with film industry has drawn attention of the Government towards certain shortcomings in the present Copyright Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remove the shortcomings in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The nodal Ministry for the Copyright Act 1957 is the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Copyright Division in the Department of Education).

According to the information received from that Department, they have been receiving representations as well as suggestions from various stakeholders in the Copyright Act regarding the need to address their concerns. It has been stated that two sets of representations/suggestions from the Organizations/individuals associated with the film industry have come from the music side. These relate to the exception to the Act under Section 52 as well as to the conditions of compulsory license. Certain amendments have also been suggested by the industry in respect of this section.

This Ministry has also suggested certain amendments, which relate to film and music works, during the consultation process. However, Department of Education has requested for consultations with the representatives of the film industry with a view to broaden the process leading upto the amendment of the Act.

The Department of Education has informed that some proposals on amendment to the Copyright Act 1957 to make it more comprehensive and useful have been placed on the website of the Copyright office at www.copyright.gov.in and comments have been invited from the general public. Advertisements to this effect have also been placed in prominent national and regional dailies in Hindi, English and regional languages.

This Ministry has not received any representation from cable operators with reference to the Copyright Act 1957.

[English]

Assistance to Kerala by Coconut Technology Mission

4538. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of assistance provided by the Coconut Technology Mission to Kerala and other States to achieve better production, productivity and eradicate

coconut diseases like Root (wilt), Eriophid Mite attack during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide Rs. 1000/- per coconut tree which are cut and removed due to disease and also for the cost of replantation; 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 assistance provided by Technology Mission on Coconut in the last three years is given below:—

(Assistance in Lakh Rupees)

State	Period			
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
Kerala	398.779	330.971	316.170	1045.920
Karnataka	293.043	34.671	32.689	360.403
Tamil Nadu	19.500	17.492	30.732	67.724
Andhra Pradesh	—	160.000	320.000	480.000
Orissa	9.570	3.912	56.437	69.919
Maharashtra	—	—	23.047	23.047
West Bengal	—	—	5.556	5.556
Total	720.892	547.046	784.631	2052.569

An amount of Rs. 14 crores is earmarked under the scheme Technology Mission on Coconut during the year 2006-07. Since the scheme is implemented based on the severity of the disease in the affected States, separate target for each State has not been fixed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Board is providing financial assistance @ Rs. 250/- per palm for cutting and removal of root wilt disease advanced palms under the component "Management of disease affected gardens" of the Integrated Farming in coconut holding for productivity improvement. An amount of Rs. 125.00 lakhs is earmarked for the removal of 50,000 diseased palms during the year 2006-07.

[Translation]

Proposals under Forest Conservation Act, 1980

4539. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals under consideration for approval under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any fixed time limit for taking a final decision on these proposals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) 114 proposals for diversion of forest land received from various State/Union Territory Governments are under consideration of the Ministry under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State-wise list of the proposals is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) As per Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003, a time limit of 60 days has been fixed for Central Government for taking a decision on the complete proposal

received from the State. Since receipt, processing and clearance of proposals is a continuous process, at any given point of time, some proposals will always be under consideration of the Ministry.

Statement

State/Union Territory	No. of Proposals under consideration
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
Andhra Pradesh	20
Arunachal Pradesh	0
Assam	1
Bihar	1
Chandigarh	0
Chhattisgarh	9
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3
Daman and Diu	0
Delhi	0
Goa	1
Gujarat	9
Haryana	0
Himachal Pradesh	2
Jammu and Kashmir	0
Jharkhand	2
Karnataka	30
Kerala	2
Lakshadweep	0
Madhya Pradesh	6

1	2
Maharashtra	2
Manipur	0
Meghalaya	0
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	0
Orissa	6
Pondichery	0
Punjab	0
Rajasthan	5
Sikkim	0
Tamil Nadu	8
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	2
Uttaranchal	1
West Bengal	1
Total	114

[English]

Proposals for Forest Development

4540. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether forest land would be made available to private and foreign companies for development of forest cover and animal life;

(b) if so, whether any proposal in this regard is received by the Union Government from foreign/private companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. However, preparation of the framework for Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) for forestation of degraded lands has been initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The proposed framework envisages a tripartite arrangement between the land owning agency, the local village communities, and the sponsors who may be a company, firm, user group, trust, society or organization in public or private sector.

(b) and (c) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

[Translation]

Production of Edible Oil

4541. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Edible Oil has increased during the last decade and various programmes are being implemented under the integrated oil seeds, pulses, palm oil and maize scheme for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of production of oil seeds, vegetable oil and palm oil in each of the State in the country in comparison to the target fixed for the purpose during the last three years and current year;

(d) whether due to non-production of oil seeds vegetable oils are being imported as per the fixed target on zero per cent duty from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and other neighbouring countries resulting in losses to the Indian vegetable oil industries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Production of edible oil which was 55.68 lakh tonnes in 1995-96 increased to 64.98 lakh tonnes in 2004-05.

In order to provide flexibility to the States in implementation based on regionally differentiated approach, to promote crop diversification in favour of oilseeds and to provide focused approach to the programmes the erstwhile schemes of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP), National Pulses Development Project (NPDP), Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) and Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) have been merged into one Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) which is implemented by Government of India in 14 major growing States (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) in the country from 01-04-2004.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of minikits, infrastructure development, block demonstrations on improved technology, Polythene Mulch Technology, integrated pest management, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets, farmers training, pipes for carrying water from water source to the field, officers training and publicity to encourage farmers to cultivate oilseeds in large scale. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds are conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research to popularize improved technologies among the farmers.

(c) Production of edible oil from the oilseeds was 36.24 lakh tonnes, 60.94 lakh tonnes and 64.98 lakh tonnes in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. The state-wise production vis-a-vis targets in case of oilseeds during 2002-03 to 2005-06 are shown in statement-I. The production of palm oil from 2002-03 to 2004-05 is shown in statement-II.

(d) Vanaspati is being imported from Sri Lanka and Bhutan under Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with these two countries and from Nepal under Trade Agreement with Nepal at zero duty. However, under both India-Sri

Lanka FTA and India-Nepal Treaty of Trade, the duty free access is subject to fulfillment of value addition requirements prescribed in the Agreement/Treaty. In the case of Nepal, import of vanaspati is further subject to annual quota which is canalized through State Trading Corporation (STC) to ensure its equitable distribution all over India. In the India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade and Commerce, value addition requirement is not prescribed, but imports are insignificant. All the Agreements also have provisions for consultations to resolve trade related issues.

(e) The following steps have been taken to improve the health of vegetable oil industry:—

- (i) Import duty on certain vegetable oils of edible grade intended for manufacture of refined oil/ vanaspati is levied at a concessional rate.

(ii) Import duty on certain crude vegetable oils of edible grade has been kept low as compared to refined oils to facilitate raw material availability.

(iii) To encourage production of solvent extracted oils in the country and to promote export of extractions, excise duty on food grade hexane has been reduced from 32% to 16%.

(iv) Excise duty on refined edible oils/vanaspati/ interesterified fat etc. has been withdrawn.

(v) Import duty on vanaspati, bakery shortening, interesterified fat, margarine has been raised from 30% to 80%.

Statement-I

State-wise target and achievement of production of oilseeds during 2002-03 to 2005-06

(in lakh tonnes)

Name of the State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	30.50	12.56	26.80	16.14	25.89	22.09	26.68	20.05
Assam	1.95	1.49	1.65	1.57	0.00	1.47	0.00	1.52
Bihar	4.55	1.05	4.00	1.24	2.02	1.17	1.76	1.01
Chhattisgarh	0.00	1.01	2.10	1.27	1.10	1.24	1.63	1.03
Gujarat	33.70	16.83	31.40	56.65	30.39	29.87	38.69	43.60
Haryana	10.20	7.12	9.50	9.98	8.10	8.41	8.18	10.14
Jammu and Kashmir	0.50	0.27	0.70	0.42	0.00	1.24	0.00	0.38
Jharkhand	0.00	0.08	0.15	0.08	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.18
Karnataka	18.05	10.74	14.08	9.34	17.61	15.70	19.11	15.79
Madhya Pradesh	58.35	31.44	57.75	56.24	64.94	47.98	64.00	52.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Maharashtra	26.85	23.56	25.00	29.21	30.44	27.44	30.00	33.97
Orissa	6.20	0.94	4.92	1.57	1.83	1.80	1.77	5.65
Punjab	3.35	0.91	2.08	1.04	1.55	1.00	1.33	1.32
Rajasthan	34.30	17.55	32.22	39.97	38.46	55.41	39.47	54.36
Tamil Nadu	18.70	7.60	15.80	9.64	19.57	10.61	17.78	11.19
Uttar Pradesh	17.00	8.81	13.37	9.28	14.44	9.52	14.85	6.94
Uttaranchal	0.00	0.23	0.28	0.34	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.27
West Bengal	4.90	4.76	4.30	6.51	5.66	6.53	6.24	5.80
All-India	270.00	148.38	247.00	251.86	262.00	243.54	265.84	266.97

Statement-II*State-wise Production of Palm Oil during 2001-02 to 2003-04*

(Tonnes)

State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Andhra Pradesh	18974.00	18960.00	21457.47
Karnataka	573.58	606.64	645.64
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	2.94	2.94	2.83
Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
Goa	243.00	330.85	323.54
Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kerala	980.00	6572.00	6387.19
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1840.32	1696.00	0.00

*[English]***Entry of GM Oilseeds**

4542. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to import Genetically Modified (GM) oilseeds to meet the domestic demand of edible oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether doubts have been raised by some experts and Non-Governmental Organisations over the entry of GM foods in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government has so far not permitted the import of genetically modified GM oilseeds to meet the domestic of edible oil.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some Non-Government Organizations have expressed apprehensions about the entry of GM foods. Prior approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) is necessary for any import of genetically modified oilseeds as per the provisions of rule 11 Rules 1989. Further this has also been included in the notification dated 4-5-2006 of Director General of Foreign Trade accordingly to which prior approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee and declaration at the port of entry is mandatory.

Programme for Elimination of Hunger

4543. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and China on a programme to eliminate hunger in the World during the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role likely to be played by the Government in the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of India had received a general proposal from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization for a GOI-FAO Strategic Alliance for South-South Cooperation Programme in support of National and Regional Programmes for Food Security. Government has decided in principle to support agriculture development in Afghanistan in collaboration with FAO on a modest scale between 2006-2011 and have asked the organization to indicate further details.

*[Translation]***Fertilizer Videsh**

4544. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI MOHD TAHIR:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an independent company Fertilizer Videsh;

(b) if so, whether the said company is likely to make available raw material to domestic fertilizer industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether, availability of fertilizers is likely to be affected as a result thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether public sector companies are likely to have stake in the said company; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (g) The possibility of setting up an organization/company, with majority stake of fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings, with the aim of facilitating

import of raw materials, intermediates and finished fertilizers in the country on a sustained basis at reasonable prices, and exploring possibilities of joint ventures and investments abroad, especially in the field of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, is under consideration. No decision has yet been taken.

[English]

Goods without BIS Certification

4545. SHRI RANA GURJEET SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumer goods requiring mandatory, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) mark are being produced without proper certification;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the last three years and current year, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the action taken against the defaulters indicating the number of defaulters convicted 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) With the growth and popularity of the BIS Certification Marks Scheme, there are instances of misuse of BIS Standard Mark on consumer goods under mandatory certification. To curb this misuse, BIS is carrying out regular raids on such manufacturers.

(b) BIS has conducted search and seizures during the last three years and current year as given below:—

Year	Number of Raids conducted by BIS	
	Total No. of Raids conducted	No. of raids involving Mandatory Products
1	2	3
2003-04	206	86

1	2	3
2004-05	217	99
2005-06	241	105
2006-07 (till 14-05-2006)	14	8

(c) After search and seizure, the offenders are prosecuted in Court of law, under the provisions of BIS Act, 1986. Following are the number of cases decided during last 3 years:—

Year	Number of Court cases	
	Total No. of cases decided	In favour of BIS
2003-04	8	7
2004-05	12	11
2005-06	9	7
2006-07 (till 14-05-2006)	1	1

Realisation of Outstanding Dues

4546. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kolkata Doordarshan has realised outstanding dues of Janmabhumi and Khas-Khabar serials;

(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) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that they have yet to realise the outstanding dues from the producer, M/s. Aarambh Advertising and Marketing Ltd., Kolkata, against the serials 'Janmabhoomi' and 'Khas-Khabar'.

The realisation of outstanding dues in this regard is dependent upon the outcome of two writ petitions filed by the company in the Calcutta High Court.

Research Activities in Agriculture

4547. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has carried out research activities in various States with a view to increase agricultural production;

(b) if so, the research activities undertaken in various parts of the country particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the recommendations of ICAR for increasing agricultural production in Rajasthan; and

(d) the follow-up action initiated by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ICAR has carried out research activities to increase agricultural production in various states including Rajasthan, through improvement of crop, animal and fish genetic resources, natural resource management, disease diagnostics and management in crops, livestock and fisheries, development and utilization of improved farm machinery, post harvest technology and human resource development. These activities are undertaken at various ICAR research institutes and their centres and the state agricultural universities as ongoing programmes and ad-hoc projects of national and regional priorities. For research extension, there are 510 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) in the country out of which 32 are in Rajasthan, one in each district. During the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06) in Rajasthan, these KVKs have taken up 124 technologies for on-farm trial to identify the location specificity of technology under various farming systems; organized 12688 frontline demonstrations to establish its production potential on the farmers' fields; conducted 6077 training programmes with the

participation of 1.09 lakh farmers and 13041 extension personnel. The KVKs produced 8542 q. of seeds and 8.63 lakh planting materials for making it available to the farmers. Similar activities are being pursued during the current year (2006-07) as well.

(c) and (d) ICAR Regional Committee No. VI comprising the States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Union Territory of Dadra, Nagar and Haveli and Daman and Diu in its Meeting in September, 2005 with participation of Senior Officials of ICAR, SAUs and State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, made 24 recommendations for agricultural development in Rajasthan. These relate to groundwater recharge, input use efficiency, heavy metals accumulation in soil and ground water, seed production unit, salt-tolerant pulses, seed multiplication of forage crops, combating biotic stresses through microbes, integrated pest management, value addition of potential commodities, assessment of animal potential, feed and fodder management, fisheries in the river Yamuna, fish seed certification, demonstrations on multiple uses of water, restructuring of KVKs, Faculty positions and subjects in agricultural universities, certification standards for organic farming, implementation of Model Act in SAUs, basic and strategic research, generation of information on resource potential and strengthening of Veterinary Clinics/Centres. Follow-up action involving concerned departments has been initiated which will be reviewed in Mid-term Appraisal Meeting after one year and the next Regional Committee Meeting.

Distribution of Gold Medals

4548. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in June, 2003 Employees Provident Fund Organisation had purchased and distributed gold medals to all its employees at the cost of Rs. 9.03 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has detected any violation of instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) On the occasion of Golden Jubilee Year of the Organisation a total of 19461 gold medallions were supplied by M/s. MMTC Ltd. which were distributed to the employees of Employees Provident Fund Organisation. After delivery of the gold coins, the MMTC had raised a final debit note for Rs. 9.31 crores.

(c) and (d) An Audit Para was raised by DGACR for inclusion in the CAG Report for 2005 regarding "injurious expenditure on gold medallions". However, a reply was furnished to DGACR clarifying the position. Employees Provident Fund Organisation is a statutory body formed under an Act of Parliament and raises its own finance for meeting expenditure on cost of establishment and other expenditures relating to the benefits of the Employees.

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

[Translation]

Free Legal Assistance for Consumer Cases

4549. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide free legal assistance to poor and deprived sections of the society to reach out the benefits of Consumer Protection Act to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRITASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However persons living Below Poverty Line holding Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards are exempted from payment of fee for filing complaint under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 in a District Forum for claim upto Rs. 1.00 lac. In addition, poor and deprived Sections of the society are provided with free legal services for filing

or defending cases including consumer cases under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Assistance for Setting up of Cold Storage

4550. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assistance being provided for setting up of cold storage is sufficient;

(b) if not, whether the Government is likely to increase the said assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and 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) Assistance is being provided to States for construction/modernisation/expansion of cold storage @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh. However, in respect of North Eastern (NE) and Hilly States the assistance is limited to 33.33% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 60.00 lakh per project. So far, cold storage capacity of 58.33 lakh MTs has been created satisfactorily since 1999 by taking advantage of the above assistance through National Horticulture Board.

(b) No proposal has been received for enhancing the rate of assistance and the norms would continue to be the same for the Xth Plan period.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Interest Rate of EPF

4551. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government has received a request from Central Trade Unions, to restore the interest rate to 9.5% on Employees Provident Fund (EPF);

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to review the current EPF interest rate of 8.5%;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a proposal to change the investment patterns of the EPF money is also under the consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The rate of interest for the year 2005-06 has already been notified by the Government. As regards the rate of interest for the year 2006-07, the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund has yet not made any recommendation.

(d) and (e) Investments are made in accordance with the investment pattern notified by the Central Government under Para 52 of EPF Scheme, 1952. The Ministry of Finance vide notification dated 24-01-05 has prescribed the revised pattern for investment of EPF monies. The revised pattern is, however, yet to be renotified by Ministry of Labour and Employment under Para 52 of EPF Scheme, 1952.

[Translation]

Massan Dam

4552. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct Massan Dam to check water flowing through hilly rivers from Nepal into Western Champaran of Bihar and thereby utilizing it; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Dam is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The Government of Bihar had started the construction of Massan Dam in Western Champaran district of Bihar in VII Plan period at an estimated cost of

Rs. 57.96 crore to create irrigation potential of 81.65 th. ha. However, the project could not be completed due to Environment problems.

Now the State Government has informed that they are keen to restart execution of Massan dam, work on which is held up since the year 1992, owing to a part of the submergence area falling under the reservoir having been declared reserved for National Park, wild life sanctuary and Tiger Project. Fresh initiatives have been made by the Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar and discussions have been held recently with the officials of the Environment and Forest Department, who have suggested to seek permission of the Indian Wild Life Council, Hon'ble Supreme Court and other related authorities. The State Government is exploring its options in this regard.

Considering the environmental constraints of the project, it is not possible to give a time frame for the clearance of this project and acquisition thereof.

Objectives of NAFED

4553. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of establishing NAFED;

(b) whether the NAFED is entitled to grant loans;

(c) if so, the roles in this regard;

(d) the amount of loan given by NAFED during the last three years; and

(e) the amount of interest earned by NAFED as a result thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) NAFED is a national level cooperative marketing federation registered under the Multi-state Cooperative Societies Act, 2002. The objectives of NAFED are to organize, promote and develop marketing, processing and

storage of agricultural, non-agricultural and non-traditional items, horticultural and forest produce, distribution of agriculture machinery, implements and other in puts, import and export trade, whole sale or retail as the case may be and to act and assist for technical advise in agricultural, non-agricultural and non-traditional production for the promotion and working of its members, partners, associates and cooperatives marketing, processing and supply societies in India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and the same would be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Mobile Towers

4554. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of mobile towers which have come up in various areas of Delhi cause pollution emanating from radiation/vibration;

(b) if so, whether its impact on human health has been assessed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to relocate these towers away from Densely populated areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the information provided by Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, there are 4561 mobile towers in Delhi mobile service area as on 31st March, 2006.

(b) to (d) Presently, there are no conclusive reports indicating the impact on human health due to radiation/vibration from mobile telephone towers.

National Drought Policy

4555. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a National Drought Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As the primary responsibility for taking immediate measures in the wake of drought is that of the State Governments, no need for a National Policy in this behalf has been felt. Most of the State Governments have Relief Code or Scarcity Manual for specifically dealing with droughts or for handling natural calamities including drought. The Government of India Supplements the efforts of the State Governments with financial and logistic support in the manner prescribed by the Finance Commissions in respect of droughts and other natural calamities.

[Translation]

Death of Tigers in Uttaranchal

4556. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether death of some tigers has been reported during the last three months in the National Parks in Uttaranchal as published in Rashtriya Sahara dated March 24, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any action plan has been made by the Union Government to prevent such death of tigers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Death of three tigresses from Corbett Tiger Reserve and a tigress from Ramnagar Forest

Division between January, 2006 to March, 2006 has come to notice.

(c) and (d) Spot appraisal/field visits were done by a team of experts/officials from the Wildlife Institute of India as well as the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Though postmortem reports indicate death on account of wounds no conclusive evidence leading to mortality was found. Since the possibility of man-animal conflicts exist in the area, the State Government has been advised for taking necessary measures to ensure adequate protection of wild animals.

(e) and (f) Action taken by Government of India for conservation of wild animals including tigers is at the statement enclosed.

Statement

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

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

(vi) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16 was adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(viii) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

(ix) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(x) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

(xi) Action has been taken for implementing the urgent recommendation of Tiger Task Force and creation of National Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

[English]

Availability of Cultivable Land

4557. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to enhance availability of cultivable land in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide this land to unemployed educated youth living in rural areas for specific cultivations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per available estimates (2002-03), about 182.92 million ha. area is cultivable land, consists of Net Area Sown (132.86 million ha.), Current Fallows (21.53 million ha.), Fallow Lands other than Current Fallow (11.68 million ha.), Culturable Waste (13.49 million ha.) and Land under Miscellaneous Tree Crops and Groves (3.36 million ha.). Government of India is also implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP) and (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) to develop the degraded lands in the country. So far an area of 28.53 million ha. of degraded land has been treated under these programmes. Parts of such developed lands are also brought under cultivation and helps in sustaining the availability of cultivable lands in the country.

The increasing trend of diversion of cultivable land for non agricultural purposes has been witnessed in the country. The State Land Use Boards (SLUBs) are functioning in 25 States under the chairmanship of Chief Minister/Chief Secretary of the States with main objectives of providing policy directives for sustainable development of land resources and integrated planning for optimal use of available and resources.

(b) and (c) Land is a State subject; therefore, distribution of the land to unemployed educated youth living in rural areas for cultivations etc. falls under the purview of State Governments.

[Translation]

Hospitals for Beedi Workers

4558. **SHRI GANESH SINGH:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of States in which the Government has granted approval for setting up

of hospitals with beds for the beedi workers of the country;

(b) whether the construction work for the approved hospitals has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) There are four hospitals for Beedi Workers in Karnataka (50-beds), Jharkhand (50 beds), Uttar Pradesh (10 beds), West Bengal (50-beds). Three more hospitals under construction are near completion. These are located in Madhya Pradesh (30 beds), Tamil Nadu (30-beds) and Bihar (30 beds). O.P.D. Services are being provided in the hospital at Mukkudal (Tamil Nadu) and in Biharsharif (Bihar). Efforts are being made to get the remaining work completed.

[English]

Commission on Salaries and Allowances of MPs

4559. **SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to set up a Commission to look after the salary and allowances of Members of Parliament and its related matters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Such a proposal has been under the consideration of the Government. However, a final decision in the matter is yet to be taken.

Drug Prices Liability Review Committee

4560. **SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Drug Prices Liability Review Committee (DPLRC) has been put under suspension;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to settle all the cases of DPEA recovery?

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 Drug Prices Liabilities Review Committee (DPLRC) was constituted vide resolution dated 21st March, 1994 under the Chairmanship of a Judge of Delhi High Court alongwith two members for determination of DPEA liabilities of the drug companies. Since the DPLRC was not in a position to take up any new case in view of interim stay dated 30-6-1997 granted by the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in Writ Petition No. 2368/1996 filed by Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) and Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) restraining the Department and its committees etc., from issuing fresh notices to the drug companies calling for information required for determining liabilities, the committee has been put under suspended animation with effect from 31st December, 2005.

(c) After the stay granted by the Hon'ble Bombay High Court is vacated, a decision about revival of DPLRC may be taken, if necessary. Considering prolonged litigation in DPEA liability cases which pertain to the period with effect from 1-4-1979 to 25-8-1987 and the fact that most of the companies to whom demand notices have been sent, have moved various High Courts, it seems

worthwhile to settle these cases through a Settlement Commission. However, a decision in this regard has not yet been taken.

Television Rating Points

4561. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

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

(a) the latest Television Rating Points (TRP) and Television Viewership Rating (TVR) of Hindi language channels of Doordarshan and DAVP empanelled channels; and

(b) the names of agencies conducting TRP and TVR ratings for these channels?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasara Bharati has informed that the latest Television Viewership Rating (TVR) of Hindi language channels of Doordarshan and DAVP empanelled channels generated through peoples' meters by TAM Media Research Pvt. Ltd., are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Prasara Bharati has informed that at present two agencies viz. TAM Media Research Pvt. Ltd., and Audience Measurement Analytics Pvt. Ltd., (AMAP) are generating TRP/TVT of television through electronic meters in the country.

Statement

*TAM TVR/Share of DD and DAVP Empanelled Channels
For the week 23-29 April 2006 All 4+ Years*

Universe: 144376

DD Channels	No. of viewers in 000s	Television Viewership Rating in %age (TVR) [Col. (2) ÷ 144376 x 100]	%age of viewing share [Col. (2) ÷ 17379x100]
1	2	3	4
DD News	227	0.16	1.31

1	2	3	4
DD I	2929	2.03	16.86
DAVP Empanelled Channels			
Star Utsav	28	0.02	0.16
Zee TV	459	0.32	2.64
Sahara One	151	0.1	0.87
Sadhna	3	00	0.01
SAB	68	0.05	0.39
Sanskar	21	0.01	0.12
Aaj Tak	137	0.1	0.79
ND TV India	69	0.05	0.39
Star News	107	0.07	0.61
Zee News	63	0.04	0.36
Aawaz	18	0.01	0.1
Aastha	45	0.03	0.26
Hungama TV	102	0.07	0.59
Zee Smile	19	0.01	0.11
Zee Cinema	399	0.28	2.3
Star Gold	311	0.22	1.79
Zee Business	6	00	0.03
MAX	387	0.27	2.23
Zee Music	9	0.01	0.05
Sony Entertainment TV	278	0.19	1.6
Star Plus	1136	0.79	6.54
Sahara Samay National	25	0.02	0.15
Others	10376	7.19	59.7
Any channel	17379	12.04	100

Shortage of Staff

4562. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan in the North East Region are facing a lot of difficulties to cater various programmes due to shortage of staff particularly Programme Executives/Managers and Engineers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up the vacant posts in AIR and Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Cereal

4563. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has increased the import of cereal despite the increase in the production during 2005-06;

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

(c) its impact on the domestic market; and

(d) the steps taken to safeguard the farmers' interest in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Production of Cereals in the country in last five years was as follows:—

Year		Production (in Million Tonnes)
1		2
2001-02	—	199.48

1		2
2002-03	—	163.65
2003-04	—	198.28
2004-05	—	185.23
2005-06 (3rd advance estimates)	—	196.09

On 1st February 2006, a decision was taken to import 5 lakh tonnes of wheat at the Southern Ports only. In April 2006 the Government decided to import an additional 30 lakh tonnes of wheat.

The wheat stocks with the Central Government at 20.12 lakh tonnes were below the buffer norms on 1-1-2006. They were estimated to come down further to around 18 lakh tonnes as on 1st April, 2006 against the buffer norms of 40 lakh tonnes.

The decision to import wheat was therefore taken to ensure food security and to contain the rise in prices of wheat reported from several consuming centres.

The decision was taken to address an abnormal situation where inadequate buffer stocks were posing a threat to the country's food security. Under normal circumstances, the Government safeguards the farmers' interests, inter-alia through (a) imposition of appropriate import duties to protect against indiscriminate imports; (b) market price support to ensure remunerative prices; and (c) schemes for enhancement of production and productivity.

Increase in Prices of Pulses

4564. SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of the imports of pulses during 2004, 2005 and 2006, the prices of pulses continued to rise in the open market during the months of January to April, 2006;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the prices of various kinds of pulses during the period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate availability of pulses at reasonable prices to the consumers before the arrival of kharif (2006) crop of pulses in the market?

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

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A monthly Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) and percentage increase of important Pulses during January-April, 2005 and January-April, 2006 is shown below:—

Wholesale Price Index for Pulses (Base: 1993-04=100)

Pulses	Jan, 05	Jan. 06	% Increase	Feb. 05	Feb. 06	% Increase	March 05	March 06 (Prov.)	% Increase	April 05	April 06 (Prov.)	% Increase
Gram	136.8	172.1	25.8	135.9	169.1	24.4	135.8	166.1	22.3	136.9	173.6	26.8
Arhar	171.3	171.1	-0.1	165.8	164.5	-0.8	161.1	168.8	4.8	165.4	177.9	7.6
Moong	191.6	230.3	20.2	187.4	252.3	34.6	188.9	246.3	30.4	194.0	284.1	46.4
Masur	237.0	242.6	2.4	230.4	239.4	3.9	227.4	238.4	4.8	231.5	243.6	5.2
Urad	219.2	313.7	43.1	215.3	340.9	58.3	210.5	317.9	51.0	217.2	380.3	75.1
Total Pulses	173.9	209.5	20.5	170.6	215.2	26.1	168.8	210.2	24.5	172.4	232.2	34.7

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(c) Efforts are made to keep the prices of pulses within reasonable level through increase in domestic production and imports. A Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Pulses, Oilseeds, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is under implementation to increase productivity and production of pulses. The domestic production is estimated to have increased from 131.3 lakh tonnes in 2004-05 to 139.2 lakh tonnes during 2005-06. Since the domestic production of pulses remains inadequate as compared to the demand; imports are also resorted to keep the prices under check.

Procurement Policy

4565. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning for preferred procurement policy for pharmaceutical Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) involved in bulk procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is planning Purchase Preference Policy in respect of medicines manufactured by Pharma Public Sector Undertakings and their subsidiaries.

(b) and (c) Details have not been finalised.

Complaints Against Cable Operators

4566. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting and the Commissioner of Police, Delhi have received any complaints regarding disconnection of cable connections of the subscribers by the Cable Operators in Delhi during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that Cable Operators are running their business as per their own will despite the objection raised by the subscribers;

(d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any guidelines for the Cable Operators keeping in view to safeguard the interests of the subscribers;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, whether the Government proposes to regulate the Cable Operation business through a regulatory authority;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the action taken by the Government against the erring Cable Operators?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 does not require maintenance of information on disconnection of cable connection of subscribers by Cable Operators, either by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting or by any authorised officer, including a Commissioner of Police.

(c) to (h) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, aimed to regulate the operation of Cable Television Networks in the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, provides that the District Magistrate or a Sub-Divisional Magistrate or a Commissioner of Police will act as authorised officers within his local limits of jurisdiction for the purpose of enforcement of the provisions of the said Act.

Agriculture Business and Agriculture Technology Park

4567. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any

project proposal for agriculture business and agriculture technology park in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) This Department has not received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for agri-business an agriculture technology park in Gujarat. However, Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC), and autonomous organization under this Department has sanctioned venture capital assistance of Rs. 106.95 lakhs to seven individual agri business projects in different districts of Gujarat during 2005-06 under Central Sector Scheme for agri business development.

Modern Technology of Agriculture

4568. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to promote and propagate modern technology of agriculture in the tribal regions of Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Government of India is supporting the efforts of the State Governments to promote and propagate modern technology of agriculture in various parts of the country, including the tribal regions of Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, through its various schemes, such as:—

— Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms

— Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension

- Kisan Call Centres
- Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

The details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Some of the current Initiatives to promote and propagate modern technology of agriculture

1. Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension:
180 Narrowcasting Centres and 18 Regional Centres of

Doordarshan are telecasting agricultural programmes for 30 minutes daily, five days a week. Similar programmes are being telecast on National Channel of Doordarshan, six days a week. Besides, 96 FM Transmitters of All India Radio are also broadcasting area specific agricultural programme for 30 minutes daily, six days a week. The list of such Regional Kendras/Narrowcasting Transmitters/FM Stations of DD/AIR in Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh is given below:—

Sl. No.	State	Regional Kendra	Narrow-casting Transmitters	FM Station
1.	Orissa	Bhubneswar	Sambalpur, Bargarh, Redhakhol, Kuchinda, Sundergarh Bhawanipatna, Bolangir, Nabrangpur, Khariar, Jaypore, Nuapara Rayagada	Puri Rourkela Bolangir Berhampur
2.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Lohardaga, Gumla, Daltonganj, Deoghar, Chaibasa, Kodarma, Hazaribagh, Ranchi	Daltongunj Chaibasa Hazaribagh
3.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bilaspur, Champa, Sakti, Kobra, Dongargarh, Raipur	Bilaspur, Raigarh
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Jagdalpur (N)	Jagadalpur, Balladila, Narayanpur, Konta, Kanker	Balaghat, Betul, Chhindwada, Guna, Khandwa, Sagar, Shehdol, Shivpuri
5.	West Bengal	Kolkata	Kurseong, Balurghai, Malda, Alipurduar, Coochbehar Shantiniketan, Asansol, Berhampur, Burdwan, Kalna, Ryna	Asansole Murshidabad Shantiniketan

2. Kisan Call Centres—A country wide common four digit number 1551 has been allocated for Kisan Call Centres to provide need based agricultural information to farmers throughout the country. Farmers can access this number from 6.00 am to 10.00 pm on all seven days of the week. The replies to the queries of the farmers are being given in 21 local languages.

3. Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms—This Scheme aims at making extension system farmer driven and farmer accountable by way of new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level to operationalize the extension reforms. ATMAs have been established in Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal in the following districts:—

Orissa: (13 districts)—Kuhurda, Koraput, Ganjam, Sambalpur, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Dhenkanal, Bolangir, Kondhamal, and Nuapada.

Jharkhand (8 districts)—Dumka, Jamtara, Chaibasa, Palamu, Garhwa, Chatra, Hazaribagh and Saraikela.

Chhattisgarh (5 districts)—Bilaspur, Jagadalpur, Raigarh, Sarguja and Kabirdham.

Madhya Pradesh (15 districts)—Betul, Hoshangabad, Khargone, Jhabua, Ujjain, Ratlam, Gwalior, Morena, Sagar, Tikamgarh, Balaghat, Dindori, Chhindwara, Rewa, Shahdol.

West Bengal (6 districts)—Coochbehar, Malda, Murshidabad, North 24 Paraganas, Midnapore (East) and Bankura.

4. Krishi Vigyan Kendra—The Government has approved for establishment of one Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in each of the 578 rural districts of the country during X Plan. One of the mandates of KVKs is training of farmers to up-date their knowledge and skills, and training of extension personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development.

Monitoring of Parks/Sanctuaries

4569. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government monitors the ways and means by which the State Governments manage, administer and plan all aspects of National Parks/ Sanctuaries/Forest Reserves falling under their domain;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which monitoring is done by the Union Government; and

(d) the further steps proposed to be taken for more rigid and efficient monitoring system for protection of wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. All financial releases under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are done for activities prescribed in approved Management Plans of National Parks and Sanctuaries. The criteria for management effectiveness evaluation of the National Parks and Sanctuaries of the country have been laid out, based on which action has been taken to monitor all the National Parks and Sanctuaries. An independent evaluation of tiger reserves has been carried out by a panel of experts, which has been peer reviewed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

Committee on Retail Sector

4570. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed any committee to study the trends and impact of Retail Sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has since submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein and the reaction of 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Blue Bird

4571. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether after the clemenceau ship it is reportedly the turn of another toxic ship S.S. Norway/Blue Bird which is on its way to Indian shore after being rejected by Bangladesh Government on the ground of its toxicity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has permitted this ship to come to India; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) It is true that the ship S.S. Norway/Blue Lady was on its way to Indian shore. But, based on an application filed in the Supreme Court of India, the Court has passed an order on 12th May, 2006 to examine the matter by the Expert Committee on Ship Breaking and submit its report. As per the instructions of the Union Government, the Gujarat Pollution Control Board has directed all the concerned agencies not to allow the ship "Blue Lady" to enter into the Indian Sovereign Jurisdiction till a final decision is taken in the matter.

(c) and (d) No such permission has been given by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Establishment of Cashew Progeny Orchard

4572. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had

sometime back, submitted a proposal for establishment of cashew progeny orchard at a cost of Rs. 43 lakhs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Government of Karnataka had submitted a project proposal of cashew progeny orchard in Thumkur District, Karnataka with a total cost of Rs. 43.00 lakhs on 18-1-2005.

(c) Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa has communicated to Karnataka Government on 28-3-2006 that the project proposal submitted by Government of Karnataka do not fall under the purview of Directorate, as the area expansion programme under cashew including establishment of cashew progeny orchard is under implementation under National Horticulture Mission in the State. The Government of Karnataka can take up the project proposal in their Annual Action Plan (2006-07) under National Horticulture Mission for its implementation.

Funds for Irrigation Projects

4573. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has earmarked Rs. 50,000 crores, for certain irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details of the projects that would be taken up with these funds; and

(c) the details of such projects falling in Gujarat indicating the time frame within which these would be taken up and completed?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Krishna Water Commission

4574. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has set up a Krishna Water Commission to resolve Krishna water dispute;

(b) if so, the composition alongwith terms and reference of the Commission;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested to extend the deadline awarded by Bachawat Commission for utilization of their share of, water; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Central Government received complaints under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 from the State of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in October, 2002, December, 2002 and January 2003 respectively requesting for constitution of a Water Dispute Tribunal under Section 4 (1) of ISRWDT Act, 1956 and referring to the Tribunal for adjudication and decision, the water disputes and matters connected with or relevant to water disputes emerging from the letters of complaint. In view of this, as per ISRWDT Act, 1956 Central Government constituted second Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) on 2-4-2004 for the adjudication of the water dispute regarding the inter-state river Krishna and river valley thereof and referred the letter from the States of KWDT for adjudication. Shri Justice Brijesh Kumar, Judge, Supreme Court of India (now retired) is the Chairman of Tribunal and Shri Justice S.P. Srivastava and Shri Justice D.K. Seth, Judges of the High Court of Allahabad and Calcutta (now retired) are Members of the Tribunal.

(c) No such request has been made by Government of Maharashtra in the complaint received by Central Government under Section 3 of the Act in December, 2002.

(d) Does not arise.

Grid of Grain Banks

4575. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up National Grid of Grain Banks for storing grains of local variety;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There is no proposal to set up National Grid of Grain Banks for storing grains of local variety.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Adequate storage capacity is available with Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations for storing Rice, Wheat and Coarsegrain of local variety.

Conservation of Wetland

4576. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted a project for conservation of wetland in the State; and

(b) if so, the status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for conservation of Point Calimer wetland in Tamil Nadu was received from Government of Tamil Nadu during 2002-03. So far, an amount of Rs. 153.73 lakhs has been released to the Government of Tamil Nadu for undertaking various conservation and management activities in this Wetland which include protection measures, habitat improvement for avifauna, education awareness, capacity-building, catchment area treatment and eco-development activities.

Assistance for Upgradation of ESI Hospitals

4577. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sought

assistance from the Union Government for upgradation of ESI hospitals in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status thereof?

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

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

Construction of Bhasha Dam

4578. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had lodged a protest with Government of Pakistan against proposed construction of Bhasha Dam in Gilgit on Indus River in Northern area as it would inundate large parts of land in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) if so, the response of Government of Pakistan in this regard;

(c) the time by which the dam would be constructed; and

(d) the action the Government proposes to take for the rehabilitation of the affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Government of India conveyed through diplomatic channels to the Government of Pakistan, its protest against the proposed construction of Bhasha Dam in territory that is part of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India by virtue of its accession to it in 1947. The reservoir of this dam, according to media reports, will inundate large parts of land which falls in the northern part of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Pakistan rejected the demarche made by India in this regard.

(c) According to media reports, Pakistan proposes to complete the construction of the Bhasha Dam by 2016.

(d) Government is not aware of the details of rehabilitation plan of the Government of Pakistan for

the construction of the Bhasha Dam. Measures to be taken by India are dependent on further Indo-Pakistan interaction.

[Translation]

Incentive for Agro-Forestry

4579. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have requested to the Union Government to provide incentives for agro-forestry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No specific requests have been received from the State Governments to provide incentives for agro-forestry. However, agro-forestry is also promoted under the watershed development programmes of Union Government. Besides, under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme of Ministry of Environment and Forests, regeneration of degraded forest and adjoining lands has been taken up and promotion of agro-forestry on non-forest lands is permitted as an entry point activity.

Agricultural Universities

4580. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any criteria has been fixed for selecting the universities in the country under the Indo-US knowledge Initiative Programme under which the students of agricultural universities will be able to carry out research in America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider including the Agricultural University of Jabalpur for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) As per the work plan finalized the Indo-US Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture, it is planned for post-doctoral programmes, faculty and scientist exchange, training and workshops of scientists working in the Indian National Agricultural Research System.

[English]

Indian Petrochemical Companies Ltd.

4581. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Petrochemical Companies Limited (IPCL) proposes to merge with some polyester manufacturing subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal under consideration;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) After disinvestments, Indian Petrochemical Corporation Ltd. (IPCL) ceased to be a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of this Department.

Improvement of Performance of NFL

4582. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) during the last three years;

(b) whether the profit of NFL has declined drastically during 2005-06 in comparison with previous years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) The steps taken by the Government to improve the performance and profit of NFL in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The profit earned by NFL during the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Pre tax Profit (Rs. in crore)	Post tax Profit (Rs. in crore)
2003-04	119.11	85.04
2004-05	214.55	160.91
2005-06 (Provisional)	169.06	110.16

(b) and (c) The main reasons for the reduction in profit in 2005-06 as compared to the previous year were:—

- (i) The production in 2005-06 was lower because unlike 2004-05, the company was not allowed to produce in excess of 100 per cent capacity in its FO/LSHS bases plants due to high cost of feedstock and comparatively cheaper cost of imported urea.
- (ii) For 2004-05 maintenance shutdowns were deferred to enable higher production leading to higher maintenance/catalyst costs in 2005-06.
- (iii) Increase in Railway Freight led to higher freight expenditure.

(d) The performance of the Company is being regularly monitored through Quarterly Review Meetings. Special emphasis is being given on reduction of energy consumption. The Company is also proposing extra production over and above 100 per cent capacity utilization from its Gas based Plants.

On a long term basis, revamp of Vijaipur-I and II Plants for capacity enhancement and energy reduction have been finalized. Studies have also been undertaken for changeover of feed stock in FO based Plants to Natural Gas depending upon availability and price of RLNG.

Average Production of Wheat and Paddy

4583. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar and West Bengal are lagging behind in the field of agriculture as compared to other States;

(b) if so, whether the average production of both wheat and paddy in the States is much below than the national average;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the development of agriculture in the said States or received and proposal from the State Governments in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Following table shows the position of Bihar and West Bengal vis-a-vis other states of the country as regards the average production (average of five years from 2000-01 to 2004-05) of foodgrains and oilseeds:—

Crop	Production ('000 Tonnes)	% share
1	2	3

Foodgrains**Northern Region**

Punjab	24820.5	12.5
Uttar Pradesh	41415.2	20.8

Western Region

Maharashtra	10604.1	5.3
Rajasthan	12345	6.2

1	2	3
Eastern Region		
Bihar	10748	5.4
West Bengal	15580.7	7.8
North Eastern		
Assam	3947.3	2.0
Tripura	563.6	0.3
Oilseeds		
Northern Region		
Haryana	785.5	3.8
Uttar Pradesh	988	4.8
Western Region		
Gujarat	3126.4	15.1
Rajasthan	3290.8	15.9
Eastern Region		
Bihar	119.4	0.6
West Bengal	569.2	2.8
North Eastern		
Assam	153.8	0.7
Nagaland	64.4	0.3

In the case of production of foodgrains, Bihar and West Bengal are behind the northern region states of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh but ahead of western and north eastern region states as shown in the table. In case of production of oilseeds, Bihar and West Bengal lag behind both northern region and western region states.

(b) and (c) Following table shows the average production and productivity of wheat and paddy in case of Bihar and West Bengal alongwith corresponding national figures:—

Crop	Average Production (Million Tonnes)	Average Productivity (kg/Hectare)
Wheat		
Bihar	3.96	1901
West Bengal	0.95	2264
All India	69.80	2679
Paddy		
Bihar	7.10	2028
West Bengal	21.49	3706
All India	126.54	2939

Lower Productivity of wheat in Bihar and West Bengal may be attributed to late sowing of the crop due to delayed harvesting of kharif paddy. Lower productivity of paddy in Bihar may be attributed to low Seeds Replacement Rate (SRR) and occurrence of flood/drought. Productivity of paddy in West Bengal is higher than the national level.

(d) to (f) For increasing the productivity of rice and wheat the Central Government is implementing Integrated Cereals Based Programme under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for demonstration on improved package of practices including Integrated Pest Management (IPM), distribution of quality seeds for improved varieties/hybrids, farm implements and water saving devices like sprinkler irrigation system. Besides, frontier crop production and protection technologies and newly released promising varieties and hybrids are also popularized through front line demonstrations at farmers' fields. In order to increase the productivity and production of oilseeds and pulses a centrally sponsored scheme Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented in 14 potential states including Bihar and West Bengal. 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 and infrastructure development.

The Central Government interacts with the States and Union Territories on a regular and institutionalized basis to assess their requirements and support them under various schemes/programmes. Zonal Input Conferences and National Conferences on Agriculture prior to the commencement of Kharif and Rabi seasons are also organized for this purpose. The Union Ministry of Agriculture has asked the State Governments to boost the production of crops by way of area expansion and/or increasing productivity. The crop production strategy has been discussed with State Governments during the National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign held in February 2006 at New Delhi.

Externally Aided Irrigation Projects

4584. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major and medium irrigation projects being taken up through externally funding agencies like Japan Bank for International Cooperation, World Bank and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), State-wise;

(b) the quantum of additional irrigation potential created during 2005-06 from such external assistance; and

(c) the steps taken for timely completion of projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Four projects namely Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project, Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project, Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project and Maharashtra Water Services Improvement Project are presently being implemented with World Bank assistance. Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) is also providing assistance in respect of Rajghat Canal Major Irrigation Project in Madhya Pradesh, Rengali Irrigation Project in Orissa and Modernisation of Kurnool-Cuddaph Canal project in Andhra Pradesh. The details of these projects are at statement-I. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided assistance to various States under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund-XI (RIDF-XI) in respect of 17 major and 9 medium irrigation projects during 2005-06. State-wise details are given in statement-II.

(b) Most of the externally aided projects are for rehabilitation/restoration and modernization etc. and help in better service delivery, improvement of efficiency, institutional restructuring and increasing productivity. However, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that under Rajghat Canal Major Irrigation project, additional irrigation potential of 21450 hectare has been created during 2005-06. Similarly, as per the information furnished by the Government of Orissa, under the Rengali

Irrigation Project the additional irrigation potential of 280 hectare has been created during 2005-06.

(c) Most of the externally aided projects are implemented as per the agreed time schedule. For this purpose, such projects are monitored as per prescribed time frame and procedure by the funding agencies, implementing agencies/State Governments and Central Government Departments.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million Donor Currency	Type of Assistance	Cumulative Disbursement upto 31-3-06 Million US\$/ SDR (Rs. in crores)
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Projects LN 4750-IN	30-11-2004 31-3-2011	US\$ 394.020	Loan	US\$ 22.436 Rs. 98.162
2.	Rajasthan	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr. 3603-IN	15-03-2002 31-3-2008	SDR 100.02	Credit	SDR 38.686 Rs. 251.699
3.	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Projects Cr. 3602-IN	08-03-2002 31-10-2007	SDR 90.471	Credit	SDR 20.061 Rs. 130.364
4.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Water Sector Restructuring Projects LN 4796-IN	19-08-2005 31-03-2012	US\$ 325	Loan	US \$ 31.693 Rs.143.206

Bilateral Assistance (JBIC, Japan)

Sl. No.	State	Name of Projects	Date of Agreement/ Completion	Assistance amount in Million Yen	Type of Assistance	Cumulative Disbursement upto 31-3-06 Million Yen (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Modernization of Kurnool-Cuddapah Canal	25-1-1996 26-2-2005	(Tranche-I) 16049	Loan	15728.655 Rs. 670.679

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			31-03-2004	(Tranche-II)		1661.380
			22-3-2009	4773		Rs. 65.508
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	25-02-1997	13222	Loan	10938.130
			31-12-2005			Rs. 428.307
7.	Orissa	Rengali Irrigation Project	12-12-1997	(Tranche-II)	Loan	6844.227
			04-1-2005	6844.227		
			31-3-2004	(Tranche-II)		895.961
			31-12-2009	6342		Rs. 35.445

Statement-II

State-wise funds sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund-XI (RIDF-XI) by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as on 31-3-2006

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Major Projects		Medium Projects	
		Number	Amount (Rs. in crores)	Number	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1.	Assam	1	19.07	0	0
2.	Chhattisgarh	1	30.34	0	0
3.	Gujarat	2	598.38	0	0
4.	Kerala	0	0	1	9.03
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	2	103.59
6.	Maharashtra	1	100.81	0	0
7.	Orissa	1	19.31	2	56.31
8.	Punjab	3	64.50	0	0
9.	Rajasthan	2	68.70	0	0
10.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	3	37.66
11.	Uttar Pradesh	4	73.24	1	4.62
12.	West Bengal	2	48.31	0	0
Total		17	1022.66	9	211.21

Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies

4585. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of the said societies which are financially sick with details of accumulated losses and unpaid dues; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed 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) Detailed are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) As per the Vaidyanathan Committee Report the total accumulated losses as on 31-3-2003 in respect of 43511 sick PACS stood at Rs. 4595 crore. The total overdues/unpaid dues of PACS as on 31-3-2004 was Rs. 16295.17 crore.

(c) Based on the recommendations of the Task Force constituted by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Professor A. Vaidyanathan for revival of Cooperative Credit structure and on the basis of consensus arrived at with the State Government and other stakeholders on these recommendations, the Government of India has approved a revival package involving, inter-alia, financial assistance of Rs. 13596 crore for revitalizing rural short-term cooperative credit structure including PACS.

Statement

State-wise number of PACS as on 31-3-2004

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of PACS
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	45
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4103
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	31

1	2	3
4.	Assam	809
5.	Bihar	5936
6.	Chandigarh	32
7.	Chhattisgarh	1464
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8
9.	Delhi	—
10.	Goa	84
11.	Gujarat	8482
12.	Haryana	2423
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2091
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	425
15.	Jharkhand	208
16.	Karnataka	3863
17.	Kerala	1953
18.	Madhya Pradesh	4568
19.	Maharashtra	20866
20.	Manipur	186
21.	Meghalaya	179
22.	Mizoram	165
23.	Nagaland	1719
24.	Orissa	3845
25.	Pondicherry	52
26.	Punjab	3996
27.	Rajasthan	5236
28.	Sikkim	—
29.	Tamil Nadu	4533
30.	Tripura	270

1	2	3
31.	Uttar Pradesh	8929
32.	Uttaranchal	446
33.	West Bengal	18788
All India		105735

Source: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

[Translation]

Proposal from Madhya Pradesh to Encourage Voluntary Organisations

4586. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

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

(a) the number of proposals received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in regard to the Voluntary Organisations for taking part in afforestation; and

(b) 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) 40 proposals were received from State of Madhya Pradesh under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for plantation by Voluntary Organisations during the last 3 years (2003-04 to 2005-06). Based on the prioritization by the State and scrutiny by the Ministry, 17 proposals were approved for providing financial assistance under the Scheme.

[English]

Assistance for Loss of Cotton Produce

4587. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had sometime back approached the Union Government seeking assistance for defraying the loss suffered and likely to be suffered in procurement of the cotton produce

at the Minimum Support Price fixed under the monopoly procurement system for cotton; and

(b) if so, the extent of assistance sought and released, the quantum of cotton procured and the Minimum Support Price fixed alongwith the total production of cotton estimated for 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has sought financial assistance for making good the loss in cotton procurement under the Price Support scheme of the Government of India and export subsidy to make cotton export competitive on the lines applicable to Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). However, the Government of India, has permitted the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Grower's Marketing Federation Ltd., as a State agency for monopoly procurement scheme of cotton in the State of Maharashtra, upto 30-6-2006, subject to the stipulation that in the operation of the Scheme, there will be no financial liability on the part of the Government of India.

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has estimated (Third Advance Estimate) the cotton production in Maharashtra for the current year 2005-06 at 36.26 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each as against 29.39 lakh bales last year.

The Cotton Corporation of India has procured a quantity of 14.57 lakh quintals of cotton upto 15th May, 2006, during the current cotton year 2005-06 (October-September) in Maharashtra.

The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) fixed by the Government of India for the approved varieties grown in Maharashtra are as under:—

(Rs. per quintal)		
Sl. No.	Variety	MSP
1	2	3
1.	AK/Y-1	1675

1	2	3
2.	NHH-44 (Marathwada)	1675
3.	NHH-44 (Vidharbha)	1700
4.	AHH-468	1785
5.	LRA-5166	1835
6.	H-4	1980
7.	Bunny Brahma	2010

[Translation]

Development of Bio-technology in Agriculture

4588. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering an action plan in regard to development of bio-technology in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of gene pools identified so far in the country and number of gene on which research is still going on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An ICAR Network Project on "Transgenic in crops" covering development of transgenic in 14 crops for improved traits such as resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, quality improvement and shelf-life enhancement, and functional genomics in seven crops, and a Network on Molecular Breeding comprising 14 sub-projects on 11 field and horticultural crops, have been initiated. In addition, Plant genomics with a focus on structural and functional genomics of rice and tomato, disease diagnostics and management in crops, animals and fish, bioremediation, bio-fertilizers etc. are being undertaken. Strengthening of necessary infrastructure and facilities and development of human resource through national and

international linkages, in crop, animal and fish biotechnology are also being pursued.

(c) Valuable gene pools such as microorganisms occurring in different soils of the country, native tropical grain legumes, desert plants, halophytes etc. are identified and exploitation of these gene pools for improving the major crops is underway. Insecticidal protein gene present in native strains of *Bacillus thuringiensis*, protease inhibitor and lectin genes of grain legumes, salinity tolerance genes from wild rice and osmo-tolerance genes from desert plants have been isolated and expressed in crop species to confer resistance/tolerance to various stress factors. Research is in progress on identification of genes from many crop plants and microorganisms of agricultural importance, identification of gene pools for molecular characterization of livestock and poultry species and on fish genetic resources and their conservation.

[English]

Setting up of Bypass Protein Plants

4589. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has standardized the technology and process to produce by-pass protein meal;

(b) if so, the details of samples of cattle feed and raw materials tested by NDDB;

(c) whether the Government has set up by-pass protein plants in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir. National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), in collaboration with the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) has standardized the technology and process for production of bypass protein meal.

(b) In the last three years, about 50 samples of raw materials (mainly protein meals) have been tested for

protein bypassability. Also about 100 samples of finished bypass protein feed have also been tested.

(c) and (d) Two bypass protein plants, each with a capacity of 150 MT per month of bypass protein meal (equivalent to 600 MT per month of bypass protein feed) have been set up in the cooperative sector in Gujarat—one in Vadodara district and the other in Panchmahal district.

Research Paper on Fly Ash

4590. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of research papers on Fly Ash generated from coal financed by the Ministry as on January 28, 2006;

(b) the people by whom and under whose guidance these researches have been done during the last five years alongwith the expenditure incurred in respect of each research;

(c) the innovative and effective ways found from the researches for getting rid of the problem of fly ash;

(d) the time since when these innovative ways are being used by various plants; and

(e) the details of achievements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has provided financial assistance to the following research projects on fly ash.

Sl. No.	Name of the Person	Title of the Project	Funds Released by The Ministry (Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Dr. V.K. Agarwal, I.I.T., Delhi	Development of a fluidised motion conveying system for pollution free handling of fly ash	13.89
2.	Dr. L.C. Ram, CFRI, Dhanbad	Bioreclamation of low lying areas filled with fly ash	8.90

(c) It has been established over a period of time that fly ash can be used as building material, in road construction, in the manufacture of cement, backfilling of mines, etc.

(d) While it has been established in the eighties that fly ash can be utilised as building and road construction material, its large scale uses started only in 1990s with the establishment of Fly Ash Mission in 1994.

(e) While only 13 million tonne of fly ash was utilised in 1999-2000, about 46 million tonne was utilised in 2005-06.

Extension of Grain Bank Scheme

4591. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether Village Foodgrain Bank Scheme is running only in limited tribal areas;

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

(c) the success achieved therein;

(d) whether the Government proposes to extend this scheme to other regions; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. Village Grain Bank Scheme is meant for all willing Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families in the villages identified by the State Governments as chronically food deficit areas.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The revised Village Grain Banks Scheme was approved in February, 2006. The Central Government have issued sanctions for the establishment of 3282 grain banks in 7 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura and Meghalaya during 2005-06. In May, 2006, proposal for establishment of 500 grain banks in Uttar Pradesh has been sanctioned. During 2005-06 and 2006-07 approximately 11,000 grain banks are likely to become operational throughout the country.

Programme of Advertisement in North Eastern Region

4592. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programme of advertisement and publicity included in the Annual Plan has achieved its objectives;

(b) if so, the details of the impact of the programme as a result of exhibition, summits, publicity campaigns etc.;

(c) the amount of investment that has flowed in as a result of these promotional campaigns;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to recognise the publicity programme so as to bring out the potential and distinctive features of North Eastern Region outside the region; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposals thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) is responsible for implementing its Scheme 'Development Publicity Programme: Conception and Dissemination' under the Xth Plan/Annual Plan 2005-06 and has utilized almost fully the budget allocation during 2005-06. Out of the total outlay under the Xth Plan/Annual Plans; 10% of the outlay is earmarked for North-Eastern Region. Against an approved Annual Plan 2005-06 outlay of Rs. 3.09 crore; the expenditure incurred was Rs. 3.02 crore. The amount was spent on multimedia publicity of Government policies

and programmes. DAVP has been undertaking the publicity of various social/developmental issues in the North-Eastern Region through release of press advertisement, audio-video spots, printed material and outdoor formats under the scheme and it also organized four exhibitions on 'North East' in the North East region, as well as outside, focusing on the special measures undertaken by the Government for development of North East region as well as restoration of peace in the region.

DAVP has commissioned 'Impact Studies' from time to time on specific subjects. Recently, impact studies were done on efficacy of Pulse Polio campaign, Audio Video Publicity on National Rural Health Mission, Outdoor publicity on National Integration Campaign etc. The studies have found that the campaigns have been useful in creating awareness. No estimate of the investment generated by these promotional campaigns is available.

Further, the Annual Plan 2006-07 also has a separate outlay earmarked for the North Eastern Region. So far as publicity to bring out the potential and distinctive features of North Eastern Region outside the region, is concerned, DAVP has done publicity of the North East Expo conducted at Pragati Maidan through release of press advertisement, audio-video spots and organizing exhibitions on development initiatives in the North East Region. Exhibition kits on the theme: 'Development Initiatives in the North East Region' are being produced by DAVP, which are proposed to be taken to other parts of the country also.

Special Agriculture Production Scheme

4593. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended the limits of Special Agriculture Production Scheme;

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

(c) the extent to which rural small scale industry in the country is likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) There is no Scheme entitled "Special Agriculture

Production Scheme" as such under implementation. However, there are several Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in operation which essentially aim at increasing the production and productivity in agriculture sector. This in turn favourably impacts growth of allied sectors in rural areas.

[Translation]

Impact of Wheat Import

4594. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

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

(a) whether the Government has approved duty free import of wheat in view of the shortage in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any assessment of its adverse impact on the farmers in the country; and

(c) the rationale behind import of wheat when the procurement during the current season is already underway?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has exempted payment of custom duty on import of 5.00 lakh MTs of wheat, when imported into India through the Ports at Chennai, Tuticorin, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Kakinada by the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.

(b) There has not been any adverse impact of the above import on the farmers of the country, since farmers have been assured prices at least above the Minimum Support Price, plus a bonus of Rs. 50/- per quintal.

(c) The decision to import wheat was taken in view of the following:—

(i) Stock of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1-4-2006 was 20 lakh tonnes which was 20 lakh tonnes lower than the buffer norm of 40 lakh tonnes for 1st April.

(ii) Need to build up adequate buffer stock to meet

the commitment under Public Distribution System (PDS) and Welfare Schemes.

(iii) Lower than normal production of wheat.

(iv) Low level of procurement of wheat in the Central Pool.

[English]

Import Price of Steel

4595. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently reduced minimum import price of some steel items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the domestic steel producers have been affected adversely as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to save the domestic steel producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (d) In a deregulated and liberalized environment the Government does not intervene directly in the market to influence prices. The Government plays a role of a facilitator and provides an enabling environment through policy initiatives to foster growth of the steel industry.

Payment of Tax by Farmers to Bhutan

4596. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers living on the Indo-Bhutan border have been paying taxes to the Government of Bhutan for using water from rivers flowing from Bhutan into India as appearing in the 'Hindi' dated March 19, 2006;

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

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to prevent the same?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Sardar Sarovar Project

4597. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the quantum of funds provided to State Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for Sardar Sarovar Project during the last three years and current year, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): During the years 2003-04 to

2005-06 a sum of Rs. 1519.60 crore was released for the irrigation component of Sardar Sarovar Project to the State Government of Gujarat as Central Loan Assistance/grant under normal/fast track programme of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). No amount has been released to the State Government for this project during the current year. The central assistance under the programme is released to the State Government in two instalments in an year as detailed below:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	1st instalment	2nd instalment	Total
2003-04	245.50	404.00	649.50
2004-05	311.50	219.00	530.50
2005-06	226.50	113.10	339.60
Grand Total			1519.60

[Translation]

Petrochemical Centres

4598. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Petrochemical Centres in the country;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

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) Petrochemical industry is deregulated and delicensed. Government acts as a facilitator for the development of petrochemical sector.

There is no specific proposal by the Government to set up 'Petrochemical Centers' in the country. However Government is examining the feasibility of setting up Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Distribution of Irrigated and Unirrigated Land

4599. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the irrigated and unirrigated land in possession of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people separately as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of those people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are not holding irrigated and unirrigated land, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take some effective steps for providing the irrigated and unirrigated land to all the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; 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) As per the Agricultural Census 1995-96, the State-wise distribution of irrigated and unirrigated land by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Operational Holdings; is given in the statement.

(b) Information on the number of Scheduled Castes

and Scheduled Tribes not holding irrigated and unirrigated land is not collected.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the land ceiling laws, the State Governments distribute surplus land to eligible beneficiaries including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per the Annual Report of the Ministry of Rural Development, 2005-06, 57.46 lakh people have been benefited out of which 36% belong to the scheduled Castes and 15% belong to the Scheduled Tribes.

Statement

Irrigated and Unirrigated area operated by Scheduled Castes holdings, 1995-96

(in thousand Hectares)

Sl. No.	State/UT Name	Wholly Irrigated Area	Wholly Unirrigated Area	Partly Irrigated	
				Total Area	Irrigated Area
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	228	465	142	57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	1	125	Neg.	Neg.
4.	Bihar	140	186	172	68
5.	Goa	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
6.	Gujarat	40	231	46	22
7.	Haryana	60	3	1	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9	65	13	5
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	26	17	7
10.	Karnataka	94	786	83	29
11.	Kerala	2	27	8	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	279	902	510	245
13.	Maharashtra	69	889	142	59
14.	Manipur	2	1	2	1
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	72	262	140	49
19.	Punjab	80	6	3	2
20.	Rajasthan	305	1216	398	201
21.	Sikkim	Neg.	1	Neg.	Neg.
22.	Tamil Nadu	182	133	48	22
23.	Tripura	2	13	2	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1065	366	368	147
25.	West Bengal	314	358	379	155
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Neg.	Neg.	0	0
29.	Daman and Diu	0	Neg.	0	0
30.	Delhi	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	1	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total		2956	6059	2475	1075

Note: Total May not tally due to rounding off.

Neg: Negligible.

Irrigated and Unirrigated area operated by Scheduled Castes holdings, 1995-96

(In thousand Hectares)

Sl. No.	State/UT Name	Wholly Irrigated Area	Wholly Unirrigated Area	Partly Irrigated	
				Total Area	Irrigated Area

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	69	78	34
3.	Assam	12	422	4	2
4.	Bihar	48	550	352	75
5.	Goa	Neg.	Neg.	0	0
6.	Gujarat	61	722	131	56
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7	16	4	2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	31	40	24	7
10.	Karnataka	82	459	70	24
11.	Kerala	1	24	3	1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	161	3875	977	329
13.	Maharashtra	34	1103	133	52
14.	Manipur	3	72	Neg.	Neg.
15.	Meghalaya	15	104	75	32
16.	Mizoram	1	82	2	1
17.	Nagaland	24	139	89	44
18.	Orissa	60	1068	407	104
19.	Punjab	0	0	0	0
20.	Rajasthan	283	495	594	297
21.	Sikkim	1	11	8	3
22.	Tamil Nadu	16	35	7	3
23.	Tripura	4	63	6	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	23	17	15	4
25.	West Bengal	78	189	107	40
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Neg.	16	1	Neg.
29.	Daman and Diu	0	Neg.	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
30.	Delhi	0	0	0	0
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
Total		1068	10208	3268	1180

Note: Total May not tally due to rounding off.

Neg: Negligible.

[English]

National Dairy Development Board

4600. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ordered a probe into the functioning of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB);

(b) if so, whether the Government has received the enquiry report;

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

(d) the action taken thereon?

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

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Incursions by Wild Animals

4601. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation regarding problems created by wild elephants and other animals in the country preferably in Jharkhand;

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

(c) the existing norms for protection from wild animals of those who are residing in forest area; and

(d) the amount released by the Union Government and spent by the State Governments under project Elephant, anti depredation measures and payment of ex-gratia relief to the victims of each forest State particularly in Jharkhand during each of last three years and current year 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Reports are being received from time to time regarding the problem created by wild elephants and other animals from different States in the country including the State of Jharkhand.

(b) Financial assistance is released to the States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Elephant for items like fencing, elephant proof trenches, setting up of anti-depredation squads, awareness campaigns and elephant habitat improvement works.

(c) The norms for saving life and property from violent animals differs from State to State. However the ex-gratia relief being paid by the Central Government for the deceased family in case of death is Rs. 1.00 lakh per person.

(d) The amount released by the Union Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Project Elephant" for anti-depredation measures and ex-gratia relief during the last three years to Jharkhand is given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Anti-Depredation	Ex-gratia Relief
2003-04	10.00	20.00
2004-05	10.80	27.20
2005-06	10.00	35.00

For the current financial year 2006-07 no proposal has been received from the State for release of Central Assistance.

[Translation]

Review of Child Labour Law

4602. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the child labour laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the improvement brought out by the Government in child labour laws during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Government is considering amendment of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. As the responsibility of implementation of the Act lies with the State Governments, they are being consulted for amending various provisions of the Act. These include, completely prohibiting employment of children below 12 years, no child to be allowed to work during schools hours, older children in the age group of 12-14 years be permitted to work in non-hazardous occupations and all occupations be considered hazardous, if they interfere with the schooling of the children.

[English]

FCI Godowns in Andhra Pradesh

4603. SHRI RALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand to set up more Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Requests for setting up more FCI godowns in Andhra Pradesh are received from time to time. However, keeping in view the huge vacant storage capacity of 22.88 lakh tonnes as on 31-3-2006 in FCI godowns in the State, it is not feasible for FCI to set up more godowns in Andhra Pradesh at present.

Hydrology Project

4604. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had implemented the Hydrology Project Phase-I during 1995-2003;

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

(c) whether the Hydrology Project Phase-II is likely to be implemented soon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Hydrology Project Phase-I (HP-I) was implemented during 1995-2003 by nine States and six Central Agencies. These states are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and the Central Agencies are Central Water Commission (CWC), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) and Ministry of Water Resources. The project cost (as implemented) for HP-I was Rs. 605.28 crores. The main objective of the Project was to establish a Hydrological Information System (HIS) and to improve institutional capacity of implementing agencies to build, operate and utilize the HIS.

Accordingly, Hydrological Information System (HIS) to provide reliable, comprehensive and timely hydrological and hydro meteorological data was created. Under this system 916 river gauge stations, 7912 observation wells and 436 hydro meteorological stations for collecting surface and ground water data were set up/upgraded. A number of Data processing and storage centers equipped with specialized computer facility were established. Sophisticated equipments, computers were provided and new buildings and water quality laboratories established. Institutional strengthening with technical assistance and training was also provided under the project.

(c) The Hydrology Project Phase-II (HP-II) has been launched in April, 2006 and is under implementation.

(d) HP-II is a follow-on of Hydrology Project Phase I. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 631.83 crores. The objectives of the project are to extend HIS in the four new state agencies of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Goa and Pondicherry and two new central agencies of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB); extend and promote the sustained and effective use of Hydrological Information System (HIS) by the implementing agencies for water resource planning and management; strengthening the capabilities of implementing agencies in data utilization for water resources planning and management; and providing Awareness building and out reach services about HIS use. Thus the total implementing agencies in HP-II are 13 states/UTs and 8 Central Agencies. The project is proposed to be implemented over a period of six years.

[Translation]

Training of PDS Personnel

4605. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide training and research facilities for strengthening and upgrading the skills of personnel engaged in implementation of the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, whether the Government has provided financial assistance to the States, particularly Jharkhand under the said scheme; and

(c) if so, the details of the assistance provided to various States during 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Department of Food and Public Distribution is providing financial assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Training, Research and Monitoring' (TRM) for strengthening Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in States/UTs.

(b) No financial assistance was provided to Jharkhand as no proposal was received from the State Government for providing financial assistance under the said Scheme.

(c) Details of assistance provided to States/UTs under the said Scheme during the financial year 2005-06 are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of Assistance provided to various States during 2005-06

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Proposal	Amount released
1	2	3	4
1.	Rajasthan	One Computer	36,000
2.	Rajasthan	One Training Programme	38,250
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Twelve Training Programmes	5,40,000
4.	Maharashtra	Regional Conference at Mumbai	1,50,000

1	2	3	4
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Regional Conference at Shimla	1,50,000
6.	Mizoram	Four Training Programmes	1,80,000
7.	Haryana	Three Training Programmes	1,35,000
8.	Nagaland	One Computer with accessories	1,35,000
9.	Kerala	Regional Conference at Thiruvanthpuram	1,20,000
10.	Punjab	One Training Programme	44,500
11.	West Bengal	Three Training Programmes	1,35,000
12.	Nagaland	One Training Programme	27,000
13.	Sikkim	Four Training Programmes	1,80,000
14.	Mizoram	Balance Amount for four training programmes	20,000
15.	West Bengal	Balance Amount for one training programme	5,000
16.	West Bengal	Regional Conference at Kolkata	1,68,000
17.	Guwahati	Regional Conference at Guwahati	2,10,000
18.	Bihar	Balance amount for 10 training programmes	50,000
19.	Tamil Nadu	Training courses for 853 state government's officers/officials	11,50,000
20.	Gujarat	Training Courses for members of Vigilance Committees	11,25,000
Total			45,98,750

*[English]***Environmental Clearance to Uranium Project**

4606. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded clearance to the uranium project proposed to be set up in Nalgonda district and in two other places;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also ruled out fears that uranium project would endanger people's health and degrade the environment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The three uranium mining projects of M/s. Uranium Mining Corporation of India Ltd. which have been accorded environmental clearance include (i) Lambapur-Peddagattu Uranium Mining Project in Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh, (ii) Banduhurang Uranium Mining Project in East Singhbhum District, Jharkhand and (iii) Bagjata Uranium Mining Project in East Singhbhum District, Jharkhand for mining of 0.375 million tonnes per annum, 0.72 million tonnes per annum and 0.15 million tonnes per annum of uranium respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The concentration of uranium in the uranium ore

of our country is extremely low. The safety issues and radiological impacts are assessed and addressed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and are also monitored by the Bhaba Atomic Research Centre.

**NGO in Integrated Watershed
Development Project**

4607. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Non-Government Organisation (NGO) is involved in the implementation of Integrated Watershed Development Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the contribution of each NGO in those projects, 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Integrated Watershed Development Projects where NGOs are involved are National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPR) and Watershed Development Fund Programme (WDF). The State-wise number of NGOs (Non Government Organisations) in the NWDPR and WDF is given in statement. The contribution of these NGOs in these projects are basically for forming community organization, awareness creation, formation of user groups and half-help groups, capacity building of watershed beneficiaries and helping in the project activities execution and management of assets created during the project period.

Statement

State-wise Number of Non Government Organisation (NGOs) in National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) and Watershed Development Fund (WF) Programme

Sl. No.	Name of the State	NWDPR	WDF
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	NA	29

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	16	NA
3.	Bihar	3	NA
4.	Jharkhand	1	5
5.	Goa	5	NA
6.	Gujarat	37	12
7.	Haryana	NA	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	NA	1
9.	Karnataka	8	47
10.	Madhya Pradesh	NA	1
11.	Chhattisgarh	NA	3
12.	Maharashtra	12	15
13.	Orissa	NA	4
14.	Rajasthan	NA	5
15.	Tamil Nadu	7	39
16.	Uttar Pradesh	NA	11
17.	West Bengal	NA	13
Total		89	186

MA—Not Applicable.

Note: In respect of remaining States the involvement of NGOs is not there.

**Clearance to Ice-Cream Units in
NCT of Delhi**

4608. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has granted permission for ice-cream manufacturing running units at their manufacturing sites in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not the reasons for not granting such permission

even after these units have set up effluent treatment plants; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government, so far, grant permission to run these units at their manufacturing sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Birds/Animals under Wildlife Protection Act

4609 SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the species placed in Schedule I and measures proposed for the highest protection affordable under the law;

(b) whether any Panel has been appointed to have a relook at all the animals, birds and insects protected under different Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act; and

(c) if so, the terms of references of the Panel for the review of the wildlife list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There are about 316 species in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. In addition, following groups of animals are also included in the Schedule-I of the Act:—

- (i) Marine mammals (Cetaceans).
- (ii) Hawks (Birds)
- (iii) Sea Horses and Pipe fishes
- (iv) Sea Cucumbers
- (v) Reef building Corals
- (vi) Black Corals
- (vii) Fire Corals
- (viii) Sea Fans.

The existing Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides full protection to these species. Hunting/collection of

species specified under Schedule-I is prohibited. Their important habitats have been declared as Protected Areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries and Conservation Reserves). The Wildlife (Protection) Act also provides for stringent punishment against the violations of its provisions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main Terms of Reference of the Committee constituted to review the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are as follows:—

1. The expert committees would be responsible to the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife.
2. The expert committee would suggest the data based norms for inclusion, shifting, deletions of species and within the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. As proposed in the National Board for Wildlife, three categories are to be made, two for animals and one for plants:—
 - (a) Schedule I: Threatened species of animals—Critically endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable.
 - (b) Schedule II: Near Threatened species of animals.
 - (c) Schedule III: Critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable and Near Threatened species of plants

The expert committee may re-examine the existing listing and suggest appropriate revisions.

4. The legal definitions of the Schedules should be revised to be in consonance with the definitions suggested by International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.
5. It must be the endeavour of the expert committee to work out the criteria for evaluation of species and suggest changes in conformity with internationally recognized principles to avoid ambiguity and adhocism during inclusion/exclusion of species in the different Schedules.
6. The expert committee would also suggest appropriate linkages to institutionalize the

process of listing of species so that the periodic revisions are made commensurate to the population status of the species under consideration.

7. The Chairman with the consent of the members may co opt other subject experts to provide additional information on the taxa under consideration.

[Translation]

Institute for Testing Rice and Wheat

4610. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has assigned the responsibility of testing rice and wheat, before procurement by Food Corporation of India to some institutes;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor indicating the names of such institutes;

(c) the criteria followed in the selection of the said institutes;

(d) whether the Government regularly reviews and evaluates the functioning of the said institutes;

(e) if so, whether shortcomings have been noticed in some such institutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken against such defaulting institutes?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not assigned the responsibility of testing of rice and wheat before procurement by Food Corporation of India to any institute.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Welfare Scheme for Beedi Workers

4611. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new scheme for welfare of beedi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being proposed for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) There are several schemes being implemented for the welfare of beedi workers in the field of medical and health care, financial assistance for Schools/College going children of beedi workers, financial assistance for housing, marriage of dependent daughters of widow/widower beedi workers, maternity benefits, organizing sports, social and cultural activities, group insurance schemes etc. These schemes are reviewed from time to time for effective implementation and further improvement.

Foreign Assistance for Eradication of Child Labour

4612. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any foreign assistance to keep the child labourers away from hazardous industries in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount of foreign assistance received and spent in this regard;

(c) the number of child labourers benefited from the assistance;

(d) whether this scheme has been introduced in selected districts of the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the districts of the states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India and the US Department of Labour have launched a joint project titled INDUS (Inuo-US) for the rehabilitation of child labour. The US Dept. of Labour would provide

US \$ 20 million to be matched with equal funding from Government of India.

(c) to (e) INDUS is a pilot project which is being implemented in 21 districts of 5 states for the rehabilitation of 80,000 children withdrawn from work. State-wise details of districts covered under the project are as follows:—

Name of the State	Name of the districts covered
Madhya Pradesh	Damoh, Sagar, Jabalpur, Satna and Katni
Maharashtra	Amravati, Jalna, Aurangabad, Gondia and Mumbai Suburban
Uttar Pradesh	Moradabad, Allahabad, Kanpur Nagar, Aligarh and Ferozabad
Tamil Nadu	Kanchipuram, Thiruvannamalai, Tiruvallur, Nammakkal and Virudhunagar
Delhi	NCT Delhi

[English]

Migratory Birds

4613. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 4000 birds mostly pelicans and pelican like birds have made "Kokkare Bellure" in Karnataka their home;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the period of their stay; and

(c) the measures taken for their safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. About 4000 birds of two varieties i.e. Pelicans and Painted Storks stay at Kokkare Bellure, Mandya district of Karnataka for 6-8 months (October to June). Details of number of migratory birds arriving during the last 6 years is placed at the statement enclosed.

(c) The villagers do not disturb the migratory birds during the breeding in tree tops which are situated in private holdings. To instill awareness and cooperation, the Karnataka Forest Department pays incentives ranging from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 900/- annually to the concerned farmers, depending upon the number of trees used by the birds, amounting to a total of about Rs. 50,000/- per annum. The incentive is paid for not cutting the branches of trees and not picking fruits during the period of nesting and breeding by the birds.

Statement

Details of Migratory Birds Arriving at 'Kokkare Bellure' during the last six years

Year	Painted Storks		Pelicans		Total
	Adults	Chicks	Adults	Chicks	
2000-01	3278	1964	446	268	5982
2001-02	3605	1640	486	304	6035
2002-03	1202	358	670	285	2515
2003-04	1506	460	530	390	2886
2004-05	1822	911	840	468	4041
2005-06	1356	1304	374	293	3327

Preparation/Extraction of Ethanol

4614. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a Technology Mission on Maize in view of its growing potential as a raw material base for preparation of Ethanol given its demand for use in blending with petrol;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to explore and exploit the other cereal based crops for the extraction of Ethanol?

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 launch a Technology Mission on Maize. However, with a view to increasing the production and productivity of Maize, Oilseeds and Pulses and to achieve self-sufficiency, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM)" in 15 major maize producing States. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for critical inputs. Besides, improved production technologies generated by research system in the country are disseminated among the farmers through block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

(c) There is no scheme for extraction of ethanol from cereal based crops. However, the National Research Centre for Sorghum, Hyderabad under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken up study on production of ethanol from Sorghum.

Irrigation Projects of West Bengal

4615. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for irrigation projects sent by the Government of West Bengal to the Union Government for approval during the last three years;

(b) the details of projects sanctioned and funds allocated/released to the State Government; and

(c) the details of projects pending for approval as on date alongwith the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No proposal for new Irrigation Projects have been sent by the Government of West Bengal to Central Water Commission (CWC) for approval during the last three years. However, a preliminary report on Dwarkeswar-Gandheswari Reservoir Project with estimated cost of Rs. 130.00 crore was received in CWC in January, 2004 seeking "in-principal consent" of CWC for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR). The said proposal was considered by the Screening Committee of CWC and "in-principal consent" for preparation of DPR incorporating CWC's observations was conveyed to the West Bengal by CWC in March, 2004.

(b) Irrigation being a State subject, the projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Government as per their own requirement and priority. However, Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 with a view to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to Major and Medium irrigation projects of the country so as to complete them expeditiously. Details of CLA/Grant released for the projects of West Bengal under AIBP is given in statement enclosed.

(c) There are no new projects pending for approval as on date in CWC. However, two revised project estimates are under appraisal as given below:—

- (i) 6th revised estimate of Teesta Barrage Project (sub-stage-I under stage-I of phase-I): The estimate was received in CWC in September, 2004 and observation of CWC on the same was communicated to project authorities in January, 2005 for compliance.
- (ii) Modernisation of Kangsabati Reservoir (Phase-I)—ERM Project: The project was received in October, 1996 and comments on the same were sent to the State Government for compliance.

Statement

Central Loan Assistance (CLA)/Grant released under AIBP to Government of West Bengal during 1996-97 to 2005-06

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of project (Plan of start)	Amount														Total
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2004-05	2004-05	2005-06	2005-06	Grant	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
1.	Teesa Barrage (V)	5.000	15.000	10.000	19.000	20.000	23.283	16.538	2.989	9.2288	3.9552	13.1840	—	—	—	124.994
2.	Kangsabati (II)*	0.000	4.000	0.000	6.000	5.000	11.710	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26.710
3.	Modernisation of Barrage and Irrig. System of DVC. (VI)	0.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.000
4.	Tatko (V)	—	—	—	—	0.625	—	0.267	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.892
5.	Pattoi (V)	—	—	—	—	0.700	0.765	—	—	0.0896	0.0384	0.1280	—	—	—	1.593
6.	Hanumata (VII)	—	—	—	—	0.500	0.800	0.090	0.155	0.1043	0.0447	0.1480	0.0287	—	—	1.723
7.	Subarnarekha Barrage (VII)	—	—	—	—	—	2.050	11.238	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13.288
Total		5.000	20.000	10.000	25.000	26.825	38.608	28.133	3.144	9.4227	4.0383	13.4610	0.0287	—	—	170.200

CLA Ceiling for 2005-06—Rs. 40 crore

* Completed

Note: Out of Rs. 11.238 crore CLA released during 2002-03 to Subarnarekha, Rs. 10.25 crore transferred to Teesta Barrage in 2003-04.

[Translation]

Weather Forecast Channel

4616. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to launch a separate weather forecast channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan is not considering any such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Institutions/Work Force under E.P.F. Act

4617. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the facts that several private and aided institutions in the country are not covered under the Employees Provident Fund Act;

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

(c) whether only 20% workers of Indian work force have been covered under Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO);

(d) if so, the reasons for not covering all the work

force under Employees Provident Fund Act; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to cover more and more work force/institutions in the country in order to utilize fully the available infrastructure and human resource of the EPFO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Subject to provisions of Section-16 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the Act is applicable to every Establishment which is a factory engaged in any industry specified in Schedule-I or notified by the Government and employing 20 or more persons. Section-16 of the Act provides for non application of the Act to certain establishments i.e. Co-operative Societies employing less than 50 persons an working without the aid of power, an establishment belonging to or under the control of Central Government or State Government or set up under any Central Government Provincial or State Act and whose employees are entitled to the benefit of contributory provident fund or old age pension.

(c) The number of members of the fund as on 31-03-2005 was 4.11 crores.

(d) and (e) The exclusion clauses like non inclusion in Schedule of Industries, class of establishments, provision of Section 16, wage ceiling, employment strength of minimum 20 employees are the main reasons for not covering all the workforce under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952.

The Act and the schemes framed thereunder are being implemented in accordance with the provisions contained therein. However, special drives are launched from time-to-time to bring the coverable establishments under purview of the Act and extend benefits to more workforce of the country.

National Film Development Corporation

4618. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Film Development Corporation is running in losses;

(b) if so, the details of losses of the Corporation during each of the last three years and the reasons for the same;

(c) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance to the Corporation during the last three years; 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) Yes, Sir. The details of the losses of the Corporation for the last three years are as follows:—

2002-03	Rs. 6.63 crores
2003-04	Rs. 9.25 crores
2004-05	Rs. 3.87 crores

The losses were primarily due to provisions made for doubtful debts outstanding in respect of television marketing with Doorarshan. This activity was discontinued w.e.f. September, 2003. Accounts for financial year 2005-06 are pending for finalisation.

(c) and (d) No financial assistance was provided during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. The Corporation was managed through internal resources. During the year 2005-06, the Government has granted a loan of Rs. 4.73 crores with interest at the rate of 14.5% per annum to meet the working capital funds requirements.

[Translation]

New Seed Act

4619. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a New Seed Act to control the distribution of seeds in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said Act; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the farmers 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 KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Seeds Bill, 2004 was introduced in Rajya Sabha in December, 2004. The Bill provides for regulating the quality of seeds for sale, import and export, production and supply of seeds and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(b) Provisions have been made for compulsory registration based on the performance, accreditation of Indian Council of Agricultural Research Centres, State Agriculture Universities and private organizations to conduct expected performance test for the purpose of registration, self-certification, compensation to the farmers, regulation of transgenic seeds, enhancement of penalty for infringements and exemption for farmers from compulsory registration.

(c) The Seeds Bill, 2004 is intended to ensure availability of good quality seeds to Indian farmers.

[English]

Encroachment of Koreyu Lake

4620. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has directed the Government to clear encroachments from Koreyu Lake in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India delivered judgement, dated 10-4-2006 to remove

all encroachments and demolish all fish tanks below +5 contour of the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary, upholding the directions issued by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) dated 21-3-2006. The CEC has given time upto 15-6-2006 for demolition. As on 16-5-2006, out of Rs. 138 lakhs Cmt of earth work involving the fish tank bunds, about 55 lakhs Cmt of earth work has been completed.

Reduction in Prices of Medicines

4621. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had sometime back announced reduction in the prices of Cetirizine, Nimesulide and Omperazole medicines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a), as above.

Rehabilitation of Oustees of Hirakud Dam

4622. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the villagers displaced due to construction of Hirakud Dam in Orissa have since been rehabilitated;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the status thereof, as on date; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the payment of compensation and process of rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Orissa has reported that out of 26501 displaced persons (DPs) in Hirakud Dam, 1965 DPs have

been resettled in 16 State Government sponsored resettlement camps and the remaining 24536 DPs have been resettled by themselves.

(c) As per the report of the State Government, the Deputy Commissioner had distributed Patta to 1074 DPs in 1956-1958. Those pattas are being converted to regular Revenue Patta (Records of Right) and till date 954 cases involving an area of 2,247.33 acre have been regularized. The remaining cases are scheduled for regularization by the end of May, 2006. Payment of compensation to Jhankars/Chowkidars in 101 cases for an amount of Rs. 2,43,284/- was pending. An amount of Rs. 12,424 in 9 cases have been paid till date after verification of all records. The remaining 92 cases of Sambalpur District are awaiting settlement.

(d) The State Government of Orissa constituted a High Power Committee in 1992 which recommended for payment of Ex-gratia at the rate of Rs. 10,000/- to the remaining DPs. The State Government approved the recommendation and sanctioned Rs. 1.00 crore for payment of Ex-gratia. Out of this, Ex-gratia of Rs. 83,78,857 has been paid till date. A special cell has been constituted in the Sambalpur Collectorate to carry out the decision of the State Government and the matter is regularly reviewed by the State Government to take necessary steps.

Increase in Allocation

4623. SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) the details of various items being distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY);

(b) the allocation and off-take of various items during the last year and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the allocation is sufficient to meet the requirement of the States;

(d) if not, whether some States have requested the Government to enhance their quota; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) At present the Central Government makes available wheat, rice, sugar and K. Oil under the Public Distribution System to the States/UTs for distribution through the Fair Price Shops (FPS).

(b) The details of allocation and offtake of rice and wheat under TPDS statement-I and II respectively for last year and the allocation for the current year for Rice and Wheat are at statement-III. Monthly Levy Sugar quota from 01-02-2001 State-wise at statement-IV and allocation of Kerosene for 1st Quarter 2006-07 and for the year 2005-06 at statement-V.

(c) The allocation is sufficient to meet the requirement under TPDS for Wheat and Rice.

Since the levy percentage has been reduced to 10% of the domestic production, the availability of sugar for levy allocation varies depending upon the levels of domestic production. Therefore, it has not been possible to supply levy sugar as per the levy quota to each State/UT.

As per Policy adopted by the Government of India, the Kerosene allocation for distribution under Public

Distribution System (PDS) to various States/UTs was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 and till 2004-05, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each of the States/Union Territories.

(d) and (e) Some State Governments have requested to increase their allocation of wheat and rice under TPDS. The allocation could not be increased as the same is made at a uniform rate of 35 kgs. per family per month, under TPDS. However, additional allocations are made at OMSS (D) rates the States who have made specific demands.

Levy Sugar Allocations are being made on the basis of projected population as on 01-03-2000 and the supply of levy sugar has been restricted to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, except for North Eastern States, Hill States and Island Territories where universal coverage is allowed.

Various requests received from State Government for increasing the allocation, the Government of India have commissioned the first ever detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December, 2004 with a view to assessing the genuine demand and requirement of kerosene in the country. NCAER have submitted their report in October, 2005. NCAER in their report have estimated kerosene demand in 22 States and 1 UT for the year 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. For rationalization of allocation of kerosene based on the NCAER report, the views of the State Governments/Union Territories have been solicited. Till then, allocation for the first quarter 2006-07 is maintained at the level of the previous year 2005-06.

Statement-I

Allocation and Offtake of Rice from April 2005 to March 2006 for the Year (P) Under TPDS

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake				%Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1086.129	2113.068	620.247	3819.444	1101.69	1456.58	608.5	3166.77	101.433	68.932	98.106	82.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.14	63.39	12.936	101.466	23.17	38.53	12.07	73.77	92.164	60.782	93.306	72.70
3.	Assam	625.416	618.116	175.104	1418.636	595.48	164.34	181.09	940.91	95.213	26.587	103.419	66.32
4.	Bihar	1009.369	1069.364	188.012	2267.745	145.46	1.32	164.07	310.85	14.411	0.123	86.804	13.71
5.	Chhattisgarh	445.708	694.94	254.82	1395.468	416.489	2.383	206.228	625.1	93.444	0.343	80.931	44.80
6.	Delhi	42.42	293.444	6.66	342.524	41.4	55.66	6.32	103.38	97.595	18.968	95.895	30.18
7.	Goa	6.54	81.2	5.739	93.479	3.804	2.27	2.447	8.521	581.65	2.796	42.638	8.12
8.	Gujarat	175.754	1056.948	51.777	1284.479	163.75	34.78	37.43	235.96	93.170	3.291	72.291	18.37
9.	Haryana	46.697	202.848	NA	249.545	28.03	0.08	4.07	33.18	62.167	0.039	NA	13.30
10.	Himachal Pradesh	70.828	216.6	35.588	323.016	58.16	79.17	32.13	169.46	82.114	36.551	90.283	52.46
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	167.462	302.896	67.45	537.808	173.21	195.75	53.6	422.56	103.432	64.626	79.466	78.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12. Jharkhand		448.992	143.716	168.96	761.668	173.36	0.57	150.03	323.96	38.611	0.397	88.796	42.53
13. Karnataka		719.224	1656.48	326.204	2701.908	717.6	728.04	309.45	1755.09	99.774	43.951	94.864	64.96
14. Kerala		334.172	1361.04	207.088	1902.3	325.993	57.492	200.722	584.207	97.522	4.224	96.926	30.71
15. Madhya Pradesh		245.9	633.848	80.568	960.316	237.54	8.19	79	324.73	96.600	1.292	98.054	33.81
16. Maharashtra		754.104	1649.856	336.356	2740.316	627.04	15.2	305.39	947.63	83.150	0.921	90.794	34.58
17. Manipur		35.352	32.052	19.436	86.84	29.97	0.71	13.96	44.64	84.776	2.215	71.825	51.40
18. Meghalaya		53.568	37.248	23.292	114.108	54.05	16.29	22.72	93.06	100.900	43.734	97.544	81.55
19. Mizoram		18.472	59.9	10.208	88.58	17.65	48.34	10.01	76	95.550	80.701	98.060	85.80
20. Nagaland		28.794	57.885	13.038	99.717	28.73	41.81	13.11	83.65	99.778	72.229	100.552	83.89
21. Orissa		1261.907	804.452	434.785	2501.144	769.102	1.42	442.651	1213.173	60.948	0.177	101.809	48.50
22. Punjab		33.288	294.648	NA	327.936	1.71	NA	0.75	2.46	5.137	NA	NA	0.75
23. Rajasthan		75.574	575.212	3.823	654.609	19.24	NA	1.45	20.69	25.458	NA	37.928	3.16
24. Sikkim		14.076	18.612	41.164	36.852	14.05	19.39	4.32	37.76	99.815	104.180	103.746	102.46
25. Tamil Nadu		1397.697	3667.98	644.679	5710.356	1391.6	1461.254	657.63	3510.484	99.564	39.838	102.009	61.68
26. Tripura		95.364	131.292	28.536	255.192	92.77	37.02	28.53	158.32	97.280	28.197	99.979	62.04
27. Uttar Pradesh		1763.068	2891.364	938.692	5593.124	1535.191	2.236	884.901	2422.328	87.075	0.077	94.270	43.31
28. Uttaranchal		107.229	192.96	32.794	332.983	79.945	12.307	16.206	108.458	74.555	6.378	49.418	32.57
29. West Bengal		774.67	2102.508	281.263	3158.441	661.277	31.63	220.44	913.347	85.362	1.504	78.375	28.92
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		5.136	28.2	1.296	34.632	1.55	11.78	0.49	13.82	30.179	41.773	37.809	39.91

31. Chandigarh	3.18	19.012	0.888	23.08	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.142	5.592	1.093	10.827	1.35	0.65	0.53	2.53	32.593	11.624	48.490	23.37	
33. Daman and Diu	0.856	8.376	0.3	9.532	0.31	0.15	0.16	0.62	36.215	1.791	53.333	6.50	
34. Lakshadweep	0.372	3.132	0.168	3.672	0.47	2.95	0.33	3.75	126.344	94.189	196.429	102.12	
35. Pondicherry	22.862	12	12.25	47.112	12.53	4.19	7.91	24.63	54.807	34.917	64.571	52.28	
Total	11,899,462	23,100.179	4,989.214	39,988.855	9,544.671	4,532.482	4,678.645	18,755.798	80.211	19.621	93.775	46.903	
CRPF/BSF	NA	19.668	NA	19.668	NA	11.88	NA	11.88	NA	60.403	NA	60.403	
Defence	NA	139.992	NA	139.992	NA	115.04	NA	115.04	NA	82.176	NA	82.176	
Bhutan	NA	9.997	NA	9.997	NA	7.89	NA	7.89	NA	78.924	NA	78.924	
Grand Total													
(All India)	11,899,462	23,269.836	4,989.214	40,158.512	9,544.671	4,667.292	4,678.645	18,890.608	80.211	20.057	93.775	47.040	

Note: Office under Decentralised procurement scheme for Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, West Bengal upto February, 06 Uttar Pradesh and Kerala upto March, 06 and Uttaranchal upto December, 05.

Statement-II

Allocation and Offtake of Wheat from April 2005 to March 2006 for the Year (P) Under TPDS

(In '000 tonnes)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake				%Offtake			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	NA	153.672	NA	153.672	0.18	50.49	0.06	50.73	NA	32.856	NA	33.01
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3.42	6.36	NA	9.78	2.35	4.72	0.33	7.4	68.713	74.214	NA	75.66
3.	Assam	NA	337.024	NA	337.024	NA	280.24	NA	280.24	NA	83.15	NA	83.15
4.	Bihar	1157.282	1222.156	283.521	2662.959	526.55	24.23	256.99	807.77	45.499	1.983	90.642	30.33
5.	Chhattisgarh	87.104	350.86	NA	437.964	82.8	49.68	NA	132.48	95.059	14.159	NA	30.25
6.	Delhi	106.044	703.072	16.656	825.772	103.79	246.95	15.83	366.57	97.874	35.124	95.041	44.39
7.	Goa	3.681	37.096	NA	40.777	NA	3.833	NA	3.833	NA	10.333	NA	9.40
8.	Gujarat	442.309	1730.616	207.008	2379.933	307.36	143.51	154.91	605.78	69.490	8.292	74.833	25.45
9.	Haryana	195.819	811.356	86.056	1093.231	166.22	17.99	72.82	257.03	84.885	2.217	84.619	23.51
10.	Himachal Pradesh	45.82	132.3	26.696	204.816	37.4	99.9	23.47	160.77	81.624	75.510	87.916	78.49
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	52.873	144.824	21.299	218.996	52.56	151.21	19.49	223.26	99.408	104.409	91.507	101.95

12. Jharkhand	251.232	72.584	136.308	460.124	207.55	20.59	132.6	360.74	82.613	28.367	97.280	78.40
13. Karnataka	157.093	378.534	81.548	617.175	158.09	149.53	68.9	376.52	100.635	39.502	84.490	61.01
14. Kerala	111.388	447.9	NA	559.288	110.98	256.44	NA	377.42	99.634	59.486	NA	67.48
15. Madhya Pradesh	949.415	1901.524	453.573	3304.512	975.576	144.599	429.432	1549.607	102.755	7.604	94.678	46.89
16. Maharashtra	1160.364	3051.024	493.48	4704.868	1020.17	112.28	431.02	1563.47	87.918	3.680	87.343	33.23
17. Manipur	NA	15.408	4.856	20.264	3.96	14.18	NA	18.14	NA	92.030	NA	89.52
18. Meghalaya	NA	7.776	NA	7.776	0.65	6.32	NA	6.79	NA	81.276	NA	89.63
19. Mizoram	NA	12.12	NA	12.12	NA	7.55	NA	7.55	NA	62.294	NA	62.29
20. Nagaland	7.023	44.515	3.225	54.763	6.88	52.85	3.33	63.06	97.964	118.724	103.256	115.15
21. Orissa	NA	351.112	NA	351.112	NA	108.35	NA	108.35	NA	30.859	NA	30.86
22. Punjab	130.779	1178.592	32.469	1341.84	69.4	8.84	17.49	95.73	53.067	0.750	53.867	7.13
23. Rajasthan	517.808	2188.544	336.195	3042.547	450.33	204.17	299.12	953.62	86.969	9.329	88.972	31.34
24. Sikkim	NA	7.2	NA	7.2	NA	4.65	NA	4.65	NA	64.583	NA	64.58
25. Tamil Nadu	NA	120	NA	120	NA	77.98	NA	77.98	NA	64.983	NA	64.98
26. Tripura	NA	47.94	NA	47.94	NA	29.94	NA	29.94	NA	62.453	NA	62.45
27. Uttar Pradesh	1182.038	3603.096	600.994	5386.128	1025.07	37.93	553.388	1616.39	86.721	1.053	92.079	30.01
28. Uttaranchal	55.184	140.592	13.965	209.741	58.719	34.154	11.112	103.985	106.406	24.293	79.570	49.58
29. West Bengal	673.299	1986.672	281.308	2941.279	591.06	997.78	233.86	1822.7	87.786	50.224	83.133	61.97
30. Andaman and	2.292	8.16	0.504	10.956	0.26	4.01	0.04	4.31	11.344	49.142	7.937	39.34

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
31. Chandigarh			5.568	56.504	NA	62.072	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli			1.05	1.548	0.435	3.033	0.32	0.24	0.19	0.75	30.476	15.504	43.678	24.73
33. Daman and Diu			0.38	1.044	0.144	1.568	0.13	NA	0.06	0.19	34.211	NA	41.66	12.12
34. Lakshadweep			NA	0.228	NA	0.228	NA	0.03	NA	0.03	NA	13.158	NA	13.16
35. Pondicherry			NA	1.2	NA	1.2	NA	1.01	NA	1.01	NA	84.167	NA	84.17
Total			7,299.265	21,253.153	3,080.240	31,632.658	5,958.357	3,356.176	2,724.442	12,038.975	81.630	15,791	88,449	38,059
CRP/BSF			NA	33.912	NA	33.912	NA	9.5	NA	9.5	NA	28.014	NA	28.014
Defence			NA	145.008	NA	145.008	NA	133.49	NA	133.49	NA	92.057	NA	92.057
Bhutan			NA	15	NA	15	NA	4	NA	4	NA	26.667	NA	26.667
Grand Total														
(All India)			7,299.265	21,447.073	3,080.240	31,826.578	5,958.357	3,503.166	2,724.442	12,185.965	81.630	16,334	88,449	38,289

Note: Offtake under Decentralised procurement scheme for Uttar Pradesh, upto March, 2006, Madhya Pradesh upto February, 2006 and Uttaranchal 2005.

Statement-III
Monthly Allocation of Rice and Wheat for the Year 2006-07

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Month	Rice			Wheat			Coarsegrain			Grand Total
			AAV	BPL	APL	AAV	BPL	APL	AAV	BPL	APL	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Apr-06	54.524	87.674	176.089	0.000	0.000	12.806				331.083
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Apr-06	1.331	1.842	4.474	0.000	0.285	0.530				8.462
3.	Assam	Apr-06	19.513	44.730	57.467	0.000	0.000	22.128				143.838
4.	Bihar	Apr-06	26.256	83.710	91.350	26.255	83.711	91.350				402.632
5.	Chhattisgarh	Apr-06	25.162	35.882	61.005	0.000	4.592	26.145				152.786
6.	Delhi	Apr-06	0.555	3.712	24.913	1.388	8.660	58.130				97.358
7.	Goa	Apr-06	0.509	0.300	6.664	0.000	0.155	2.856				10.484
8.	Gujarat	Apr-06	4.507	15.503	88.079	18.019	36.175	144.218				306.501
9.	Haryana	Apr-06	0.000	5.719	24.770	8.317	13.345	57.795				109.946
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Apr-06	3.086	2.930	16.144	2.315	1.795	9.861				36.131
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Apr-06	5.945	12.555	26.117	1.877	5.380	11.193				63.067
12.	Jharkhand	Apr-06	14.080	40.846	12.618	11.359	17.506	5.407				101.816
13.	Karnataka	Apr-06	33.583	54.026	119.868	8.398	13.506	29.967				259.358
14.	Kerala	Apr-06	18.926	26.593	113.420	0.000	8.865	37.325				205.129
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Apr-06	6.966	29.379	58.570	39.478	68.550	136.660				339.603
16.	Maharashtra	Apr-06	28.144	62.731	137.488	41.291	96.526	254.252				620.432
17.	Manipur	Apr-06	1.765	2.832	2.769	0.000	1.214	0.500				9.080

[illegible]

Statement-IV

*Monthly Levy Sugar Quota for the States/UTs.
(W.e.f. 1-2-2001)*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Monthly Levy qota (MTs)	Annual Festival qota* (MTs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9690	7614
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	389	74
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	834	94
4.	Assam	18337	2896
5.	Bihar	20516	7527
6.	Jharkhand	6948	2551
7.	Chandigarh	62	112
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	48	14
9.	Delhi	2610	2316
10.	Goa	120	150
11.	Daman and Diu	11	12
12.	Gujarat	5841	4878
13.	Haryana	2485	1924
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4698	608
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	6962	868
16.	Karnataka	8636	5350
17.	Kerala	4103	3600
18.	Lakshadweep	115	22
19.	Madhya Pradesh	12441	5523
20.	Chhattisgarh	4512	2013

1	2	3	4
21.	Maharashtra	16792	9014
22.	Manipur	1763	208
23.	Meghalaya	1704	200
24.	Mizoram	666	78
25.	Nagaland	1179	128
26.	Orissa	8707	3730
27.	Pondicherry	243	88
28.	Punjab	1385	2392
29.	Rajasthan	7342	5092
30.	Sikkim	391	50
31.	Tamil Nadu	10820	6790
32.	Tripura	2647	302
33.	Uttar Pradesh	33013	15154
34.	Uttaranchal	6033	782
35.	West Bengal	14087	7796
Total		216130	99950

*Note: As a policy decision Government have doubled the Festival Quota for the Calendar Year-2001 and 2002 to meet the requirement of sugar for various festivals.

Statement-V

Statement showing allocation of kerosene for 1st quarter 2006-07 and for the year 2005-06

(Quantity-MTs)

Name of States/UTs	1st Quarter of 2006-07	2005-06
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1454	5816

1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	129289	517158
Arunachal Pradesh	2314	9257
Assam	64501	258007
Bihar	161857	647430
Chandigarh	3266	13067
Chhattisgarh	36734	146938
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	695	2782
Daman and Diu	529	2118
Delhi	42121	168484
Goa	4803	19212
Gujarat	185939	743759
Haryana	36404	145619
Himachal Pradesh	12634	50537
Jammu and Kashmir	14489	76044
Jharkhand	52793	211175
Karnataka	115369	461478
Kerala	54077	216308
Lakshadweep	400*	795
Madhya Pradesh	122152	488609
Maharashtra	319219	1276876
Manipur	4976	19907
Meghalaya	5100	20401
Mizoram	1554	6217
Nagaland	3328	13312
Orissa	78744	314977
Pondicherry	3064	12257
Punjab	59298	237192

1	2	3
Rajasthan	99728	398913
Sikkim	1395	5582
Tamil Nadu	139732	558929
Tripura	7708	30832
Uttar Pradesh	310443	1241772
Uttaranchal	22462	89849
West Bengal	188025	752103
Total	2286596	9163712

*For six months.

Peripheral Development of SAIL

4624. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether respective steel plants of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) have taken any steps for the peripheral development;

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

(c) the amount spent thereon during the last two years and the current year;

(d) whether all respective steel plants of SAIL are paying regular dividend;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the profit earned by Rourkela Steel Plant, Bokaro Steel Plant and Durgapur Steel Plant during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has undertaken various activities for the peripheral development around its Steel Plant Locations. The Plant-wise details of various/activities undertaken fall under the following categories of services:—

1. Bhilai Steel Plant
 - (a) Education
 - (b) Drinking Water
 - (c) Road Development
 - (d) Health Care
 - (e) Cultural Activities

2. Rourkela Steel Plant
 - (a) Drinking Water
 - (b) Health Care
 - (c) Community Development
 - (d) Education
 - (e) Recreation
 - (f) Economic Development

3. Bokaro Steel Plant

- (a) Drinking Water
 - (b) Education
 - (c) Road Development
 - (d) Health Care

4. Durgapur Steel Plant/Alloys Steels Plant

On Ongoing activities continue to be provided for the periphery around the Steel Plant such as:—

- (a) Drinking Water
 - (b) Education
 - (c) Road Development
 - (d) Health Care

5. Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant

- (a) Drinking Water
 - (b) Education

- (c) Road Development
 - (d) Health Care

6. Salem Steel Plant

- (a) Drinking Water
 - (b) Education
 - (c) Road Development
 - (d) Health Care

(c) Amount spent on Peripheral Development during the last two years and the Budget allocation during the current year is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Plant	2004-05	2005-06 (Provisional)	2006-07 (Budget Allocation)
PSP	50.01	97.93	100
DSP/ASP	60.40	130.07	150
RSP	94.75	173.00	100
BSL	73.40	150.00	100
SSP	3.55	12.51	50
VISP	8.95	29.07	50

(d) and (e) In the year 2004-05, the SAIL declared total dividend of 33% of paid-up equity share capital, comprising of final dividend @ 18% (amounting to Rs. 743 crores) and interim dividend @ 15% (amounting to Rs. 620 crores). Based on current years profitability, interim dividend @ 12.5% of paid-up equity share capital amounting to Rs. 516 crores has been declared out of the profits of the Company for the nine months ended 31st December, 2005.

(f) Plant-wise profit before tax/loss since 2003-04 to 9M 2005-06 is as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Units of SAIL	2003-04	2004-05	9M 2005-06
Durgapur Steel Plant	81	784	191
Rourkela Steel Plant	-109	1045	260
Bokaro Steel Plant	1120	3290	1575

Organic Fertilizer

4625. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to promote and propagate organic fertilizers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government has launched a central sector scheme "National Project on Organic Farming" from October, 2004 to promote and propagate organic fertilizers in the country. Under this scheme subsidy for setting up organic input production units @ 25% of the project cost upto a maximum of Rs. 40.00 lakh for fruit and vegetable waste compost units, Rs. 20.00 lakh for bio-fertilizer production units and Rs. 1.50 lakh for vermi-culture hatcheries per unit is being provided as credit linked back ended subsidy through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

Apart from the above, assistance is also being provided for training on production and quality control of organic inputs and demonstrations on organic inputs under the scheme.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also imparting trainings, organizing workshops and field demonstrations to promote use of organic fertilizers among the farming community.

Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation in Gujarat

4626. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any project/proposal from Government of Gujarat for Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation for agriculture land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to avail assistance for drip and sprinkler irrigation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation during 2005-06. The proposal was approved by the Government and an amount of Rs. 2182.00 lakh has been released to 25 districts of Gujarat State as Central share of subsidy i.e. 40% of the total cost. Under the scheme, 10% of subsidy will be provided by State Government and the remaining 50% will be borne by the beneficiary either through his/her own resources or soft loan from financial institution. It is proposed to cover an area of 10680 ha. under drip irrigation and 6040 ha. under sprinkler irrigation.

Live Telecast of Commonwealth Games

4627. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati telecast live events of 18th Commonwealth Games held in March, 2006 in Melbourne;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Prasar Bharati has taken any steps to handle the Commonwealth Games to be held in India in 2010; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan had deputed its programme and technical personnel to Melbourne to provide them a first hand experience of the different facets of the arrangements put in place there in preparation for the Commonwealth Games to be held in New Delhi in 2010.

Funds for Pollution Control

4628. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds made available and actually utilized for control of pollution during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the said funds are being grossly misused by various States;

(c) if so, whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken or 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) The details of funds made available to States under the National River Conservation Programme for abatement of water pollution in rivers and the amount utilized are indicated in statement-I. In addition, the Ministry also provides funds to the States under the Schemes of 'Assistance for Abatement of Pollution' for strengthening of Pollution Control Boards etc., 'Common Effluent Treatment Plants' (CETPs) for setting up CETPs, 'Creation of Management Structure for Hazardous Wastes' for setting up common hazardous wastes treatment, storage and disposal facilities, demonstration projects for Municipal Solid Waste etc. The details of funds provided under these schemes are given in statement-II. The details of funds released to various research institutions, universities, pollution control boards etc. in the States by Central Pollution Control Board under the National Air and Water Quality Monitoring Programmes are given in statement-III.

(b) to (d) A representation regarding alleged misappropriation of funds in respect of Yamuna Action Plan at Mathura was received in April, 2003, which was forwarded to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for necessary action. An inquiry in the matter is reported to have been instituted by the State Government.

Statement-I

State-wise Expenditure (Funds Released) and Funds Utilised under National River Action Plan

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Plan/State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Funds Released	Expdt. by State #	Funds Released	Expdt. by State #	Funds Released	Expdt. by State #
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	294.06	1600.00	93.06	5200.00	4329.98
2.	Bihar	0.00	69.59	0.00	9.01	33.72	0.00
3.	Jharkhand	0.00	24.69	0.00	3.13	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Gujarat	2254.00	1824.80	1200.00	1092.62	0.00	521.97
5.	Goa	0.00	186.92	510.00	905.24	100.00	0.00
6.	Karnataka	400.00	1835.49	1368.00	1062.94	580.00	1191.30
7.	Maharashtra	1075.00	1472.38	880.00	1324.18	1069.77	513.93
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1475.00	1547.74	1200.00	664.18	200.00	469.73
9.	Orissa	167.00	327.60	675.00	780.90	825.00	1042.46
10.	Punjab	2270.00	3103.68	1141.00	3853.32	1274.00	2662.90
11.	Rajasthan	0.00	25.80	26.00	0.00	18.00	0.00
12.	Tamil Nadu	8448.00	13157.78	16861.00	16419.57	10307.40	3196.05
13.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	190.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
14.	Haryana	0.00	158.77	240.00	240.84	424.00	0.00
15.	Uttar Pradesh	2650.00	1679.09	100.00	1414.87	1678.00	2342.23
16.	Uttaranchal	200.00	345.19	200.00	297.07	450.00	95.40
17.	West Bengal	2135.50	5108.93	2746.00	1641.53	4848.00	1770.86
18.	Kerala	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	179.00	3.50	0.00	3.76
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.00	0.00
Grand Total (River)		21149.50	31162.51	29116.00	29805.96	27557.89	18140.58

Expenditure by States given above includes the balance of GOI's share carried over from the unspent balance by State Government for previous years. This figure also includes expenditure from State Governments' Share.

Statement-II

I. State-wise and Year-wise Funds released under Scheme 'Assistance for Abatement of Pollution'

(Rupees in Lakhs)

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	4.60	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	112.00
4.	Bihar	9.243	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	100.00
6.	Chandigarh	00.00	0.00	11.91
7.	Delhi	42.62	41.35	36.22
8.	Gujarat	0.00	20.00	0.00
9.	Goa	0.00	18.92	30.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	14.25	20.00	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	13.00	94.26	0.00
12.	Kerala	140.00	1.125	0.00
13.	Lakshadweep	2.296	2.26	3.95
14.	Manipur	14.77	24.56	3.21
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	2.50	12.00
16.	Mizoram	6.394	7.31	37.13
17.	Nagaland	0.00	15.96	1.96
18.	Orissa	4.392	30.00	0.00
19.	Punjab	29.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	8.243	0.00	0.00
21.	Sikkim	8.424	6.925	1.50
22.	Tripura	47.97	32.02	33.70
23.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	12.32	0.00
24.	Uttaranchal	1.49	30.50	6.50
25.	West Bengal	0.00	18.00	0.00
Total		342.09	387.01	390.08

II. Promotion of Common Effluent Treatment Plants

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	SPCB/PCC	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Gujarat	98.20	0.00	23.00
2.	Maharashtra	396.80	392.00	410.00
3.	Punjab	0.00	3.00	0.00
Total		495.00	395.00	433.00

III. Creation of Management Structure for Hazardous Wastes

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	SPCB/PCC	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.13	00.00	00.00	00.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	00.00	00.00	00.00	4.50
3.	Andhra Pradesh	91.63	80.00	00.00	00.00
4.	Assam	00.00	7.94	2.00	00.00
5.	Bihar	00.00	00.00	13.00	12.00
6.	Chandigarh	5.13	7.94	00.00	2.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	00.00	7.94	00.00	00.00
8.	Delhi	00.00	26.40	12.80	00.00
9.	Goa	00.00	00.00	5.13	00.00
10.	Gujarat	00.00	211.07	161.07	00.00
11.	Haryana	7.35	00.00	00.00	00.00
12.	Himachal Pradesh	00.00	11.07	9.00	00.00
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	00.00	7.35	00.00	00.00
14.	Jharkhand	00.00	00.00	8.50	8.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Karnataka	11.07	11.07	00.00	00.00
16.	Kerala	00.00	77.00	00.00	00.00
17.	Lakshadweep	00.00	5.13	00.00	00.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	00.00	00.00	7.50	00.00
19.	Maharashtra	80.00	86.07	00.00	30.87
20.	Manipur	00.00	5.13	00.00	00.00
21.	Meghalaya	5.13	5.13	00.00	00.00
22.	Mizoram	00.00	00.00	00.00	13.05
23.	Nagaland	5.13	00.00	00.00	00.00
24.	Orissa	7.35	7.70	00.00	00.00
25.	Pondicherry	5.13	00.00	00.00	3.90
26.	Sikkim	5.13	00.00	00.00	00.00
27.	Tripura	8.46	4.00	00.00	00.00
28.	Uttaranchal	7.35	00.00	7.47	6.42
29.	West Bengal	7.35	00.00	7.35	00.00

Statement-III

*Schemes under which Central Pollution Control Board Provided Funds to Research Institutions/
Universities/State Pollution Control Boards etc. in Various States*

1. National Water Quality Monitoring Programme

(Rupees in lakhs)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4.43	5.23	4.96
Assam	1.98	2.75	1.62
Bihar	0.70	1.09	2.51
Goa	0.99	1.54	0

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	4.79	4.36	0
Haryana	0.43	0.27	0
Himachal Pradesh	2.31	3.03	4.85
Karnataka	9.40	4.58	4.04
Kerala	4.94	4.68	5.08
Lakshadweep	0.04	0.04	0
Madhya Pradesh	4.85	3.80	3.80
Maharashtra	40.43	5.36	16.49
Manipur	0.54	0.79	0
Meghalaya	0.44	1.25	1.29
Nagaland	0.25	0.21	0
Orissa	5.22	5.18	3.85
Punjab	1.38	2.09	0
Pondicherry	0.25	0	0
Rajasthan	1.55	0.32	1.86
Sikkim	3.78	2.13	2.13
Tamil Nadu	5.48	4.44	0
Tripura	0.98	0.79	0
Uttar Pradesh	4.00	7.04	2.11
Uttaranchal	0.64	0.24	1.45
West Bengal	2.25	6.87	0.25

1. National Air Quality Monitoring Programme

(Rupees in lakhs)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4.46	7.79	9.28

1	2	3	4
Assam	3.57	3.05	0
Bihar	0	0	25.98
Chandigarh	1.49	4.18	0
Chhattisgarh	10.77	10.56	6.59
Goa	1.06	2.27	0
Gujarat	16.86	10.63	13.81
Haryana	2.20	2.62	0
Himachal Pradesh	11.80	16.42	21.48
Jharkhand	7.10	7.37	0
Karnataka	3.47	4.32	9.35
Kerala	9.28	7.51	12.82
Madhya Pradesh	10.13	21.26	33.20
Maharashtra	4.48	1.42	0
Meghalaya	1.28	2.98	0
Orissa	5.38	6.02	5.45
Punjab	2.90	0	14.17
Pondicherry	2.13	5.53	0
Rajasthan	12.47	9.92	26.99
Tamil Nadu	12.47	9.92	26.99
Uttar Pradesh	9.21	12.37	0
Uttaranchal	2.20	0	1.16
West Bengal	4.25	2.76	11.12

**Subsidy Pattern under Macro-Management
Work Plan**

4629. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to rationalize

subsidy pattern under Macro-Management Work Plan to the extent of 50 per cent as was the earlier provisions in this regard;

(b) if so, whether on the same component different rates of subsidy are admissible under different centrally sponsored schemes; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to remove this disparity which is hampering the progress under Macro-Management Work Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government. The rate at which subsidy is extended is specific to each individual Centrally Sponsored Scheme and as per the parameters laid down for the scheme concerned.

Unemployed Unskilled Labourers

4630. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any survey to assess the number of unemployed unskilled labourers in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to help these unskilled and unemployed labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Ministry of Labour and Employment have not conducted any such survey. However, State-wise number of uneducated (Below 10th Standard) jobseeker (including illiterates), all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the various employment exchanges in the country as on 31st December, 2003 are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) A target of creation of around 5 crore employment opportunities was fixed for the 10th Plan period; around 3 crore employment opportunities from the normal growth of the economy and two crore from special employment generation programmes. Besides this, Government have launched the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which aims at providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to each rural household. These measures will help the unemployed unskilled labourers also.

Statement

Number of uneducated job seekers (including illiterates) registered with the employment exchanges as on 31st December, 2003

(In thousands)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Uneducated Jobseekers
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.7
3.	Assam	542.0
4.	Bihar	228.0
5.	Chhattisgarh	127.0
6.	Delhi	227.5
7.	Goa	20.0
8.	Gujarat	151.0
9.	Haryana	224.0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	194.4
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	56.9
12.	Jharkhand	549.9
13.	Karnataka	630.6
14.	Kerala	317.6
15.	Madhya Pradesh	472.1
16.	Maharashtra	1131.8
17.	Manipur	161.2
18.	Meghalaya	14.7
19.	Mizoram	18.1
20.	Nagaland	16.2

1	2	3
21.	Orissa	125.3
22.	Punjab	194.6
23.	Rajasthan	205.5
24.	Sikkim*	
25.	Tamil Nadu	1732.9
26.	Tripura	161.1
27.	Uttaranchal	46.8
28.	Uttar Pradesh	429.7
29.	West Bengal	3037.5
Union Territories		
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17.0
31.	Chandigarh	22.2
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.1
33.	Daman and Diu	4.6
34.	Lakshadweep	4.9
35.	Pondicherry	5.7
Total		11181.9

Note: Total may not tally due to rounding off.

*No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

[Translation]

Global Warming

4631. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the effects of Global Warming as a result of which several marine plants are on the verge of extinction and there is apprehension of submergence of coastal towns and other natural disasters due to increasing sea level caused by the ice melting of Antarctica;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of any such research work confirming such apprehension;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any scheme to tackle it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Global warming is a worldwide phenomenon. According to the estimates of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the worldwide measurements of sea level show a rise of 1 to 2 mm during the last century and the global mean sea level may rise between .09 and 0.88 metres during 1990-2100. If continued unabated, this may result in long run in displacement of people in coastal zones and large landmass being inundated across the world. Furthermore, ecological productivity and bio diversity would be altered by climate change with increased risk of extinction of some species, including marine plants. Increasing concentration of greenhouse gases are also projected to result in changes in frequency, duration and intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves and heavy precipitation events.

(b) and (c) The IPCC was set up jointly by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1988 to assess the scientific, technical and socioeconomic information relevant for the understanding of the risk of human induced climate change. Indian government and research agencies are also directly involved with IPCC and other national and international studies to assess the actual extent of impacts. Besides, at Indian centre at Maitri in Antarctica, Indian Scientists are a part of an international initiative that is working for routine and systematic measurements of various gases, ozone, water vapour etc. for providing valuable data for modelling studies and in understanding global change.

(d) and (e) India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, which addresses the issues related to global warming and climate change. India is actively participating in the discussions relating to commitments to

reduce GHG emissions by developed country Parties. India's policy on global warming and climate change is based on maintenance of present equilibrium of commitments and differentiation between developed and developing countries with no new commitments for the developing countries. The Government has taken several steps to do vulnerability assessment of various aspects of climate change including rise in sea level. Some of the national measures taken to reduce green house gas intensity of our economy include energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy programmes, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and better cultivation practices.

[English]

Export Price of Foodgrains

4632. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down any guidelines defining various terms and conditions to avoid extra subsidy burden on the Government while fixing export price for foodgrains;

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

(c) whether foodgrains earmarked for export have been identified as regards the variety, quality and location of stock;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the foodgrains offered for export are not recycled in the local market?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Government after review of foodgrains stocks had stopped fresh allocation of foodgrains from the Central Pool for export with effect from 11-8-03. After meeting existing commitments of export contracts, issue of foodgrains for exports have been stopped from the Central Pool w.e.f. 1-10-2004. Hence there is now no subsidy burden on Government on account of export of foodgrains.

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

Drop in Water Level in Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hoogly River

4633. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether drop in water level in the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hoogly river has spelled disaster for the Kolkata Port including the Haldia dock;

(b) if so, whether the drop has been caused by scanty rainfall and diversion of water in the Upper reaches of the river for Tehri Dam;

(c) if so, whether high-level inter-Ministerial group of the Union Government has reviewed the situation and decided to keep a close watch on it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir. Drop in water level in the Bhagirathi-Hoogly river system at Farakka has become a cause of serious concern for Kolkata Port Trust.

(b) Drop in water is obviously due to scanty rainfall in Ganga-basin during monsoon as well as during winter months.

(c) Kolkata Port Trust has apprised of the alarming situation to Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways have communicated long-term and short-term contingency plans to Ministry of Water Resources.

(d) Constant monitoring of the river health, especially navigable depth over the critical stretches is being carried out.

Teachers under Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972

4634. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring teachers under scope of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far 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) and (c) The comments of the State Governments/UTs have been sought in the matter on the proposed amendment to the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

Supply of Steel

4635. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel providing States do not supply steel to companies which are not located in their States;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Dam Safety Law

4636. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States are being encouraged to enact Dam Safety Law;

(b) if so, the names of States which have enacted such law; and

(c) the investment required to increase the required irrigation capacity of the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) A model bill for Dam Safety has

been drafted by Central Water Commission in the year 2002 and the same has been circulated to all State Governments.

(b) So far, none of the State Government has enacted Dam Safety Legislation. However, Government of Kerala has enacted "The Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003" which includes a Chapter on "Constitution of Dam Safety Authority."

(c) Irrigation being a State subject, the irrigation projects are planned formulated, executed and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their priorities. The amount required to complete the balance works in respect of 388 ongoing major/medium irrigation projects has been estimated to be of the order of Rs. 91,114 crore.

[English]

Noise Pollution near Commonwealth Games Sites

4637. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent survey, the Central Pollution Control Board found noise pollution level at the Commonwealth Games village site much above the permissible limits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any measures have been taken to bring down the noise pollution level in the area;

(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) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has carried out ambient noise monitoring in the proposed Commonwealth Games village site near Akshardham Temple at six locations during October 2005 on the request of Delhi Development Authority (DDA). The values of ambient noise level were within the prescribed

ambient standards in two locations and marginally exceeded in other four locations during daytime. However, during night time, noise levels exceeded in all locations due to movement of heavy traffic, specially trucks.

(c) to (e) DDA has taken steps to control noise level in collaboration with National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi.

[Translation]

Area of Arable Land

4638. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of arable land under cultivation in the country specially in tribal areas; State-wise;

(b) the additional area of land which can be brought under cultivation, State-wise;

(c) the loss in terms of money suffered as a result of not undertaking agricultural activity on such land; and

(d) the steps likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The total area of arable land under cultivation, which includes net area sown and current fallow is 155.56 million hectares. However, the land use data is not compiled separately for tribal areas. The additional land which can be brought under cultivation includes culturable waste land and barren unculturable land was about 30.8 million hectares in the year 2003-04. The state-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No specific survey has been conducted so far to assess the magnitude of loss suffered in terms of money, arising out of agricultural activities not having been undertaken on the 30.9 million hectares. However, the Department of Land Resources is implementing various programmes for the development of waste land/ degraded land through (i) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP); (ii) Desert Development Programme (DDP); (iii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP); and (iv) Technology Development, Extension and Training (TDET).

Statement

State-wise Agricultural land under Cultivation, Culturable wasteland and Barren land (Provisional)

Year: 2003-04

(Thousand hectares)

States/UTs	Agricultural Land under Cultivation	Culturable Waste Land	Barren and Unculturable Land	Additional Land (3+4)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	13154.0	700.7	2083.7	2784.3
Arunachal Pradesh	194.6	36.6	20.9	57.6
Assam	2873.1	76.4	1452.7	1529.0
Bihar	6224.6	46.1	436.4	482.5
Chhattisgarh	5027.1	343.7	342.9	686.7

1	2	3	4	5
Goa	141.5	55.2	—	55.2
Gujarat	10354.2	1987.5	2595.1	4582.6
Haryana	3725.9	35.5	100.0	135.5
Himachal Pradesh	604.9	122.2	806.3	928.5
Jammu and Kashmir	825.2	141.7	289.5	431.1
Jharkhand	3013.5	274.5	573.1	847.6
Karnataka	11700.3	419.3	787.9	1207.3
Kerala	2258.6	67.3	28.8	96.1
Madhya Pradesh	15543.9	1177.5	1424.9	2602.4
Maharashtra	18796.2	917.2	1725.3	2642.5
Manipur	217.6	0.7	0.9	1.7
Meghalaya	289.4	444.2	128.1	572.3
Mizoram	136.0	6.0	8.9	14.9
Nagaland	419.3	60.4	—	60.4
Orissa	6165.0	392.0	843.0	1235.0
Punjab	4256.1	8.7	21.5	30.2
Rajasthan	18669.9	4546.8	2498.8	7045.6
Sikkim	115.3	2.4	107.0	109.4
Tamil Nadu	5643.1	379.4	509.4	888.8
Tripura	281.1	0.6	3.0	3.6
Uttaranchal	861.5	322.5	294.9	617.4
Uttar Pradesh	18059.1	499.6	575.5	1075.1
West Bengal	5902.8	37.2	28.4	65.6
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	18.0	1.0	0.4	1.4
Chandigarh	1.9	—	—	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	23.5	0.2	0.1	0.2

1	2	3	4	5
Daman and Diu	2.0	—	—	—
Delhi	38.6	9.9	14.4	24.3
Lakshadweep	2.7	—	—	—
Pondicherry	24.0	4.0	0.1	4.1
All India	155564.5	13117.0	17702.0	30819.0

[English]

Creation of National Fund for Strategic Agricultural Research

4639. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently created a National Fund for strategic Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing research work conducted under the Agricultural Research and Education would be a part of this new fund; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Union Government has sanctioned a scheme "the National Fund for Basic and Strategic Research in Agricultural Sciences".

(b) The scheme "the National Fund for Basic and Strategic Research in Agricultural Sciences" has been sanctioned for strengthening basic and strategic research for development of technologies in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of Indian agriculture. The scheme was sanctioned during the financial year

2005-06 and a budget of Rs. 50 crore is provided during 2006-07. The scheme is operated and managed under the guidance of an Empowered committee with very Eminent Scientists.

(c) The existing research work conducted under the Agricultural Research and Education would be a part of this new scheme and further strengthen basic and strategic research.

(d) The scheme is a part of total budgetary support to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) from Government of India to strengthen basic and strategic research in priority areas of agricultural science covering agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, natural resource management and others.

Production Cost of Urea

4640. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Naphtha, fuel oil and gas are used as fuel for production of urea in the country;

(b) if so, whether the cost of production has been found to be varying based on the fuel used in production;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the production cost of urea produced during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the percentage of each of the said fuel being used at present in the country by fertilizer producers?

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) Natural gas, naphtha, fuel oil (FO) and low sulphur heavy stock (LSHS) are primarily used as feedstock and fuel in the

manufacture of urea. Cost of production of urea is, among other things, dependent upon the cost of feedstock and fuel.

The weighted average rates for concession for different feedstock groups of urea units for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (Provisions) are as follows:—

Group	Weighted average group concession rate (Rs./MT)		
	2004-05 (Provisional)	2003-04	2002-03
Pre-92 Gas	5680	5541	5513
Post-92 Gas	7784	7200	6762
Pre-92 Naphtha	16127	12991	13122
Post-92 Naphtha	15066	12118	12049
FO/LSHS	11430	11109	11266
Mixed feed	9272	8067	8307
Overall Weighted Average	9738	8626	8558

(d) Out of the total production capacity of 197.0034 lakh metric tonnes per annum (LMTPA) of urea from 28 urea units in operation, 130.1749 LMTPA (66.08%) is based on natural gas, 45.4535 LMTPA (23.07%) on naphtha and 21.375 LMTPA (10.85%) on FO/LSHS.

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the Serial Programme Management of Doordarshan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

TV Serials on Doordarshan

4641. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the T.V. serials telecast on Doordarshan are not as popular as the serials telecast on other T.V. channels;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that as far as Doordarshan is concerned, it constantly endeavours to telecast serials that are of a high professional standard both in terms of technical parameters as well, as content and which provide wholesome entertainment to its viewers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Problems of Pesticide Industry**

4642. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problems faced by the pesticides industry relating to registration procedures, availability of spurious pesticides, absence of adequate facilities in States pesticides testing laboratories etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government to save the pesticides industry during last one year and the current year;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to initiate a joint venture awareness and promotional campaign with other departments on the benefits and the safe use of pesticides; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government regulates the manufacture and use of pesticides under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, registers pesticides only after being satisfied of their efficacy and safety. The Registration Committee has framed simplified guidelines for the registration of pesticides especially in respect of bio-pesticides and for exports. The quality assurance of pesticides is ensured through regular drawal and analysis of pesticide samples through a network of Insecticides Inspectors, Insecticides Analysts and Pesticides Testing Laboratories. The Central Government provides assistance to State Governments for establishing and strengthening Pesticides Testing Laboratories. The State Governments have been advised to enforce the provisions of the Insecticides Act in order to punish the-formulators, manufacturers and sellers of sub-standard pesticides.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to launch a comprehensive awareness campaign regarding the safe

use of pesticides. Integrated Pest Management, which involves the need based use of pesticides, has been adopted by Government as the cardinal principle of plant protection. Packages of practices on 77 major crops have been posted on www.dacnet.nic.in/ppin for use by extension functionaries and farmers. Government has established Central Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Centres to impart training and special awareness of safe pesticides practices and IPM to farmers by organizing Farmers Field School (FFSs) across the country.

Housing Scheme for Beedi Workers

4643. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any Housing Scheme for workers engaged in Beedi and other sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for availing facility of the said scheme; and

(d) the number of workers availed benefits of said scheme during 2004-05 and 2005-06 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The Government has implemented a scheme, namely, The Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS) 2005 for Beedi Workers etc., which has come into force w.e.f. 25th May, 2005. A worker is granted a uniform subsidy of Rs. 40,000/- per tenement per worker for the construction of a house on the land site, not less than 60 square yard possessed by the beedi worker himself jointly/severally with other members of his family or on land given by the State Government/Gram Sabha with clear title in the name of the worker. A beedi worker, with one year of service, whose monthly family income does not exceed Rs. 6,500/-, who has deposited an amount of Rs. 5,000/- as worker's contribution with the District Collector or Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district alongwith the application form, is eligible to avail financial benefits under the RIHS-2005,

provided the cost of construction do not exceed Rs. One Lakh. 15,789 and 13,287 nos. of houses were sanctioned during 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Import of Edible Oil

4644. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) whether the import of edible oils is likely to remain stable in view of bumper oilseed crop and consequent increase in production of edible oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to hike the duty on palm oil to reduce imports in view of the above;

(d) if so, whether the country is likely to become self sufficient in edible oil production in the coming years; and

(e) if so, the other steps being taken to check import of edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Import of edible oils is 34.28 lakh tonnes during April, 2005-January, 2006 against 37.07 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to increase custom duty on Palm Oil.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Apparatus for National Test House

4645. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Test House (NTH), Kolkata has purchased Thermal Conductivity Test Apparatus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of tests so far undertaken by the said apparatus;

(d) whether NTH was not able to utilize the said apparatus till 2004;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the details of the officials/persons held responsible therefor; and

(g) the action so far taken by the Government against the persons responsible for loss suffered by the NTH 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) to (e) Yes, Sir. NTH purchased the Thermal Conductivity Test Apparatus at a cost of Rs. 52.18 lacs from USA.

The commissioning of the equipment got delayed due to non-availability of the required inputs viz. adequate power supply (30 Amp) and required pressure of water by CPWD which is the construction agency for NTH, Salt Lake Building. After the same were made available, the machine was operationalised and test report issued.

(f) and (g) Delay in full function of the machine was not attributable to any official(s) of NTH.

New Varieties of Maize

4646. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has identified some new varieties of maize seeds for release;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where it is likely to be released; and

(d) the estimated productivity of these varieties?

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. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has

recently identified Seven New Hybrids and one composite variety of Maize for release in different Agro-climatic regions of the country.

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

Statement

Hybrids/Composite of Maize Identified for Release

Sl. No.	Name of the hybrid/ composite	Maturity Duration	States for which identified for release	Average Productivity (kg./ha.)
1.	JH-10655	100-120 days	The hybrid is identified for release for Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Western Uttar Pradesh.	6744 kg./ha.
2.	JC-1441	100-120 days	The composite variety is identified for release for Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.	5846 kg./ha.
3.	NECH-117	100-120 days	The hybrid is identified for release for Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.	7867 kg./ha.
4.	HQPM-1	100-120 days	The hybrid is identified for release for cultivation across the country.	6285 kg./ha.
5.	JKMH-1701	80-85 days	The hybrid is identified for release for Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, North-East Hill Region, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.	6535 kg./ha.
6.	FH-3211	75-80 days	The hybrid is identified for release for Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, North-East Hill Region, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.	6609 kg./ha.
7.	FQH-4567	75-80 days	The hybrid is identified for release for Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, North-East Hill Region, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.	6118 kg./ha.
8.	X-120	110-140 days	The hybrid is identified for release for Rabi Season for Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.	7414 kg./ha.

[Translation]

Testing and Certification of Concentrated Fertilizers

4647. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for testing and certification of concentrated fertilizers in view of its increasing utility;

(b) the number of companies engaged in production of concentrated fertilizers in the country as on date;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to bring concentrated fertilizer producers and marketing companies under standard control;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the soil is also being sold to the farmers of Maharashtra and other States in the name of concentrated fertilizers; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government against such concentrated fertilizers producers and marketing companies?

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) In order to ensure the adequate availability of right quality of fertilizer to the farmers, the fertilizer has been declared as an Essential Commodity and is governed under the provision of Fertilizer (Control) Order issued under Section-3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955. In Schedule I part A of the FCO, the specifications of chemical fertilizers have been specified. In Schedule II of the Order, the analysis/testing procedure of these fertilizer have been prescribed. There are about 61 units manufacturing Urea, DAP and complex fertilizers. The manufacture/import and sale of all fertilizers in the country is regulated under the provisions of FCO.

(e) and (f) No specific report has been brought to the notice of the Ministry that in Maharashtra and other States, soil is being sold to the farmers as concentrated fertilizer. However, during the 2004-05, around 5.5% samples of fertilizer have been declared non-standard in the country. The State Governments are empowered to take administrative and legal action against the offenders under the provisions of FCO/Essential Commodities Act.

Consumption of Fertilizers

4648. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption of the fertilizers in the country, State-wise particularly in Madhya Pradesh, recorded during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the amount of assistance provided by the Union Government to each State for fertilizers necessary for agricultural production during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Statement indicating State-wise consumption of Fertilizers in nutrient terms (including in Madhya Pradesh) during each of the last three years [2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 (Estimated)] is enclosed as statement-I. Figures of consumption of fertilizers for the current year (2006-07) are not available.

(b) Subsidy on fertilizers is not provided to States. Payment of subsidy is made to manufacturers/importers as the difference between the cost of production of fertilizers as assessed by the Government and the, statutorily notified maximum retail price (MRP) or the indicative MRPs. The amount of subsidy provided on urea, a controlled fertilizer, and de-controlled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers since 2003-04 is given in statement-II.

Statement-I

Statement indicating State-wise Consumption of Fertiliser in Nutrient Terms (including Madhya Pradesh) during the last three years

(In 000 tonnes)

State	2003-04				2004-05				2005-06 (Estimated)			
	N	P	K	Total	N	P	K	Total	N	P	K	Total
Andhra Pradesh	1138.83	474.09	240.08	1853.00	1156.53	538.98	292.36	1987.87	1512.16	690.64	330.46	2533.26
Karnataka	493.17	240.18	186.45	919.80	655.98	363.98	273.27	1293.23	745.00	419.39	309.83	1474.22
Kerala	85.42	38.94	67.74	192.10	88.25	41.79	71.49	201.53	86.12	42.80	74.29	203.21
Tamil Nadu	378.55	158.57	175.98	713.10	482.73	211.32	257.98	952.03	559.85	275.76	285.59	1121.20
Pondicherry	22.05	9.87	7.56	39.48	22.88	10.09	9.07	42.04	23.73	10.69	8.26	42.68
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.32	0.31	0.06	0.69	0.27	0.17	0.07	0.51	0.36	0.13	0.10	0.59
Lakshadweep	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	687.55	255.28	73.50	1016.33	754.00	286.26	96.22	1146.48	806.41	337.76	127.18	1271.35
Madhya Pradesh	586.44	347.95	49.13	983.52	617.72	393.25	55.30	1066.27	560.77	314.10	54.42	929.29
Chhattisgarh	163.35	63.14	20.98	247.47	230.36	96.87	35.04	362.27	237.39	99.40	39.95	376.74
Maharashtra	853.42	412.78	172.26	1438.46	954.04	526.74	258.43	1739.21	1072.89	578.02	287.12	1938.03
Rajasthan	563.42	204.79	10.62	778.62	541.85	203.14	16.33	361.32	616.67	230.11	19.04	865.82
Goa	2.79	1.55	1.76	6.10	2.55	1.48	1.73	5.76	2.59	1.50	1.76	5.85
Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.65	0.37	0.05	1.07	0.67	0.35	0.04	1.06	0.72	0.38	0.06	1.16
Haryana	768.27	237.68	15.94	1021.89	789.40	241.03	19.59	1050.02	854.40	268.85	25.20	1148.45

Punjab	1170.11	334.96	38.00	1543.07	1202.23	317.19	43.22	1562.64	1250.58	350.16	61.38	1662.12
Uttar Pradesh	2374.10	767.39	153.43	3294.92	2389.33	739.38	181.49	3310.20	2589.85	859.31	216.81	3665.97
Uttaranchal	93.38	28.13	11.42	132.93	84.99	21.24	7.64	113.87	90.45	24.56	10.70	125.71
Himachal Pradesh	30.91	8.71	7.19	46.81	30.69	8.53	7.03	46.25	30.56	9.07	7.55	47.18
Jammu and Kashmir	55.80	20.23	3.57	79.60	50.46	21.60	3.17	75.23	61.45	24.01	3.29	88.75
Delhi	1.08	0.49	0.01	1.58	0.54	0.02	0.00	0.56	0.63	0.14	0.00	0.77
Chandigarh	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bihar	623.58	45.85	25.67	695.10	618.80	70.90	41.98	731.68	690.08	147.68	112.76	950.52
Jharkhand	66.98	41.9	4.84	113.72	76.16	42.96	4.37	123.49	87.94	40.97	7.28	136.19
Orissa	210.07	66.64	49.50	326.21	223.54	77.99	53.77	355.30	255.74	89.46	68.17	413.37
West Bengal	581.96	304.18	230.08	1116.22	630.94	339.62	290.89	1261.45	646.87	397.08	317.28	1361.23
Assam	90.37	51.49	47.58	189.44	77.94	50.92	37.04	165.90	105.46	56.38	51.42	213.26
Tripura	7.49	2.70	2.38	12.57	9.33	2.58	1.53	13.44	9.83	3.31	2.64	15.78
Manipur	22.70	3.18	1.40	27.28	17.05	2.40	0.95	20.40	14.90	1.77	1.02	17.69
Meghalaya	2.73	1.83	0.16	4.72	2.85	1.90	0.18	4.93	3.21	1.99	0.25	5.45
Nagaland	0.33	0.25	0.1	0.68	0.31	0.22	0.07	0.60	0.33	0.23	0.08	0.64
Arunachal Pradesh	0.42	0.20	0.11	0.73	0.45	0.20	0.11	0.76	0.44	0.20	0.10	0.74
Sikkim	0.29	0.15	0.00	0.44	0.44	0.18	0.00	0.62	0.12	0.09	0.00	0.21
Mizoram	0.61	0.50	0.36	1.47	0.61	0.51	0.30	1.42	0.97	0.83	0.48	2.28
All India	11076.95	4124.28	1597.91	16799.14	11713.91	4623.79	2060.66	18398.36	12918.47	5276.77	2424.47	20619.71

N=Nitrogen, P=Phosphate, K=Potash.

Statement-II**Statement indicating Amount of Subsidy disbursed on Fertilizers**

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Amount of subsidy disbursed on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers	Amount of subsidy disbursed on urea	Total amount of subsidy disbursed
2003-04	3326.00	8521.00	11847.00
2004-05	5142.18	10737.06	15879.24
2005-06	6596.20	11878.24	18474.44
2006-07 (BE)	5749.00	11503.91	17252.91

Death of Animals in Delhi Zoo

4649. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) the details of wild animals that died in Delhi Zoo during the last three months;

(b) the details of the officials found responsible for the death of said animals; and

(c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to rectify the situation in the said zoo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Eight animals have died during the last 3 months in the National Zoological Park, New Delhi as per the details given below:—

— Mammals (6 Nos.): Adult Langur Grey-1, Adult Lechwee Red-1, Leopard Cat-1, Jaguar Cubs-2 and one Hippopotamus.

— Birds (2 Nos.): Black Swan-1 and Emu-1.

(b) and (c) Only two animals i.e. two Jaguar Cubs have died due to the negligence of the concerned animal keeper namely, Mr. Rampal. He has been placed under

suspension and disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against him.

To avoid such incidents, the animal keepers are regularly sensitized to improve their efficiency. They are also sent for training for upkeep of animals on regular basis. The veterinary doctor of the Zoo also takes two rounds of the animal houses to provide immediate medical aid, if required. Regular examination of faecal material, urine and blood of all the animals is carried out along with de-worming and vaccination of the animals. The staff and officers responsible for upkeep of the animals has been directed to make all out efforts to provide best care to the animals.

Price of Rice in International Market

4650. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production cost of rice in India in comparison with the main foreign countries;

(b) whether our farmers get the remunerative price of their rice in international market;

(c) if not, reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government made any efforts to provide remunerative prices to our farmers in the international market; 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) Per quintal cost of production of paddy in India, as projected by Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices for the year 2004-05 is Rs. 530.94. The cost of production of rice in other countries is not available.

(b) to (e) The annual average price of common variety of rice in the domestic market during 2004-05 was Rs. 968.00 per quintal. The price of Indian rice other than Basmati in international market, as estimated on the basis of value of the export of rice, has increased from Rs. 824.00 per quintal in 2003-04 to Rs. 1070.00 per quintal in 2004-05.

With a view to boost export of rice, benefit of which percolates down to farmers, Government has permitted export of rice under Open General License in the present Foreign Trade Policy.

[English]

Licensing for Television Channels

4651. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to link licensing for television channels to a single window clearance system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The permission to downlink the TV channels in India is granted by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as per the policy guidelines for downlinking of television channels. For downlinking of channels, no further licence is required and hence, it is under single window clearance.

The permission to uplink private satellite television channels from India is granted by this Ministry in accordance with the Guidelines for Uplinking from India.

On the basis of uplink permission, the applicant is further required to approach WPC Wing of Ministry of Communications and IT for WPC operational licence, so that the channel can be uplinked on the designated frequency. At present there is no proposal to link this licensing to a single window clearance system.

[Translation]

Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund

4652. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States alongwith locations where Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund Scheme has been introduced in the first phase; and

(b) the funds provided for the purpose, during the last three years and the current year, 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 TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The scheme has been introduced in all the States/Union Territories of the country. Out of the 13 components eligible for finance under the scheme, financial assistance is provided only in Non-Operation Flood areas for one component.

(b) This is a new and purely demand driven scheme. An amount of Rs. 15.80 crores has been released during 2005-06, for the first time, for implementation of the scheme throughout the country. There is a budget provision of Rs. 15.00 crore for the current year, 2006-07.

New Varieties of Bajra

4653. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed some new varieties of Bajra for rural dry land regions of the country;

(b) if so, the dry land regions where such varieties of bajra has been developed;

(c) whether any such variety has been developed in the drought-prone areas in any State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTERS OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has recently identified two new Bajra hybrids namely GHB 715 and GHB 719 for growing in rainfall scanty areas (less than 400 mm) of north-western parts of Rajasthan, parts of Haryana and Gujarat.

(b) and (c) These hybrids have been developed in drought prone areas of Gujarat at Millet Research Centre, Jamnagar under Junagarh Agricultural University, Junagarh.

(d) Hybrid GHB 715 has an average yield of 2448 kg./ha. and it has shown high level of downy mildew and drought resistance. It has synchronous tillering, bold grain size and attractive seed colour that would fetch better market price.

The hybrid GHB 719 has an average yield of 2406 kg./ha. with high level of downy mildew and drought resistance.

Both the above hybrids mature within 70 to 75 days and produce good dry fodder yield in the range of 45 to 50 q./ha.

Sale of Salt

4654. SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether different kinds of salt are being advertised and declared on television as the best salt available;

(b) if so, whether all the salts being so advertised are approved by the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons for allowing such misleading advertisements; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure supply of only approved quality salt to the public?

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

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRITASLIMUDDIN): (a) Under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme the Government has been advertising the use of only iodated salt for direct human consumption to overcome the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the country and not any particular brand of iodated salt.

(b) The Union Government have laid down standards of iodated salt under the prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and rules 1955.

(c) The manufacture of iodated salt is liberalized to the Private Sector also, therefore some of companies may sometimes overemphasize the quality of their product through TV advertisements.

(d) In order to ensure consumption of approved quality of iodated salt by the public, the same is being monitored by Salt Commissioner at manufacturing level and States/UTs health Directorate at consumption level both under IDD monitoring laboratory and Public Health Laboratory under the Prevention of Food adulteration Act, 1954.

[Translation]

Water Crisis

4655. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is incurring heavy expenditure to complete the projects as per recommendations of Parthasarathi Committee, constituted to remove the water crisis;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has recommended to spend Rs. 10 thousand crore in fifteen years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of rivers in the country at present whose average water level is decreasing; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to replenish the depleting water level of rivers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Department of Land Resources has informed that the Department is

implementing three watershed development programmes viz. Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) for drought proofing, desertification control and development of wastelands respectively. A Technical Committee (Parthasarathy Committee) was set up by the Ministry of Rural Development in February 2005 to review these programmes and to suggest recommendations for strengthening them. The Department of Land Resources has further informed that the Committee submitted its report on 31-3-2006 which inter alia has recommended for integration of all the watershed programmes presently being implemented by different Ministries and suggested an annual investment of Rs. 10,000 crore every year, over a period of fifteen years.

(d) The water level at various sites in the rivers vary from year to year depending on the flow resulting from rain during the monsoon period and snowmelt etc. The water level data do not indicate any specific falling trend.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Meeting

4656. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether five day 21st Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission meeting was held in India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed therein;

(c) whether India put forward any proposal in the meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the main decisions arrived thereat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Twenty First Session of Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission was held from 17-21 April, 2006 at Dehradun.

(b) The important subjects discussed in the meeting are as under:—

- (i) Progress towards sustainable forest management in the region.
- (ii) Financing sustainable forest management.
- (iii) The role of regional mechanisms in sustainable forest management.
- (iv) Payment for environmental services.
- (v) Forests and poverty reduction.
- (vi) Regional issues identified by the Commission for the attention of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).

(c) and (d) No Sir, however, India has made interventions keeping national interest and sovereignty into consideration.

(e) The main decisions arrived are as under:—

- (i) Inadequate financial resources were identified as key gap in achieving Sustainable Forest Management particularly in developing countries.
- (ii) Need to enhance financial resources were agreed at regional as well as national level.
- (iii) Exchange of information and technology transfer for achieving Sustainable Forest Management in the region.
- (iv) Innovative mechanism should be developed to explore new and additional financial resources for achieving Sustainable Forest Management at National level.
- (v) Regional forestry commission should play role in establishing linkages between global and national level.

Setting up of Lion Safari

4657. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given clearance for setting up of a lion safari as a tourist attraction in Etawah, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places from where lions for this safari are proposed to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Zoo Authority has approved establishment of a Lion Safari at Etawah by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh subject to compliance of following conditions by the State Government and orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India:—

- (1) To begin with the State Government will initially create a conservation breeding centre for Asiatic Lions alongwith proposed Lion Safari Park at Etawah. Once a population of more than 10 lions is obtained in the breeding centre, the Safari will be made operational by releasing a pride comprising of 5 to 7 lions (i.e. either a group comprising of 1 male and four females or 2 males and 5 females) in the safari for display to the visitors.
- (2) The State Government shall sanction the requisite number of personnel to operate the conservation breeding centre and the Lion Safari at Etawah without appropriating posts from the existing Zoos.
- (3) The State Government shall make provision for necessary funds for creation of the conservation breeding centre and the lion safari as well as for the future maintenance of both these establishments on professional grounds.
- (4) The animal enclosure design and the display area shall be as per the prescribed Rules and guidelines of the Central Zoo Authority.
- (5) Once the Lion Safari is ready for operation, it shall be opened to visitors only after getting prior recognition from the Central Zoo Authority under Section 38H of the Wild Life (Protection) Act.
- (6) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh shall create a separate Fund for the management of the zoos being operated by them. Adequate budgetary allocation shall be made by the

government to take care of the upkeep and health care of the animals in these zoos as well as for the modernisation of the zoos in time bound manner.

- (7) The State Government shall sanction the requisite number of posts including Veterinary Officer, Curators in existing zoos.
- (8) The trained personnel shall be posted in all the zoos as per the Norms laid under the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992.
- (9) Frequent transfers of the Director/In-charge of zoos, veterinary officer and supervisory level staff shall not be made. They shall be allowed to continue in the zoo for longer tenures.

Recognition to Lion Safari, Etawah under Section 38H of the Wild Life (Protection) Act shall be considered only after compliance of the above said conditions and evaluation of the Safari at that point of time.

(c) The State Government proposes to acquire Asiatic lions from the Indian Zoos through exchange programmes.

Sale of Foodgrain in Open Market

4658. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat and rice released by the Food Corporation of India in the open market during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the factors influencing the operation cost of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the price at which wheat and rice were sold in the open market and the price at which the same was exported alongwith the subsidy given by the Government thereon during the last three years and the current year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The quality

of wheat sold in open market under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) [OMSS (D)] during the last three years has been as under:—

Year		Qty. (lakh MT)
2003-04	—	9.23
2004-05	—	2.39
2005-06	—	10.50
Total	—	22.12

Stocks of old, procured under relaxed specifications (URS) and 'D' category rice which are not acceptable to the States under the Targeted Public Distribution and Other Welfare Schemes are sold on open market by the FCI through tenders from time to time. The quantity of such stocks of rice tendered during the last three year was as under:—

Year		Qty. (lakh MT)
2003-04	—	83,610
2004-05	—	20,341
2005-06	—	5,219
Total	—	1,09,170

(b) and (c) Factors influencing the Economic Cost of foodgrains including the operation cost are regularly reviewed and steps as required are taken to contain the cost of the foodgrains.

(d) Prices fixed for disposal of wheat under the OMSS (D) during the last three years are given in the statement at statement-I Stocks of rice were sold through tenders at and above the cut off prices decided by High Level Committee (HLC) of the FCI on the basis of rates received in the respective tenders. Prices fixed for sale of rice and wheat for export purpose during the last three years are given in statement at statement-II.

The food subsidy released in respect of foodgrains sold under Open Sale and Exports during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Subsidy released (Rs. in crore)	
	Open Sale*	Exports
2003-04	801.57	4153.11
2004-05	397.05	981.03
2005-06	121.37	14.55#

* The figures include subsidy released in respect of coarse grains.

This amount is in respect of Arrears released to the FCI this year for foodgrains sold during past years.

Statement-I

Statement showing the prices fixed for sale of wheat under OMSS (D) during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06

Period	Price-range* (Rs. per Quintal) for the stocks pertaining to categories/crop-years								
	LLW (2001-02) 'C' and 'D' cat	1998-99 and earlier	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2003-04									
April, 2003#	610-685	650-725	680-755	700-775	710-785	720-795			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
May-June, 2003#	610-685	650-725	680-755	700-775	710-785	720-795	770-845		
July-2003 to March, 2004	610-685	660-735	700-775	720-795	730-805	740-815	770-845		
2004-05									
April,-June 2004	610-685	660-735	700-775	720-795	730-805	740-815	770-845		
July,04 to March 2005	610-685	660-735	700-775	720-795	730-805	740-815	790-865	800.875	
2005-06									
April,-June 05	610-685	660-735	700-775	720-795	730-805	740-815	790-865	800-875	
July-Sept. 05	610-685	660-735	700-775	720-795	730-805	740-815	790-865	800.875	815.890
October-Dec. 05	620-764	670-814	710-854	730-874	740-884	750-894	800-944	810.954	825.969
January-March, 2006	620-799	670-849	710-889	730-909	740-919	750-979	800-979	810.984	825.1004

* Minimum of the Price-range is the price applicable to Punjab and Haryana and the maximum, the price applicable to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

There was no sale of Luster Lost Wheat [LLW] (2001-02)/C and D cat. wheat in April, 2003, May 2003 and June, 2003 till 23rd June, 2003.

No wheat is being sold under OMSS (D) since April, 2006, hence no price w.e.f. April, 2006.

Statement-II

Statement showing prices of rice and wheat for disposal for export purpose.

Period	Price of (Rs. per MT) for the crop-years					
	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rice 2003-04						
April-June, 2003 Parboiled				6665 #	6915	
Raw				6360 #	6610	
July-December 2003						
Parboiled	7250	7300	7350	7425	7500	
Raw	7050	7600	7650	7725	7300	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2004-05									
January-March, 04									
Parboiled		7550	7600	7650	7725	7800			
Raw		7350	7400	7450	7525	7600			
2004-05									
March-June, 04									
Parboiled		7550	7600	7650	7725	7800			
Raw		7250	7400	7450	7525	7600			
July-December, 04									
Parboiled		8600*	8600	8600	8600	8600			
Raw		8600*	8600	8600	8600	8600			
Wheat 2003-04									
April-June, 03									
July-September, 03		4510	4910	5110	5110	5250	5550		
October-December, 03		4985*	5385	5585	5585	5725	6025		
January-March, 2004		5485*	5885	6085	6085	6225	6525		
2004-05 April-June, 2004		5485*	5885	6085	6085	6225	6525		
July-December, 04		5700*	6100	6300	6400	6500	7000		

* This was also the price fixed for sale of the stocks pertaining to crop-years prior to 1998-99.

This was also the price fixed for sale of stocks pertaining to crop-years prior to 2001-02.

No. Price for sale of rice and wheat for export has been fixed since January, 2005. However the prices fixed for rice and wheat released under aid/WFP w.e.f. January, 2005 are as under:—

(Price Rs. per MT)

Period	Rice		Wheat
	Parboiled	Raw	
January, to June, 2005	13,600	13,100	9,350
July 2005 to March, 2006	13,376	12,856	10,223

Quality of Imported Wheat

4659. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

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

(a) whether the wheat imported from Australia by the Union Government contained high level of pesticide residue and was rejected as 'not fit for human consumption;

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

(c) the action being taken by the Government to return the said wheat to the exporters; and

(d) the action taken against the officers held responsible for the lapse?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Food Laboratory (CFTRI) Mysore in its initial analysis of a sample, which as informed by the State Trading Corporation was drawn from the surface layer of the imported wheat, immediately on opening of the hatches, had reported residues of one pesticide "Fenitrothion", to be in excess of the prescribed limit. However, the analysis by the CFTRI of the composite sample taken from the consignment as per the prescribed sampling procedure, found that the presence of the same pesticide "Fenitrothion", was only 0.01 mg./kg. (ppm), as against the prescribed limit of 0.02 mg./kg. (ppm), thus falling well within the Maximum Residue Limit provided under the PFA Act 1954.

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

[Translation]

Technical Know-How in Agriculture

4660. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains worth thousands of crores of rupees go waste due to lack of technical know-how to the farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide appropriate technical know-how regarding agriculture technology to the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said know-how is likely to be provided to the farmers?

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

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) A substantial quantity of foodgrains is lost in standing crops, during process of harvesting and post harvesting operations because of pests, mechanical losses etc. Technologies are available for minimizing grain losses. For transfer of foodgrains related technologies to farmers, the Central Government is implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals) under Macro management of Agriculture. Further, a separate Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPCM) is under implementation for supporting dissemination of technologies related to these crops. A Central Sector Scheme on Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanisation through Training, Testing and Demonstration is being implemented for transfer of technologies on farm mechanization to minimize grain loss during harvesting and threshing. Under the scheme Front Line Demonstrations, Field Demonstrations and Trainings are organized for proper use of different machineries for harvesting and threshing of crops.

[English]

Production by Remote Sensing

4661. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether projects like Crop Acreage and Production Estimates (CAPE) and Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space Agro Meteorology and Land-based observation (FASAL) in coordination with the Department of Space for authentic forecasting of agricultural production by remote sensing is proposed by the Government;

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

(c) the details of the funds incurred on such projects and progress made thereunder so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The project 'Crop Acreage and Production Estimates' (CAPE) was initiated during the Seventh Five Year Plan by the Ministry of Agriculture. The project is implemented since 1988 by Space Application Centre, Department of Space with the objective of estimating Crop acreage and yield using Remote Sensing (RS) techniques at least one month before the actual harvesting of the crops. The project is fully funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and executed under the overall technical guidance of the Department of Space, with the help of State Remote Sensing Application Centres (SRSAC's), State Departments of Agriculture (SDA's), Directorate/ Bureau of Economics and Statistics (DES's) and State Agriculture Universities (SAU's). An amount of Rs. 23.89 crores has been released for CAPE to the Department of Space, since its inception upto 2005-06.

CAPE project has successfully demonstrated national level forecast of wheat and Kharif rice, in addition to making districts level pre-harvest production forecasting of six other crops in their major growing regions in the country using RS technology and other auxiliary information.

The scheme of 'Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based Observations (FASAL) has been approved by the Government of India in May, 2006. The project aims at multiple in-session forecasting of crop area and production at National and State level. It seeks to develop technology for eleven crops, namely, Rice (Kharif and Rabi), Jowar (Kharif and Rabi), Maize, Bajra (Kharif), Jute, Ragi, Cotton, Sugarcane, Groundnut (Kharif and Rabi), Rapeseed/Mustard and Wheat. FASAL seeks to strengthen the current capabilities of early and in-season crop estimation procedures using econometric and weather based techniques with remote sensing applications. Mid-season assessments can be supplemented with multi-temporal coarse resolution data based analysis. Direct contribution of RS estimate of acreage and yield forecasts would be available for the

latter half of crop growth period, which when supplemented with extensive field information and weather inputs, would increase the forecast accuracy.

No expenditure has been incurred on FASAL project so far. Once implemented, FASAL will encompass the existing CAPE project.

Coaching-cum-Guidance Centre for SCs/STs

4662. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has set up coaching-cum-guidance centre for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of setting up of such centres;

(c) the details of such centres functioning in various States including Orissa; and

(d) the details of physical achievements of such centres during 2004-05 and 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has so far set up 22 Coaching-cum-Guidance Centers for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes one each at Aizwal, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hissar, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Jalandhar, Jammu, Jowai, Kanpur, Kohima, Kolkata, Mandi, Nagpur, Ranchi, Surat and Thiruvananthapuram for enhancing the employability of educated unemployed SC/ST youth registered with the Employment Exchanges, through Vocational Guidance, Coaching and Training.

(d) Details of physical achievements of Coaching-cum-Guidance Centres for SC/STs during 2004-05 and 2005-06, are given in statement-I and statement-II respectively.

Statement-I

Physical Achievements for the Year 2004-05

Name of the Coaching-cum-Guidance Centres	Registration Guidance	Placement related guidance	No. of Confidence Building programme organized	No. of candidates attended Confidence Building programme	No. of old cases reviewed	No. of career Talks Arranged	No. of career Talks attended	No. of Recruitment Training Programme organised	No. of candidates attended Pre-Recruitment Training programme	No. of candidates trained under Typing/ Shorthand	No. of candidates imparted Computer Training
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bangalore	2922	1814	53	624	302	183	749	—	—	546	40
Calcutta	—	901	41	1977	150	15	1261	34	1409	1646	40
Delhi	763	1840	48	425	338	12	177	13	177	711	40
Guwahati	80	418	12	125	38	12	118	2	24	71	40
Hissar	687	1871	48	224	352	48	190	—	—	336	40
Hyderabad	2345	3622	48	894	319	58	749	6	80	471	40
Imphal	187	394	4	39	156	—	—	—	—	269	—
Jabalpur	428	827	48	341	321	10	152	—	—	430	40
Jaipur	1719	4202	48	484	339	46	298	2	2	2607	40
Kanpur	197	2276	54	841	452	90	1197	9	392	1019	—
Kohima	686	396	—	—	272	—	—	1	42	82	—
Chennai	3679	3611	48	861	306	40	415	—	—	221	40

Mandi	538	1073	46	378	360	63	578	—	—	217	—
Nagpur	2310	2813	75	803	334	70	824	1	95	1993	40
Ranchi	16	518	13	205	143	12	267	—	—	832	—
Bhubneswar	1425	1338	41	550	299	—	—	—	—	—	40
Surat	371	2884	58	467	338	52	530	—	—	266	40
Trivandrum	532	10969	217	8040	380	42	1514	17	654	842	—
Jowai	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aizwal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu	39	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jalandhar	302	235	5	44	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	19226	42027	907	17322	5235	753	9019	85	2875	12559	480

Statement-II**Physical Achievements for the Year 2005-06**

Name of the Coaching-cum-Guidance Centres	Registration Guidance	Placement related Guidance	No. of Confidence Building Programme organized	No. of candidates attended Confidence Building programme	No. of old cases reviewed	No. of Career Talks Arranged	No. of career Talks attended	No. of Recruitment Training organised	No. of candidates attended Pre Recruitment Training programme	No. of candidates trained under Typing/ Shorthand	No. of candidates imparted Computer Training
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Bangalore	2529	1969	63	888	300	253	1382	1	49	502	37
Calcutta	—	1367	69	2439	58	28	1498	23	599	1431	37
Delhi	—	1991	48	403	355	13	247	15	294	923	37
Guwahati	149	512	7	74	7	9	85	3	107	74	37
Hissar	660	4485	48	244	363	50	370	—	—	343	37
Hyderabad	1675	4546	48	807	408	50	1070	—	—	660	37
Imphal	284	543	1	50	216	—	—	—	—	326	—
Jabalpur	433	1207	48	561	522	3	119	3	66	889	37
Jaipur	1880	4226	48	448	257	50	283	4	18	384	37
Kanpur	334	4214	63	918	749	114	1545	12	412	777	37
Kohima	416	323	—	—	193	—	—	—	—	5	—
Chennai	4185	938	43	659	347	38	491	5	260	269	37
Mandi	533	1468	38	297	298	76	749	—	—	228	—

Nagpur	1214	1649	60	648	335	63	658	—	—	1749	37
Ranchi	2	530	17	309	192	20	358	4	60	1016	—
Bhubneswar	2842	1583	48	976	312	—	—	—	—	—	37
Surat	453	793	52	447	342	54	442	—	—	363	37
Trivandrum	634	11875	228	8061	522	46	1636	14	655	889	37
Jowai	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aizwal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu	320	387	23	168	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jalandhar	1327	603	9	64	14	22	81	—	—	—	—
Total	19570	45209	961	18461	5826	889	11014	84	2520	10825	518

[Translation]

**Misappropriation of Fodder
Development Amount**

4663. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by each State under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on assistance to State Feed and Fodder Development during the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government is aware of the misappropriation of this amount by some of the States;

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

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

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) The State-wise information on the utilization of funds released under the scheme during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The Government is not aware of any misappropriation of funds by any of the States. The scheme is monitored regularly for the utilization of funds on the basis of Utilization Certificates submitted by the States.

Statement

The amount released and spent by each State under Centrally Sponsored Feed and Fodder Development Scheme during last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount released				Amount utilized
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	19.80	19.80	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	99.00	—	99.00	—
3.	Assam	—	68.35	—	68.35	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	25.00	—	25.00	—
5.	Gujarat	—	—	155.57	155.57	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2.00	5.00	100.00	107.00	107.00
7.	Jharkhand	—	150.00	—	150.00	—
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	58.40	58.40	—
9.	Karnataka	25.00	9.50	100.00	134.50	21.32
10.	Kerala	—	90.00	—	90.00	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Maharashtra	8.44	46.53	—	54.97	6.44
12.	Mizoram	39.53	112.50	100.00	252.03	152.03
13.	Nagaland	27.58	112.50	120.50	260.58	260.58
14.	Punjab	—	—	129.82	129.82	—
15.	Rajasthan	40.00	26.32	37.02	103.34	67.02
16.	Sikkim	—	57.65	110.00	167.65	—
17.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	24.00	24.00	—
18.	Tripura	57.46	50.00	40.25	147.71	88.12
19.	Uttar Pradesh	—	337.66	37.03	374.69	336.68
20.	Uttaranchal	—	—	90.00	90.00	—
21.	West Bengal	—	—	40.00	40.00	—

[English]

**Information System for
Water Related Data**

4664. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish an information system on water related data at State/National level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) A Hydrological Information System (HIS) was established in nine states and six central agencies under Hydrology Project Phase-I (HP-I) taken up during 1995-2003. Hydrology Project Phase-II (HP-II) has been taken up as a follow on of HP-I.

(b) and (c) HP-I was implemented by nine States and six Central Agencies. These states are Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and

the Central Agencies are Central Water Commission (CWC), Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) and Ministry of Water Resources. The project cost (as implemented) for HP-I was Rs. 605.28 crores.

During HP-I Hydrological Information System (HIS) to provide reliable, comprehensive and timely hydrological and hydro meteorological data was created. Under this system 916 river gauge stations, 7912 observation wells and 436 hydro meteorological stations for collecting surface and ground water data were set up/upgraded. A number of Data processing and storage centers equipped with specialized computer facility were established. Sophisticated equipments, computers were provided and new buildings and water quality laboratories established. Institutional strengthening with technical assistance and training was also provided under the project.

HP-II is a follow-on of Hydrology Project Phase-I. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 631.83 crores. The objectives of the project are to extend HIS in the four new state agencies of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab,

Goa and Pondicherry and two new central agencies of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB); extend and promote the sustained and effective use of Hydrological Information System (HIS) by the implementing agencies for water resource planning and management; strengthening the capabilities of implementing agencies in data utilization for water resources planning and management; and providing Awareness building and out reach services about HIS use. Thus the total implementing agencies in HP-II are 13 states/UTs and 8 Central Agencies. The project is proposed to be implemented over a period of six years.

The Hydrology Project Phase-I (HP-I) was completed in December 2003. HP-II has been launched in April, 2006 and is under implementation.

**Protection of Interest of Smaller
Milk Producers**

4665. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smaller milk producers are largely affected due to the marketing practices resorted to by the two leading co-operative giants as reported in "Economic Times" dated February 13, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the interest of smaller milk producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Economic Times report of 13 February 2006 mentions that small private players (and not small milk producers) are being affected in Ahmedabad due to milk war unleashed by two cooperative giants, namely, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation and National Dairy Development Board. While both these giants procure milk from small producers in Gujarat for marketing in Ahmedabad, the private dairies (small private players) normally procure milk through middlemen.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Adarsh Machhuara Aawas Yojana

4666. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses provided to States under the Adarsh Machhuara Aawas Yojana during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the budget provision made for the purpose during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether the State Government provide their 50 per cent share with ease;

(d) if not, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) the reasons for not providing 100 per cent grant by the Union Government?

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) During the first four years (2002-06) of the 10th Five Year Plan, 51550 fishers houses have been sanctioned to various States/UT's under the "Development of Model Fishermen Villages" component of the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen.

(b) The outlay approved for the National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) is Rs. 120 crore. The Central assistance is extended to the States/UT's on receipt of proposals alongwith confirmation of availability of matching share and progress in utilization of funds released under the scheme earlier and there is no State-wise allocation of funds under the scheme as such.

(c) to (e) As per approved funding pattern of the scheme for the Tenth Plan, the Central and State Governments share cost of construction of fishermen houses on 50:50 basis. However, in case of Union Territories, entire cost is borne by the Central Government. Fishery is a State subject and participation of State Governments is necessary.

[Translation]

Dams on River Yamuna

4667. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to construct some dams on river Yamuna;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government on the completion of dams?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Kishau dam, Lakhwar Vyasi and Renuka dam are envisaged for construction by the State Governments of Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh in the upstream reaches of river Yamuna. Kishau dam and Lakhwar Vyasi projects are in the stage of modification/

revision of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and various statutory/administrative clearances are yet to be obtained. Kishau dam is proposed as a concrete dam on river Tons, a tributary of Yamuna near village Samberkhera in Uttaranchal. Proposed Lakhwar Vyasi project, near village Lakhwar in Uttaranchal State comprises of two concrete dams on river Yamuna. Renuka dam project was accepted by the Advisory Committee in its 72nd meeting subject inter-alia to Environmental and Forests clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests which is yet to be obtained by the State Government. Renuka dam is proposed to be a rockfill dam on river Giri, a tributary of Yamuna.

(c) Water being a State subject, water resources projects are primarily planned, investigated, constructed and funded by the State Governments themselves as per their own priorities and resources. The estimated cost of the projects as estimated by the State Governments is below:—

(i) Kishau Dam	—	Rs. 3566 Crores	(As per December 1998 estimate)
(ii) Lakhwar Vyasi	—	Rs. 3694 Crores	(As per 2004 estimate)
(iii) Renuka Dam	—	Rs. 1224.64 Crores	(As per May, 1997 estimate)

[English]

Farmers Commission Report on Crisis In Agriculture

4668. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether latest report of the Farmers Commission points to a major "crisis" in agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details of the reports alongwith action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The latest Report submitted by National Commission on farmers to the Government essentially deals with the Draft National Policy for Farmers and

National Agricultural Biosecurity System. The recommendations made by the Commission are under examination.

Import of Wheat from Australia

4669. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether first consignment of duty free wheat being imported from Australia has reached India;

(b) if so, the total quantity received so far; and

(c) the quantum out of the above supplied to the Southern States alongwith the price thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b)

Against the contract for import of 5.00 lakh MTs of wheat through State Trading Corporation, two vessels containing 50,855 MTs and 41,261 MTs of wheat have arrived at Chennai and Tuticorin Ports, respectively. Till 18-5-2006 a quantity of 73,494 MTs of wheat stands discharged from both the vessels.

(c) The above quantity is presently being shifted to the FCI godowns of the Southern States, for supplies under the TPDS and other Welfare Schemes at the Government notified prices, relevant for the scheme.

Offices of FCI

4670. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of zonal, regional and district offices of Food Corporation of India (FCI) located in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the storage capacity of FCI has increased over the years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the FCI has offered Voluntary Retirement Scheme to its staff inspite of the increase in its storage capacity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the facilities offered to the staff availing voluntary retirement offer?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The details

of number of Zonal, Regional and District Offices of Food Corporation of India (FCI), State-wise, are given in statement-I.

(b) and (c) The storage capacity, in fact, has decreased during the last 3-4 years due to decline in the stock levels. The total storage capacity has come down from 358.40 lakh tonnes (as on 01-04-2002) to 255.56 lakh tonnes (as on 01-04-2006).

The details of total storage capacity as on 1st April, 2002 onwards are given as under:—

As on	Total storage capacity (Fig. in Lakh tonnes)
01-04-2002	358.40
01-04-2003	317.34
01-04-2004	272.37
01-04-2005	260.31
01-04-2006	255.56

(d) and (e) With a view to reduce to establishment cost and rationalization of manpower, the FCI had introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) on 29th June, 2004 valid for a period of three months.

In all, a total of 8777 employees availed of the Scheme.

The details and facilities offered to the Staff under Voluntary Retirement Scheme are given in statement-II.

Statement-I

The details of number of Zonal, Regional and District Offices of Food Corporation of India (State-wise), are as under

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of Zonal Offices	Numbr of Regional Offices	Number of District Offices
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	1	15

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	01
3.	Assam	1	1	09
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	01
5.	Bihar	—	1	12
6.	Chhattisgarh	—	1	03
7.	Chandigarh	—	—	01
8.	Delhi	—	1	02
9.	Goa	—	—	01
10.	Gujarat	—	1	03+1*
11.	Haryana	—	1	05
12.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1	02
13.	Jharkhand	—	1	02
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	1	02
15.	Karnataka	—	1	05
16.	Kerala	—	1	09
17.	Madhya Pradesh	—	1	07
18.	Maharashtra	1	1	06
19.	Manipur	—	—	01
20.	Meghalaya	—	1	01
21.	Mizoram	—	—	01
22.	Nagaland	—	1	01
23.	Orissa	—	1	07
24.	Punjab	—	1	11
25.	Rajasthan	—	1	08
26.	Sikkim	—	—	01
27.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	06

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Tripura	—	—	01
29.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	19
30.	Uttaranchal	—	1	03
31.	West Bengal	1	1	19
Total		5	23	165+1 (PO)

*Port Office at Adipur.

Statement-II

The details of the facilities offered to the Officers and Staff of the Food Corporation of India, under Voluntary Retirement Scheme are under

- (i) The compensation consisted of salary of 35 days for every completed year of service and 25 days for every balance year of the service left until superannuation. The part of the year served/remaining part of service was entitled for ex-gratia on pro-rata basis. The compensation was to be subject to a minimum of Rs. 25,000/- or 250 days salary whichever is higher. However, this compensation was not to exceed the sum of the salary that the employee would have drawn at the prevailing level for the balance of the period of service left before superannuation.
- (ii) Salary for the purpose of Voluntary Retirement Scheme consisted of Basic Pay and DA only.
- (iii) The compensation under VRS was in addition to terminal benefits.
- (iv) The salary for VRS was calculated on the basis of 30 days in a month.
- (v) The services rendered in other Public Sector Enterprises could be considered for the purpose of computation of benefit under VRS provided M.D. had permitted counting of past service as per Staff Regulations.

- (vi) Travelling Allowance for the employee and family was admissible to the place where he/she intended to settle down after taking RS. This also included transportation cost of personal effects and travelling cost of self and family members, as per the entitled class.
- (vii) The payments of compensation of VRS was subject to provisions of Income Tax Act beyond Rs. 5.00 lakh.

Indo-US Agreement

4671. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and US at a meeting in February, 2006 have finalized an ambitious work plan for the Indo-US knowledge institute on agriculture;
- (b) if so, whether under this agreement the Government will spent Rs. 350 crore in a phased manner over three years;
- (c) if so, whether US investment is yet to be determined;
- (d) if so, whether US has agreed and are preparing a work plan to allow the US to emerge as a directing force in the areas of human resources and institutional capacity, agri processing and marketing; 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) India and US at a meeting in February, 2006 have finalized a work plan for the Indo-US knowledge initiative on Agriculture.

(b) Under this agreement the Government has provided a budget of Rupees five Crore during 2006-07.

(c) The US investment is US \$ 8 million for 2006-07.

(d) The agreed work plan covers joint research, education and training activities benefiting both the countries in the priority areas.

(e) The joint research, education and training activities cover four priority areas, namely (i) human resource development including learning resources, curriculum development, (ii) food processing, use of bio-product and bio-fuels, (iii) biotechnology and (iv) water management.

[Translation]

Market Price of G.M.B.T. Cotton

4672. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the market price of Genetically Modified B.T. Cotton and the difference in the price at which it is made available to the farmers;

(b) whether prices of Genetically Modified B.T. Cotton in India is higher vis-a-vis other countries;

(c) whether several States have lodged complaints against the company with Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission regarding its prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) has approved B.T. Cotton hybrid seeds for commercial cultivation in the country. Retail Price of B.T. Cotton hybrid seed ranges from Rs. 1245 to 1422 for a packet of 450 grams.

(b) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has filed a case before Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission against the Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd. (MMBL) for charging high price for B.T. Cotton seeds. MRTP Commission in their interim order dated 11th May, 2006 have directed M/s. MMBL not to charge trait value of Rs. 900 for a packet of 450 grams of Bt. Cotton seed and to fix the reasonable trait value within one month.

[English]

Clearance to Thermal Power Project

4673. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental clearance has been given to the Nagarjun Thermal Power Project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving the clearance inspite of earlier objections;

(c) whether clearance has been given on the assumption that it would use only high sulphur content imported coal; and

(d) whether the plant will require an imported high cost desulphurisation plant which will increase the cost of generation?

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

(b) The proposal was accorded environmental clearance based on the appraisal and recommendation of the Expert Committee.

(c) While according environmental clearance to this project, it has been stipulated that the sulphur content in the coal shall not exceed 0.8%.

(d) The State Pollution Control Board in their NOC for this project had stipulated for installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) plant which has also been reiterated by this Ministry while according environmental clearance for this project.

[Translation]

Prices of Cotton

4674. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of cotton have fallen due to unexpectedly high production of cotton during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme to procure the crop from farmers through an agency so as to provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers for their produce;

(c) if so, whether any such agency has made procurement of cotton in the cotton producing States, particularly Maharashtra;

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

(e) if not, the reason therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure

that cotton growers are provided with MSP for their produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. As against the Monthly Average Wholesale Price Index of Raw Cotton for the year 2004-05 (average of six months from November 2004 to April 2005) of 143.8, the corresponding Index for 2005-06 (average of six months from November 2005 to April 2006) has increased to 146.4.

(b) to (f) The Government of India have authorized the Cotton Corporation of India, to undertake procurement of Cotton (Kapas) of the approved varieties from the Cotton growing farmers in the concerned States, under the Price Support Operations. The NAFED, was also authorised to conduct procurement operations under the MSP in Punjab during 2005-06.

The details of procurement undertaken by the two Central agencies are shown in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Procurement of Kapas under MSP during 2005-06 upto 15-05-2006 undertaken by Cotton Corporation of India

State	Branch	Variety	MSP (in Rs. per quintal)	Procurement made in quintals	Ruling Kapas rates per quintal	
					High	Low
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab	Bhatinda	J-34	1835	265266	—	—
State Total				265266		
Haryana	Sirsa	J-34	1800	21794	—	—
State Total				21794		
Rajasthan	Sriganganagar	J-34	1760	319029	2050	1990
	Bhilara	J-34	1760	30472	—	—
State Total				349501		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gujarat	Ahmadabad	S-6	1985	958706	—	—
	Rajkot	S-6	1985	458514	2220	1750
		V-797	1640	4086	1750	1635
State Total				1421308		
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	BB	2010	184	—	—
		H-4	1980	489454	2051	1980
		LRA	1835	87977	—	—
State Total				577615		
Maharashtra	Akola	H-4	1980	335288	2051	1960
		LRA	1835	185336	1811	1775
		NHH	1700	150285	1675	1675
	Aurangabad	H-4	1980	475453	1991	1955
		LRA	1835	286392	1800	1766
		NHH	1675	24392	1700	1654
State Total				1457146		
Orissa	Rayagada	BB	2010	32047	1798	1755
State Total				32047		
Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad	BB	2010	12757	—	—
		H-4	1980	416833	1900	1750
		LRA	1835	73166	1800	1600
		NHH	1675	2011	1646	1450
	Warangal	BB	2010	192896	2050	1936
	Guntur	BB	2010	1121320	2000	1911
State Total				1818983		
Karnataka	Hubli	BB	2010	1360	—	—
		LRA	1835	6071	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Jaydhar	1640	616197	1579	1573
	Raichur	H-4	1980	12768	1980	1955
		LRA	1835	376	1966	1950
		Jaydhar	1640	4352	1588	1553
State Total				641124		
Grand Total (In quintals)				6584782		
Grand Total (Equivalent to Unit Bales)				12,47,727		

Source: Cotton Corporation of India, Mumbai.

*Procurement of Kapas under MSP during 2005-06
undertaken by National Agricultural Cooperative
Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)*

State	Variety	MSP (in Rs. per quintal)	Procurement made in quintals
Punjab	J-34	1835	38355

Source: National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing of India Limited.

[English]

Retrenchment of Workers

4675. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey conducted by the Labour Bureau has revealed that retrenchment of workers during the past few years have shown an upward trend in comparison to previous years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any further steps to check retrenchment of workers; 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) As per the information provided by the Labour Bureau, Shimla, no consistent trend is observed in the number of workers retrenched in the past few years. A statement on the number of workers retrenched during the last 5 years is in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Retrenchment of workers by employers is governed by the provisions contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Appropriate safeguards exist under the Act to protect the interests of the workers affected by retrenchment.

Statement

Year	No. of workers retrenched
2001	3668
2002	3875
2003	2911
2004	2944
2005 (P)	1943

Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla.

P: Provisional.

[Translation]

Yield of Grapes

4676. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the yield of the varieties of grapes developed by Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) is 140 quintal per hectare;

(b) if so, whether the ICAR has recommended to promote the cultivation of grapes based on these developed varieties in non-traditional areas and regions of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether after carrying out the cultivation of these developed varieties of grapes in the non-traditional regions of the country will not only be self-reliant but its dependency on the import of grapes will also come to an end; 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 yield of grape varieties developed/introduced by ICAR ranges from 200 to 250 quintals/ha.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A newly evolved colour juice grape variety Pusa Navrang and introduced table grape variety Thompson Seedless and its mutant 'Tas-A-Ganesh' are highly productive on farmers' fields. 'Pusa Navrang' has shown very good performance in non-traditional area of Rajnandgaon of Chhattisgarh. These varieties are cultivated commercially in drought prone areas on Dogridge rootstock. Other exotic cultivars like Flame Seedless, Red Globe, Crimson Seedless and Italia, introduced by ICAR to meet out the consumers' demands of more coloured, bold and flavoured new grapes have shown promise with respect to yield and quality at the National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune and other stations in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, a part of Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Introduced variety Red Globe is being promoted for large scale cultivation to meet out the domestic demand including off-season, so that the present import of this variety from other countries could be minimized. The grape varieties developed/introduced by ICAR perform well in both traditional and non-traditional areas on Dogridge rootstock. The introduced cultivars include export quality varieties from different countries. The cultivation of these developed/introduced cultivars in traditional and non-traditional areas will make our country self-reliant in grapes and grape products.

[English]

Cotton Cultivation in Non-traditional States

4677. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking steps to develop cotton cultivation in the Non-traditional States;

(b) if so, the names of Non-traditional States where some areas are suitable for cotton cultivation;

(c) whether any step has been taken to identify such areas in Orissa where the climatic conditions are suitable for cotton cultivation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to bring additional areas under cotton cultivation in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is promoting cultivation of cotton under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton in 13 states including three non-traditional States viz. West Bengal, Tripura and Orissa.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Cotton is grown in the districts of Rayagada, Kalahandi Bolangir, Ganjam and Nuapada, which are suitable cotton growing districts. These are major cotton growing districts of the State of Orissa.

(e) In order to increase area and production of cotton in these States, assistance is provided for various components like transfer of production technologies through demonstrations and training of farmers and extension workers as well as supply of critical input like seeds, sprayers, pheromone traps, bio-agents, sprinklers and drip systems under Mini Mission-II Technology Mission on Cotton.

[Translation]

Supply of Water to Delhi from River Yamuna

4678. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of water demanded from the Union Government/Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) by the Government of Delhi from river Yamuna during the last three years;

(b) the quantity of water made available by the Union Government/UYRB to Delhi from River Yamuna during the said period;

(c) whether the said quantity is commensurate to the demand;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there has been major increase in the demand of water; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Sharing of the waters of upper Yamuna i.e. Yamuna from its origin and upto Okhla barrage near Delhi, is governed by an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed amongst the basin States on 12th May, 1994, wherein Delhi has been allocated an annual share of 724 Million Cubic Metres (MCM). The supply to Delhi is further governed by an order dated 29th February, 1996 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Therefore, Delhi does not make a quantitative demand in the form of an indent, and the supply to Delhi from Yamuna system is governed in accordance with the aforesaid MoU and Hon'ble Supreme Court Orders.

(b) The combined capacity of the Water treatment

Plants that are run from Yamuna waters is 310 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) which is equivalent to 514 Million Cubic Metres (MCM) per year. Barring occasional fluctuations or breakdowns in the system, the supply to Delhi is maintained as ordered by Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) As the Government of Delhi do not make quantitative demand for Yamuna waters, the question does not arise.

(e) There has not been any major increase in demand of water from river Yamuna.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Agriculture Technology Management Agencies

4679. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken certain steps to make Krishi Vigyan Kendras contemporary;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up Agriculture Technology Management Agencies in States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-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) The Government have taken the following steps to make the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) contemporary:

- Providing a multidisciplinary team of subject matter specialists, infrastructural facilities, and instructional farm to facilitate 'Teaching by doing and learning by doing'.
- Provision of electronic connectivity to 200 KVKs during Xth Plan for availability of technology information to the farmers.
- Providing Soil and Water Testing facilities to 326 KVKs during Xth Plan.

(c) and (d) The State Governments have set up 234 districts. The State-wise details of ATMA districts are Agriculture Technology Management Agencies (ATMA) in given in the statement enclosed.

Statement**State-wise Details of ATMA Districts**

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Districts	Number
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad, Chittoor, Kurnool, Prakasam, Srikakulam, Krishna, Ananthapur, Cuddapah, Nizamabad and Ranga Reddy	10
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands as one district	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Lower Subansiri, East Siang, West Kameng, Papum-Pare, Dibang Valley, Lohit and Tirap	7
4.	Assam	Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Goalpara, Karimganj, Cachar, North Cachar Hills, Darrang, Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Golaghat, Tinsukia and Morigaon	12
5.	Bihar	Patna, Madhubani, Monghyr, Muzaffarpur, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Gaya, Katihar, Purnea, Rohtas, Saharsa, Saran, Vaishali and West Champaran	15
6.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur, Bastar, Rajgarh, Sarguja and Kabirdham	5
7.	Goa	Entire Goa as one district	1
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Dahod, Sabarkantha, Kuchchh, Amreli, Jamnagar, Valsad and Bharuch	8
9.	Haryana	Sirsa, Hissar, Rohtak, Sonapat, Karnal and Rewari	6
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi, Kullu, Una, Shimla, Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Kangra	7
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Udhampur, Kathua, Poonch, Anantnag, Badgam, Kupwara and Kargil	7
12.	Jharkhand	Dumka, Jamtara, West Singhbhum, Palamau, Garhwa, Chatra, Hazaribagh and Seraikela	8
13.	Karnataka	Bidar, Gulbarga, Koppal, Haveri, Bijapur, Hassan, Chamarajanagar, Shimoga and Kolar	9
14.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram, Alappuzha, Palakkad, Idukki and Wayanad	5

1	2	3	4
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Betul, Hoshangabad, Khargone, Jhabua, Ujjain, Ratlam, Gwalior, Morena, Sagar, Tikamgarh, Balaghat, Dindori, Chhindwara, Rewa and Shahdol	15
16.	Maharashtra	Thane, Sindhudurg, Pune, Sangli, Kolhapur, Nandurbar, Latur, Hingoli, Jalna, Washim, Gadchiroli, Wardha, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Amravati and Ratnagiri	16
17.	Manipur	Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal and Senapati	4
18.	Mizoram	Aizawl, Champhai, Kolasib and Lunglei	4
19.	Nagaland	Dimapur, Kohima and Mokokchung	3
20.	Orissa	Khurda, Koraput, Ganjam, Sambalpur, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Dhenkanal, Bolangir, Kandhamal and Nupada	13
21.	Punjab	Jalandhar, Gurdaspur, Sangrur, Faridkot, Amritsar, Firozepur, Patiala and Roop Nagar	8
22.	Rajasthan	Jaipur, Sikar, Alwar, Karoli, Tonk, Jhalawar, Ganganagar, Jodhpur, Pali, Banswara and Bhilwara	11
23.	Sikkim	South and East	
24.	Tamil Nadu	Vellore, Salem, Dharmapuri, Erode, Thoothukudi, Pudukottai, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar and Krishnagiri	9
25.	Tripura	South Tripura and North Tripura	2
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad, Kaushambi, Aligarh, Hathras, Meerut, Baghpat, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Baharaich, Shravasti, Etawah, Orraiya, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Lucknow, Varanasi, Jaunpur, Banda, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Gonda, Kushinagar, Barabanki, Jalaun, Agra, Partapgarh, Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, Mainpuri, Bareilly, Jhansi and Saharanpur	32
27.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, Almora, Nainital, Uttarkashi, Garhwal, Chamoli and Champawat	8
28.	West Bengal	Coochbehar, Malda, Murshidabad, North 24-Parganas, East Midnapore and Bankura	6
Total			234

[Translation]

Digging of Wells in Rural Areas

4680. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has started digging of wells in rural areas in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) constructs exploratory wells to delineate the potential aquifer zones and assess the potentiality of various geological formations in the country including rural areas in Uttar Pradesh. A total of 23847 borewells have been drilled by the CGWB through departmental rigs in the country till 31st March, 2006. Besides, the regular exploration programme of CGWB by deploying departmental rigs, exploratory wells were also got drilled through outsourcing in drought affected States. A total of 2125 exploratory wells have been drilled through outsourcing during the period 2001-2005. State-wise details of bore-wells drilled by CGWB departmentally and through outsourcing is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

*State-wise details of Bore-Wells Drilled by CGWB
Departmentally and Through Outsourcing*

Sl. No.	State	No. of Bore Wells Drilled	
		Through Departmental Rigs	Through Out-sourcing
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2230	90
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35	—
3.	Assam	508	—
4.	Bihar	924	—

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	658	300
6.	Goa	121	—
7.	Gujarat	1844	165
8.	Haryana	965	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	154	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	478	—
11.	Jharkhand	481	50
12.	Karnataka	1929	120
13.	Kerala	649	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1465	332
15.	Maharashtra	1593	80
16.	Manipur	38	—
17.	Meghalaya	102	—
18.	Mizoram	6	—
19.	Nagaland	17	—
20.	Orissa	1568	439
21.	Punjab	438	—
22.	Rajasthan	2412	225
23.	Sikkim	40	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	1340	110
25.	Tripura	106	—
26.	Uttaranchal	185	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1855	197
28.	West Bengal	766	—
Total		22960	2125
Union Territories			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	60	—

1	2	3	4
2. Chandigarh		54	—
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		13	—
4. Delhi		680	—
5. Daman and Diu		3	—
6. Pondicherry		77	—
Total		887	—
Grand Total		23847	2125

[English]

Indo-Israel Agreement in Agriculture

4681. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-member delegation from the Israel visited India recently to discuss the details of the working plan between Israel and India for joint fund for agricultural research;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the areas identified for collaboration; and

(c) the outcome 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) The Indo-Israeli agreement for cooperation in agriculture envisages collaborative activities to be undertaken through work plans to be drawn up from time to time. The Delegation visited in March to prepare Work Plan for the period 2006-08. The thrust of this plan is on collaborative research in fields like Fertigation, Micro-irrigation and Horticulture etc. No proposal to set up any Joint Fund for agricultural research was discussed. Participating institutions will meet the expenditure from their normal budget allocations.

Biosphere Reserves

4682. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of areas declared as Bio-sphere Reserve (BR) in the country so far, State-wise and the benefits extended by the Union Government to those places;

(b) whether there is a long pending demand to declare Agastyamalai range in the Western Ghats as Biosphere Reserve; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Fourteen areas have been designated as Biosphere Reserves in the country so far, of which 2 Biosphere Reserves span two states and one Biosphere Reserve spans three states. The state-wise position is as follows: Assam (2), Arunachal Praesh (1), Andaman and Nicobar (1), Chhattisgarh (1), Karnataka (1), Kerala (2), Meghalaya (1), Madhya Pradesh (2), Orissa (1), Sikkim (1), West Bengal (1), Tamil Nadu (3), Uttaranchal (1). An amount of 22.18 crores has been released during 10th Five Year Plan (till March, 2006) to these states. The financial assistance is provided for components like alternate livelihood for local inhabitants, regeneration of degraded landscapes and development of minor infrastructure facilities etc.

(b) and (c) Agastyamalai range in Western Ghats located in Kerala and Tamil Nadu states was designated as Biosphere Reserve on 12th November 2001, and 3rd March, 05 respectively.

Setting up of Power Authorities for Agricultural Growth

4683. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up two power authorities to speed up the growth in agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds to be provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Agriculture Coordination Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to evolve a systematic approach to policy formulation on issues pertaining to agriculture and to promote inter-sectoral and inter-departmental coordination in planning and implementation. A Sub-Committee of NDC on "Agriculture and Related Issues" has also been set up to draw implementable action plans for the development of agriculture sector under the Chairmanship of Agriculture Minister. There is no formal allocation of funds to the Committees.

Coal Imported by SAIL

4684. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has been importing coking coal;

(b) if so, the total quantum of coking coal imported by SAIL through different major ports during the last three years;

(c) whether there is gradual decline in the import of coking coal through Paradip Port every year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total quantum of coking coal imported by SAIL through different major ports during the last three years is as under:—

'000 T				
Year	Port			Total
	Vizag	Haldia	Paradip	
1	2	3	4	5
2003-04	3358	3040	793	7191

1	2	3	4	5
2004-05	3644	3570	1088	8282
2005-06	4007	4375	1510	9892

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Water and Power Consultancy Service

4685. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether water and power consultancy service has been operating in various developing countries;

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

(c) the details of fields covered by WAPCOS; and

(d) the present status of Rengali Irrigation Phase-II, in Orissa undertaken by WAPCOS?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited (WAPCOS) has been providing consultancy services in the countries, namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(c) WAPCOS provides services in various fields in water resources, power and infrastructure sectors, the details of which are indicated in the statement.

(d) The work relating to Rengali Irrigation Project, Phase-II has not been assigned to WAPCOS.

Statement

Details of Fields covered by WAPCOS in Water Resources, Power and Infrastructure Sectors

In Water Resources Area

- Irrigation, Drainage and Water Management
- Ground Water Exploration and Minor Irrigation
- Flood Control and River Morphology

- Lakes and Wetlands
- Agriculture including dry lands farming
- Geodetic/Photogrammetric/Topographical Surveys
- Contract Management and Construction Supervision

In Power Sector

- Hydro-Electric Projects
- Thermal Power Projects
- Transmission and Distribution
- Rural Electrification
- Geotechnical and Material Investigations, Testing and Model Studies
- Feasibility Studies, Project Formulation and Preparation of Bankable DPR
- Tender Engineering
- Detailed Engineering Designs/Drawings
- Power System Studies
- Operation and Maintenance of Power Projects
- Up-gradation/Rehabilitation of existing Power Projects
- Tariff Studies
- Load forecasting
- Rural Electrification and Urban Power Distribution
- Master Plan Studies

In Infrastructure Sector

- Water Supply and Sanitation
- Environmental Engineering
- Ports and Harbours and Inland Waterways
- Urban and Rural Areas Development

- System Studies and Information Technology
- Infrastructure Development covering Construction Power, Roads and Buildings including Colony Electrification, Water Supply and Sanitation Engineering
- Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

Conservation of Agro-bio-diversity

4686. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any programme/Scheme for conservation of agro-biodiversity in the country in view of its rapid erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the success achieved therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Government is aware of erosion of agro-bio-diversity in the country and has taken measures to conserve the agro-bio-diversity for its present and future use.

(b) to (d) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi was established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) with the national mandate of collection, characterization/evaluation and safe conservation of plant and genetic resources. The Seed Gene Bank of NBPGR presently holds more than 3,17,700 accessions of over 900 crop species for use in the crop improvement.

[Translation]

Expansion of Tiger Project

4687. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has plans to extend the Tiger Project and sanctuaries in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan regarding rehabilitation of habitants of extended areas of projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether provision regarding providing pasture for the livestock of migrants has been made in the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Steering Committee of the

Project Tiger, in its 37th meeting held on 23-01-2003 has recommended creation of eight new Tiger Reserves as listed in the statement enclosed. Action has been initiated on the proposals received from the states concerned to obtain the approval of the Central Government. Further the Steering Committee of the Project Tiger, in its last 38th meeting held on 12-04-2005, has not favoured creation of new Tiger Reserves. The consensus was for the consolidation of existing reserves as per norms.

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

Statement

List of the Proposed New Tiger Reserves

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

[English]

Decline in Pharma Growth Rate

4688. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of pharma industry has been declined during 2005-06;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the growth rate of Pharma industry?

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 market size of the Indian Pharma Industry is growing in terms of production/consumption/exports. The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry is presently estimated to be approximately US \$ 12 Billion and is growing at an average rate of 8-10% on the domestic front and at an average rate of 20-25% on the export front. The Government on its part provides many fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for the growth of the Pharma Industry. These measures would be further strengthened in the proposed new Pharmaceuticals Policy.

Production of Steel

4689. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the steel production in the country from Eighth Five Year Plan to Tenth Five Year Plan, Plan-wise;

(b) the per capita availability of steel in each Plan; and

(c) the demand/supply gap in each Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) The production of finished (Carbon) steel in the country from the Eighth Five Year Plan to the Tenth Five Year Plan is given below:—

(in million tonnes)

Finished (Carbon) Steel

Plan Period	Production
8th Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97)	92.347
9th Plan (1997-98 to 2001-2002)	134.271
10th Plan (2002-03 to 2005-06) (Prov.)	153.420 (Prov.)

(Source: Joint Plant Committee)

(b) The per capita availability/consumption of steel is calculated annually to account for changes in population. The per capita consumption of finished steel in India from 1992 to 2004 is given below:—

Year	Per capita consumption (In Kg.)
1992	18.3
1993	17.9
1994	20.6
1995	24
1996	24.2
1997	23.8
1998	23.7
1999	25.2
2000	25.9
2001	26.5
2002	27.5
2003	29.2
2004	30.7

(Source: International Iron and Steel Institute)

(c) Demand for steel as reflected in the figures of apparent consumption of the finished (Carbon) steel in the country from the Eighth Five Year Plan to Tenth Five Year Plan is given below:—

(in million tonnes)

Finished (Carbon) Steel

Plan Period	Production
8th Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97)	92.409
9th Plan (1997-98 to 2001-2002)	125.236
10th Plan (2002-03 to 2005-06) (Prov.)	132.567 (Prov.)

(Source: Joint Plant Committee)

The domestic demand for finished (Carbon) steel is being fully met in the country except for some specialized grades required in small quantities.

Printing of Names and Prices of Medicines on Labels in Hindi Alongwith English

4690. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to make it mandatory to get the names and prices of medicines printed on their labels in Hindi alongwith English;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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) Based on the decision taken in the Pharmaceutical Advisory Forum in its meeting held on 11-2-2006 this Department has requested various Pharmaceutical Industry Associations to print the name, price, date of manufacturing and expiry on medicinal labels in Hindi also. No formal notification/order has been issued in this regard.

[Translation]

Pending Cases of Payment of P.F.

4691. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) the details of the total amount of funds deposited in Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether many cases of payment of Provident Fund are lying pending in the country;

(c) if so, the number of such cases and the reasons for their non-payment, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of such cases alongwith success achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Total corpus of the organization under three schemes was Rs. 1,66,106.48 crores as on 31-03-2006 as per statement-I. Since the investment is made by State Bank of India centrally, state-wise details are not maintained.

(b) and (c) Out of total workload of 5154619 claims, only 278619 claims were pending as on 31-03-2006. The details of pending cases are at statement-I.

As per Scheme provisions the claims received complete in all respect are settled within 30 days. The settlement of cases is a continuous process. As there is continuous inflow of fresh claims, certain claims are bound to be pending at any given point of time.

(d) Organization implementing a Modernisation Project "Re-inventing EPF India" which envisages, *inter-alia*, settlement of cases within 3 days.

Statement-I

Fund Corpus

Corpus under different schemes lying invested in securities approved by Central Government

(All figures in Crores of Rupees)

Sl. No.	As on	31-03-2002	31-03-2003	31-03-2004	31-03-2005	31-03-2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(i)	Provident Fund	59,988.44	65,413.73	71,838.60	79,764.48	90,438.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(ii)	Pension Fund	39,049.81	45,045.21	52,743.87	61,318.23	70,749.13
(iii)	Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme	3,124.80	3,485.22	3,904.23	4,375.19	4,918.99
Total		1,02,163.05	1,13,944.16	1,28,486.70	1,45,457.90	1,66,106.48

*Breakup of Investments in Different Securities
(As on 31-03-2006)*

Type of Investment	Rs. in Crore
(i) Central Government Securities	27999.06
(ii) State Government/Government Guaranteed Securities	20144.88
(iii) Special Deposit Scheme of Central Government	53570.08
(iv) Public Financial Institution	31770.81
(v) Public Account	32621.65
Total	1,66,106.48

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Name of Region	No. of Pending Claims
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	
	Guntur	4061
	Hyderabad	13219
2.	Bihar	1581
3.	Chhattisgarh	2541
4.	Delhi	
	Delhi North	8206
	Delhi South	5693

1	2	3
5.	Goa	2328
6.	Gujarat	
	Vadodara	5138
	Ahmedabad	45
7.	Himachal Pradesh	337
8.	Haryana	16480
9.	Jharkhand	2455
10.	Karnataka	
	Mangalore	720
	Bangalore	18821
11.	Kerala	116
12.	Maharashtra	
	Thane	0
	Mumbai	113242
	Pune	7461
	Nagpur	4643
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5076
14.	North Eastern Region	152
15.	Orissa	5672
16.	Punjab	
	Chandigarh	6282
	Ludhiana	5679
17.	Rajasthan	0
18.	Tamil Nadu	
	Madurai	6144
	Chennai	6341
	Coimbatore	11546

1	2	3
19. Uttar Pradesh		11222
20. Uttaranchal		2788
21. West Bengal	Kolkata	10138
	Jalpaiguri	492
Total		278619

**Employees on Contract Basis in
Central Secretariat**

4692. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has started the recruitment of class-III and class-IV employees on contract basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor including the wages being paid to them;

(c) whether the Union Government is making payment to these employees through the contractors who make payment to the employees arbitrarily;

(d) if so, the amount being appropriated by the contractors from the wages of the employees;

(e) whether the Government proposes to do away with this unhealthy practice by providing all such employees with regular employment;

(f) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Religious Channels

4693. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

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

(a) the policy of the Government to empanel religious channels for advertisement purpose;

(b) whether the Government has increased the advertisement support of religious channels during the last two quarters; and

(c) if so, the quantum of advertisements released in terms of revenue to the religious channels by Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) during the last two quarters?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) As per policy of DAVP, private satellite television channels including radio channels can be empanelled for advertisements. The empanelment Advisory Committee (EAC) under DAVP is responsible for empanelment of TV channels including religious channels.

(b) and (c) There are four private TV channels on DAVP panel under spiritual channel genre viz. Zee Jagran, Astha, Sadhna, Sanskar. Since the campaign are on-going and there is overlapping in the campaign duration from one quarter to another, quarter-wise information is not maintained. However, during the financial year 2005-06, these channels have telecast video spots worth Rs. 3,44,656/- as per break up given below:—

1. Zee Jagran	—	Rs. 18,621/-
2. Astha	—	Rs. 70,454/-
3. Sadhna	—	Rs. 30,955/-
4. Sanskar	—	Rs. 2,24,626/-

[Translation]

Procurement of Poor Quality Foodgrains

4694. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI D.P. SAROJ:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

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

(a) whether the Good Corporation of India procured rice from private millers containing high percentage of broken, discoloured, damaged and dehusked grain which could not be issued under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the loss suffered therein; and

(c) the details of the officers held responsible for the lapse alongwith the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Stray incidences of procurement of Beyond Rejection Level (BRL) rice has taken place due to error of judgement on the part of the field officers/officials and also due to connivance of unscrupulous officials with millers. 0.29 lakh MTs, comprising 0.22 lakh MTs in Punjab, 0.06 lakh MTs in Haryana and 0.004 lakh MTs in UP regions have been detected as BRL rice during Kharif Marketing Season 2005-06. The quantum of BRL rice as compared to the total procurement of 239 lakh MTs rice as on 15-5-2006, works out to 0.12% of the total procurement. The entire stocks found BRL in Punjab has since been replaced with sound stocks of rice from the concerned millers. In case of Haryana the stocks found BRL have been either replaced from the concerned millers or proportionate recovery corresponding to the refractions found beyond specifications have been effected from delinquent officers/officials of FCI. In the case of UP region, disciplinary action stands taken against the delinquents. As such, there is no loss caused to the FCI.

(c) For accepting the above mentioned beyond specification stocks of rice, 160 category II officers and 160 category III officers have been implicated and disciplinary action has been initiated against them.

[English]

Farm Subsidies

4695. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the type of farm related subsidies that are being provided in countries like USA, China, Australia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank and other International Monetary Agencies have expressed their views on the issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the available reports, almost 85% of the global trade distorting domestic subsidies are extended by United States, EC and Japan to their farmers. The farm subsidies extended by OECD nations to their farmers is around \$ 300 billion per annum. They extend market price support on specific crops, such as, market loan assistance, counter cyclical payments, etc. under Amber Box Support. These countries also extend trade distorting Blue Box subsidies like direct payments under production limiting programmes and on number of animal heads. Besides, relatively less trade distorting subsidies for areas like research, disease control, training and extension, marketing, public stock holding, domestic food aid, environmental payments, disaster payments, insurance payments, infrastructure services are also extended by these nations under Green Box.

(c) and (d) The World Bank and IMF interalia, hold the view that the domestic farm subsidies provided by developed countries distort agriculture trade and work against the interests of developing countries. The farm subsidies lead to over-production, thereby causing a decline in global prices of farm products. They also create an adverse impact on the environment. The subsidies provided by the developed countries affect the developing countries adversely and drive out the farmers in developing countries from even their local markets. Both World Bank and IMF favour elimination of trade distorting farm subsidies provided by the developed countries.

Legislation on Wastage of Water

4696. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether farming sector accounts for 70 per cent of the water consumed;

(b) if so, whether due to mismanagement majority of water consumed in farming sector goes waste;

(c) whether the irrigation system urgently need attention to minimize waste; and

(d) if so, the effective steps taken by the Union Government to enact legislation to minimize wastage of water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) It has been estimated that the present utilization of water for various purposes is about 629 billion cubic metre (BCM) out of which about 83% is for irrigation purposes. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan (NCIWRDP) has projected the estimate of annual water requirement. The estimated projection for total water utilization in year 2050 is about 1180 BCM, of which about 68% is for irrigation purpose.

(b) to (d) The NCIWRDP has also assessed the present level of the efficiency of utilization as 35 to 40% for surface water and about 65 to 70% in respect of ground water schemes. The need for improving the efficiency and optimal utilization of water resources has been duly emphasized in the National Water Policy, 2002 which states that efficiency of utilisation in all the diverse uses of water should be optimised and an awareness of water as a scarce resource should be fostered.

The National Water Policy, 2002 further emphasizes on conservation of the resources and minimising losses and for this, measures like selective linings in the conveyance system, modernization and rehabilitation of existing systems including tanks, recycling and re-use of treated effluents and adoption of traditional techniques like mulching or pitcher irrigation and new techniques like drip and sprinkler may be promoted, wherever feasible.

[Translation]

Production and Requirement of Spices

4697. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated requirement of spices in the country every year;

(b) whether the production of spices is not sufficient to meet its requirement in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the per capita availability of spices in the country vis-a-vis other developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The total estimated requirement of spices is about 36.5 lakhs tonnes every year.

(b) and (c) The production of majority of spices is on par with demand. However, the country depends on import of certain selected spices such as tree spices like cassia, clove, seed spices like star anise, aniseed, poppy seed, celery and other spices like asafetida, herbal spices because specific agro-climatic conditions are required for profitable cultivation of these crops.

(d) Efforts are being made by the Government of India in implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission to step up the production of horticulture produce including spices which are of short supply in the domestic market.

(e) The per capita availability of spices in the country is estimated to be 3.18 kg. per year. No reliable data on per capita availability of spices in other countries are available.

[English]

Agricultural Equipments

4698. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India lags behind other countries in farm mechanization;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to design and manufacture agricultural equipments suitable for Indian conditions during the last two years alongwith the success achieved therein;

(d) whether the current tools and technology available in the country favours the big farmers; and

(e) If so, the steps taken by the Government to development tools and technology favourable to small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir, as compared to developed countries and No, Sir, as compared to many developing countries.

(b) **Details:** India lags behind in mechanization compared to the developed countries like Japan, USA, UK, Germany, Canada and many other European countries. However, India is ahead in mechanization compared to many Asian and African countries. In India, about 30 lakh tractors are in use and about 2.5 to 2.9 lakh tractors are produced in India per year. About 20,000 power tillers, 4 lakh seed drills, 7 lakh pump sets and 4 lakh threshers are also produced every year. The density of tractors and harvester threshers per thousand hectare in India is 15.75 and 0.03 units respectively, whereas, the same in Japan is 461.22 and 236.98, USA 27.44 and 3.82, UK 88.34 and 8.30 Germany 79.81 and 11.41 and Canada 16.04 and 2.54.

Reasons: Indian farmers in general are resource poor having fragmented and small land holdings. Majority of the farmers are either marginal and small or medium who are not able to invest in mechanizing their farming operations on their own. Government is providing 25% assistance to the farmers in form of subsidy through State Work Plans under Macro Management in Agriculture to own the agricultural equipment.

(c) The Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE), Bhopal and 23 centres of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Farm Implements and Machinery have designed and developed improved farm tools, implements and equipment suitable for the small and medium farmers. A list of farm equipment developed during the last two years and success of commercialization of these farm equipment developed have been given in statement-I and statement-II, respectively. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also

made Computer Aided Design (CAD) drawings of some of the agricultural machines. These CAD drawings can be used by the manufacturers of agricultural machines leading to upgrading the quality of the product through research-industry linkage. Use of these equipment results in saving of time, labour, cost of operation and reduction in drudgery associated with different farm operations.

(d) Higher horse power tractors, combine harvesters and other self propelled equipments are available for big farmers whereas the equipment such as hand tools, bullock driven implements, power driven equipment with power tillers/small horse power tractors and small harvesting machines are available to small and marginal farmers.

(e) Most of the technologies developed are suitable to small and marginal farmers as well, however, following steps have also been taken to popularize them:—

- Subsidy @ 25% of the cost of the equipment with suitable ceiling limits is available to the farmers for purchase of different agricultural equipments.
- Training courses for agricultural mechanisation are conducted through four Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMT and TIs) under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. During the year 2005-06, 77.9% of the total farmers trained at these Institutes, belong to small and marginal category.
- Training courses have been initiated for small manufacturers/entrepreneurs through funding from Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture to encourage them to undertake manufacture of small tools and implements.
- The technologies developed are being exhibited in National/Regional/State Level Exhibitions throughout the country, including the difficult areas of NEH Region.
- Frontline demonstrations of new technology equipment are being conducted by ICAR and field demonstrations are done by State Governments/UTs through funding by Government of India.

Statement-I**List of Farm Equipment Developed/Adapted during last Two Years**

Sl. No.	Equipment Designed/Developed	Power source	Achievement/ Present status
1	2	3	4
1.	Self propelled forage harvester	5 hp diesel engine	Under commercialization
2.	Self propelled boom sprayer	5 hp diesel engine	Commercialized
3.	Power operated maize dehusker cum sheller	5 hp electric motor/25 hp tractor	Commercialized
4.	Power tiller mounted orchard sprayer with turbo nozzles	1-12 hp power tiller	Multi-location trials
5.	High capacity pigeon pea thresher	15 hp electric motor/35 hp tractor	Under feasibility testing
6.	Power tiller mounted groundnut digger	Power tiller 10-12 hp	Multi-location trials
7.	Tractor mounted multipurpose equipment for sugarcane	35 hp tractor	Multi-location trials
8.	4-row manually operated pre-germinated paddy seeder	Manual	Under feasibility testing
9.	Tractor mounted vegetable transplanter	35 hp tractor	Under feasibility testing
10.	Tractor mounted inclined plate planter with raised bed former	35 hp tractor	Multi-location trials
11.	Rotary power weeder	3 hp engine	Demonstrated in large area for different crops
12.	Self propelled rice transplanter	5 hp diesel engine	Multi-location trials
13.	Tractor mounted Zero-till-seed-drill	35 hp tractor	FLD Commercialization
14.	Self propelled vertical conveyer reaper	5 hp diesel engine	Commercialized
15.	Flail type fodder harvester cum chopper	35 hp tractor	Under commercialization
16.	Rice straw chopper cum spreader	45 hp tractor	Under commercialization
17.	Self propelled 10-row rice seeder	5 hp diesel engine	Multi-location trials
18.	Tractor mounted 3-row rotary weeder	35 hp tractor	Multi-location trials
19.	Tractor mounted banana clump remover	35 hp tractor	Multi-location trials

1	2	3	4
20.	Power tiller mounted earthing cum fertilizer applicator	Power tiller 10-12 hp	Under design refinement
21.	Gender friendly groundnut decorticator	Manual	Under feasibility trials

Prototypes manufactured during last two years (Manually operated: 1556, Animal drawn: 55, Power operated: 156 : Total: 1767).

Statement-II

Success of Commercialization of Farm Equipment Developed under AICRP on FIM

Operation	Designed and Developed				Commercialized			
	Manual	Animal drawn	Power operated	Total	Manual	Animal drawn	Power operated	Total
Tillage	1	12	12	25	—	5	6	11
Sowing and Planting	8	13	28	49	3	6	11	20
Transplanting	2	—	4	6	1	—	1	2
Fertilizer application	3	—	1	4	1	—	—	1
Weeding and Intercultural	8	4	6	18	7	3	3	13
Plant Protection	—	—	8	8	—	—	3	3
Harvesting	3	4	24	31	3	3	13	19
Threshing	9	—	21	30	7	—	12	19
Miscellaneous	3	—	4	7	3	—	—	3
Total	37	33	108	178	25	17	49	91

National Agricultural Bio Security System

4699. SHRI B. MAHTAB:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Agricultural Bio Security System to strengthen the ability to prevent pandemics in the country;

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

(c) whether National Commission on farmers has suggested in their report to form 1000 crore National Agricultural bio security fund for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which action is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The National Commission on Farmers in its Fourth Interim Report submitted to Government recently has recommended the establishment of a National Agricultural Biosecurity Fund of Rs. 1,000 crores for the following purposes:—

- (i) Strengthening infrastructure for sanitary and phytosanitary measures.
- (ii) Upgrading facilities for plant, animal and fish quarantine and certification.
- (iii) Establishing an Offshore Genetic Screening Centre for animals for the purpose of identifying genes resistance to serious disease epidemics arising from invasive alien species.

The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

Starvation Deaths

4700. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of death due to starvation have been reported from many States during the last one year;

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

(c) the steps taken to check starvation deaths in the country particularly in chronically hunger prone areas?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No starvation death has been reported by any State Government.

(c) For maintaining food security in the country the

Government is allocating subsidized foodgrains for Below Poverty Line, Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Above Poverty Line families under Targeted Public Distribution System and implementing many food based welfare schemes viz., Mid day Meal, Wheat Based Nutrition Programme, Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls, National Food for Work Programme, Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Special Component of SGRY, Annapurna Scheme, etc. Besides this Government has revised the Village Grain Bank Scheme and 3282 grains banks have been sanctioned for being established in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura and Meghalaya during 2005-06. In May, 2006, proposals for establishment of 500 grain banks in Uttar Pradesh has been sanctioned. During 2005-06 and 2006-07 approximately 11,000 grain banks are likely to become operational throughout the country in chronically hunger prone areas.

Foodgrain Storage in Plastic Bags

4701. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to explore the feasibility of storing wheat, rice and sugar in plastic bags;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted a comparative study to assess the shelf life of wheat, rice and sugar packed in plastic bags and PP/HDPE bags; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (IGMRI) Hapur has conducted a short-term study to find out the suitability of PP/HDPE Bags for storage of wheat and rice. The study suggested that anti-slip PP/HDPE bags may be used for storage of foodgrains by Food Corporation of India (FCI)/Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)/

State Warehousing Corporation (SWC) and other State Agencies in a phased manner, preferably to begin with for the operational stocks.

The IGMRI has been entrusted with a Long Terms Study for a period of three years in FCI godowns situated in different agro climatic zones to find out suitability of PP/HDPE Bags for storage of wheat and rice in comparison to jute bags which commenced recently.

Development of Horticulture in Tribal and Hilly Areas

4702. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme for development of horticulture in tribal and hilly areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details and the objectives of such scheme;

(c) the details of assistance provided by the Union Government under such scheme during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which farmers of tribal and hilly areas are benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government had launched a Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly Areas in 1999-2000 with the following objectives:—

- (1) Production of quality planting material of improved cultivars.
- (2) New planting with seed planting material of improved high yielding varieties.
- (3) Improving productivity through adoption of improved cultivation technology, plant protection chemicals, nutrient and water management.

(4) Transfer of technology through farmers participatory demonstrations, trainings/visits of farmers, publicity through media support, extension literatures etc.

(5) Creation of on-farm and post harvest infrastructure such as, collection centre, packaging, transport, storage and marketing.

In all, 36 districts were taken up for development under the Scheme. However, with the launching of the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in 2005-06, which envisages holistic development of horticulture with similar objectives, the Tribal/Hilly Area Scheme was subsumed under the NHM. Under the NHM and the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern State (TMNE) including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttaranchal, horticulture development programmes could be taken up in all potential areas including Tribal and Hilly Areas.

(c) The State-wise details of funds released for the Tribal/Hilly Area Scheme during last three years of operation are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) The farmers in the Tribal/Hilly Areas were provided assistance @ 50% of the cost for taking up activities such as:—

- (1) Area expansion of horticulture crops.
- (2) Green house cultivation.
- (3) Creation of irrigation facilities including supply of pump sets and drip/sprinkler irrigation systems.
- (4) Purchase of horticulture machinery and equipments including power operated equipments and hand/animal driven implements.

Besides, the Scheme provided assistance for setting up nurseries for making available quality planting material, transfer of technology through training and demonstration as well as assistance for setting up infrastructure for alternate marketing of farmers horticultural produce.

Statement

State-wise details of funds released under Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Development of Tribal/Hilly Area (IDTHA) during 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	No. of Districts	Amount			Total
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	123.27	154.42	240.581	518.271
2.	Chhattisgarh	2	53.43	56.48	174.17	284.08
3.	Gujarat	3	40	105.731	202.72	348.451
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2.75	—	55.64	58.39
5.	Jharkhand	2	175.75	131.11	59	365.86
6.	Karnataka	2	—	—	63.34	63.34
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1	2.75	42	34.166	78.916
8.	Maharashtra	11	—	2.75	52.943	55.693
9.	Orissa	3	78.8	99.73	304.91	483.44
10.	Rajasthan	3	—	2.75	93.78	96.53
11.	Tamil Nadu	1	—	2.75	71.2	73.95
12.	Uttaranchal	3	20.5	207.279	149.1	376.879
13.	West Bengal	1	2.75	95	98.45	196.2
Grand Total		36	500	900	1600	3000

*[Translation]***Completion of Pending Irrigation Projects**

4703. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects spilled over from Ninth Five Year Plan to Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the cost over run due to delay in completion of such projects;

(c) the number of projects targeted to complete during the current plan and the number out of them completed so far, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of such projects as per the targets fixed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) At the beginning of Tenth Five Year Plan there were 494 ongoing irrigation projects both approved and unapproved [173 major, 235 medium and

86 extension renovation and modernization (ERM)], spilled over from previous Plans, and as on 01-4-2006, there are 452 ongoing irrigation projects both approved and unapproved (157 major, 212 medium and 83 ERM).

(b) A comparison of the original irrigation projects and latest estimated cost indicates that the escalation in cost in respect of approved ongoing irrigation projects due to delay in completion is of the order of about Rs. 90,00Q crore.

(c) As indicated by State Governments, about 331 (93 major, 180 medium and 58 ERM) irrigation projects, out of the total 494 irrigation projects ongoing at the beginning of Tenth Five Year Plan, were anticipated to be completed during the Tenth Five Year Plan. During the first 3 years of Tenth Five Year Plan, 38 irrigation projects

(16 major, 19 medium and 3 ERM) were completed. The State-wise number of irrigation projects targeted for completion and completed is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Irrigation projects are languishing due to various reasons, the most important of them being inadequate provision of funds by the concerned State Governments. Keeping this in view, the Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance for such approved irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of construction and beyond the resources capability of the States that can be completed in the next four financial years as per the guidelines of the programme.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Projects targetted to be completed during Tenth Five Year plan				Projected completed upto March 2006			
		Major	Medium	ERM	Sub-total	Major	Medium	ERM	Sub-total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	10	8	31	2	4		6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0		0				0
3.	Assam	3	3	2	8	1	0		1
4.	Bihar	7	1	2	10				0
5.	Jharkhand	0	16	1	17		3		3
6.	Goa	1	0		1				0
7.	Gujarat	0	7	4	11				0
8.	Haryana	4	0	1	5	1			1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	0	3				0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	6	6	12				0
11.	Karnataka	15	19	5	39	0	1		1
12.	Kerala	4	4	2	10	1			1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5	1	1	7	2	1		3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Chhattisgarh	2	4		6	0	1		1
15.	Maharashtra	24	78	5	107	5	5	3	13
16.	Manipur	2	1		3				0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0		0				0
18.	Mizoram	0	0		0				0
19.	Nagaland	0	0		0				0
20.	Orissa	4	12	7	23	2	2		4
21.	Punjab	0	0	6	6				0
22.	Rajasthan	2	3	1	6				0
23.	Sikkim	0	0		0				0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	2	1	3				0
25.	Tripura	0	3		3				0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6	0	5	11	2			2
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0				0
28.	West Bengal	0	8	1	9				0
Total		93	180	58	331	16	19	3	38

[English]

Monsoon Forecast

4704. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether below average monsoon has been forecast by IMD this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which agricultural production is likely to be affected therefrom; and

(d) the precautions/steps taken/proposed to remedy the situation?

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

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The India Meteorology Department's (IMD) operational Long Range Forecast for the 2006 South-west Monsoon season (June-September) is that the rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 93% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of $\pm 5\%$. The IMD will issue an update of the monsoon season rainfall forecast by 1st week of July, 2006 which will also include forecast for the July rainfall over the country as a whole and seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the four broad homogeneous regions of the country.

(c) It is too early to estimate the impact on the agricultural production since the production performance depends not only on quantum of rainfall but also on the temperature, temporal and spatial distribution of the rainfall.

(d) If needed, the State Governments have funds in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to take necessary

immediate relief measures in the areas affected by natural calamities including drought. In case of shortage of funds in CRF the State Government can project requirement for additional financial assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). Further, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) has prepared contingency plans for rainfed regions in the country in case of delay or poor monsoon rainfall which are made available through local newspapers and on Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and CRIDA websites. Apart from giving the assistance through CRF and NCCF, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is also implemented to provide insurance coverage and compensation to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops.

Development of Flood Prone Areas

4705. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that various centrally sponsored programmes launched for planned development of the flood prone areas have not left any positive impact;

(b) if so, the factors attributed thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce any special programme in place of general schemes going on at present; 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) A Centrally Sponsored Programme of Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR) is being implemented through Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). The main objectives of the programme are prevention of land degradation by adoption of integrated watershed approach for soil and water conservation and watershed management in selected catchments of different reservoirs and flood prone rivers for enhancing the in-situ moisture conservation and surface rainwater storages and reduction of flood peaks and volume of runoff. The Evaluation Studies

have revealed that interventions have been found effective in prevention of land degradation and rain water conservation. Also the Sediment Production Rate (SPR) has reduced ranging from 17% to 94% and runoff peak also reduced from 46.6 to 1.60% in selected catchments. Increase of water table in wells, due to ground water recharge ranged from 1 to 2.5 meters in selected wells falling in the treated catchments area.

In addition to above, Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iii) Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA), (iv) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (v) Desert Development Programme (DDP) and (vi) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) to develop the degraded lands in the country. These programmes have been found useful, and are being continued during Tenth Five Year Plan.

As a follow up action of decisions of Common Minimum Programmes of United Progressive Alliance Government, Ministry of Water Resources has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, to coordinate and advise the criteria/norms for identification of flood prone districts in the entire country.

Externally Aided Projects on Watershed Development

4706. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing externally aided projects on watershed, land reclamation and development, State-wise; and

(b) the extent to which aims and objectives of such funds and external aid has been achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A statement indicating the status of ongoing externally aided projects on watershed, land reclamation and development is enclosed.

Statement

Externally Aided Projects on Watershed, Land Reclamation and Development

Sl. No.	Project Name/ States Covered	Project Period	Objectives	Donor Agency/ Country	Project Cost	Achievement	
						Physical	Financial
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ministry of Agriculture							
1.	Karnataka Watershed Development Project (Sujala)	10-9-2001 to 31-3-2007	To reduce poverty and improvement of livelihood of the people living in the watershed area.	World Bank	533.76	182052	209.33
2.	Uttaranchal Decentralized Watershed Development Project (UDWDP)	September 2004 to 31-3-2012	To improve the productive potential of natural resources and increase incomes of rural inhabitants in selected watersheds through socially inclusive, institutionally and environmentally sustainable approaches.	World Bank	402.00	6747	17.34
3.	Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Projects (AACCP)	24-2-2005 to 31-3-2010	To increase the productivity and market access of targeted farmers and community groups. To stimulate growth of Assam's agricultural economy.	World Bank	1024	221 No. Shallow	5.28
4.	Himachal Pradesh Mid Himalayan Watershed Development Project	24-2-06 to 31-3-2013	Prevention of degradation of high potential area and protection of high bio-diversity. Improving accessibility to rural areas and productivity of livestock etc.	World Bank	365.00	Preparatory activities.	6.97
5.	Uttar Pradesh Sodic Land	April 1999 to	Development of Sodic land through	World	1296.51	177000	1002.54

(Rs. in crores)
Area in ha.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Reclamation Project	30-9-2007	sustainable reclamation package and prevention of further sodicity and contributing significantly towards poverty. Alleviation in selected areas.	Bank			
Ministry of Rural Development							
1.	Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Projects (APRLP)	13-11-1999 to 31-7-2006	To support capacity building and knowledge generation.	DFID	320.00	500 projects	243.54
2.	Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project (WORLP)	18-8-2000 to 31-7-2009	To support capacity building and knowledge generation.	DFID	230.00	290 projects	50.12
3.	Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihood Project (MPRLP)-Phase-I	20-2-2204 to 30-6-2007	Implementation of effective programmes and policies that sustainably enhance the livelihood of poor rural people.	DFID	114.87	Appropriate structure for implementation has been created.	41.05
4.	Attappady Wasteland Comprehensive Environmental Conservation Project, Kerala	1996 to March, 2008	To promote the sustainable development of Attappady by planning and implementing eco-restoration programmes in the degraded areas and economic development schemes for people below poverty line focusing on Scheduled Tribes, women etc.	JBIC	219.31	The project is being implemented in 330 villages of 43 rural Community Development Blocks in 10 districts targeting an estimated population of 0.6 million.	
5.	Haryana Community Forestry Project	30-11-1998 to 30-6-2008	Building the capacities of rural communities to improve the natural environment and maintain land fertility through sustainable management of natural resources undertaken in participatory manner.	EC	126.00	Project is being implemented for development of 50700 ha. of wastelands in 13 watersheds of Palakkad district.	

[Translation]

ESI, EPF Irregularities in Five Star Hotels

4707. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the employees are being exploited due to non-deposit of Employees State Insurance (ESI) and Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contribution by the management of the Five Star Hotels in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of such hotels in Delhi against whom ESI and EPF amount is outstanding indicating the hotels against whom cases of violation of Labour Laws are pending in Labour Courts as on March 31, 2006;

(c) the details of hotels where raids in respect of ESI and EPF irregularities were conducted between April 1, 2002 to April 30, 2006;

(d) the details and nature of the irregularities detected in the raids; and

(e) the action taken against these hotels alongwith the steps taken to give relief to the affected employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No such incident has come to the notice of the Government. However, compliance of the covered establishments is monitored regularly by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation and Employees

State Insurance Corporation.

(b) to (e) Employees Provident Fund Organisation:

On detection of default through computerised Compliance Tracking System (CCTS) or on receipt of complaint, action is taken under Section-7A of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for assessment of dues and subsequently recovery thereof. As regards Five Star Hotels, complaints were received in respect of M/s. Ashoka Hotel (DL/522) and M/s. Park Royal International Hotel (DL/20442). In respect of M/s. Ashoka Hotel an amount of Rs. 4,38,569/- was assessed out of which Rs. 3,28,927/- have been realized. The Establishment filed an appeal in the Employees Provident Fund Appellate Tribunal where the case is pending. The other establishment i.e. M/s. Park Royal International Hotel was inspected by a squad of Enforcement Officers on 17-03-04 and an evasion in respect of contractors' employees was detected. The amount worked out in respect of contractor employees engaged by the establishment was Rs. 84590/-, which has since been recovered on 22-03-04. Besides under sample check conducted during Compliance Validation and Analysis Programme, 2006 launched during January 2006 to March 2006, certain irregularities were noticed in 8 Hotels of five star category in Delhi.

Employees State Insurance Corporation: The details of the position of dues/arrears in respect of five star hotels in Delhi are shown in the statement. No raid was conducted by ESI Corporation in any five star hotels during the period as there was no complaint of non-compliance or detection of any irregularity.

Statement

Details Regarding Coverage of Employers/Inspections/Irregularities in Compliance/Submission of Returns etc. by the Five Star Hotels in Delhi

Sl. No.	Name and Code No. of the Hotels	Date(s) of Inspection	Period Covered by such Inspection	No. of Employees		Omitted wages detected	Submission of returns	
				Covered	Exempted		Cont. period	No. of employees shown in the return
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	11-925	09-01-04	4/98 to	113 (including 80	837	3,12,829/-	30-09-02	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	M/s. Ashoka Hotel	12-01-04 13-01-04 15-01-02 and 22-01-04	11/03	employees of Independently Covered immediate employer		13,69,784/- 30,09,485/- 99.309/-	31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	— — — — — 15
2.	11-1543 M/s. Oberoi Hotel	4, 5, 11 and 12-08-05	02/04 to 03/05	194	598	25,59,317/-	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	{11 10 13 14 34 27 18}* *In respect of emplo- yees directly employed by the Hotel*
3.	11-1903 M/s. Hotel Imperial	28-05-03	11/00 to 04/03	304	411	—	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	453 444 308 300 334 230 192
4.	11-1905 M/s. Hotel Janpath	06-10-03 and 17-10-03 14-11-00	10/00 to 08/03 (Contractor) 11/98 to 09/00	42 9	292 386	5,34,600/- —	Not complying with the ESI Act.	
5.	11-2300 M/s. Hotel Ranjit	05-03-05 and 07-03-05	09/99 to 02/04			Closed Unit		
6.	11-4357 M/s. Maurya Sherton Hotel	22 and 23-06-05	02/00 to 05/05	84+106=190	799	62,31,075	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04	86 21 34 49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
							30-09-04	18
							31-03-05	187
							30-09-05	19
7.	11-6521 M/s. Sidhartha	17, 20 and 21-03-04	11/04 to 02/06	16+37=53	263	19,43,717	30-09-02	189
							31-03-03	5
							30-09-03	145
							31-03-04	5
							30-09-04	5
							31-03-05	5
							30-09-05	5
8.	11-7641 M/s. Centaur Hotel	9, 10, 15 and 6/99	10/97 to 04/99	593+28=621	177	4,58,221 2,50,256 6,53,753 6,91,611	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	{35 21 11 13 88 106 90}* *In respect of employ- ees directly employed by the Hotel*
9.	11-7804 M/s. Vasant Continental	14 and 18-03-05	11/99 to 01/05	55+19=74	339	97,63,875 1,79,11,133	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	210 176 187 175 220 73 107
10.	11-7891 M/s. Hyatt Regency	9, 16, 17 and 18-10-02	10/97 to 05/02	115+42=157	835	2,84,03,595 32,97,421	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	168 188 172 206 283 312 448

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11.	11-9082 M/s. Narang International Hotel	23 and 24-02-06	07/02 to 12/05	251+255=506	210	40,650	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	388 345 242 257 350 554 339
12.	11-9508 M/s. Hotel Samrat	20 and 27-11-97	07/96 to 10/97	405+7=412	110	21,466.32	No compliance made during the period. Dispute pending in Court.	
13.	11-10916 M/s. C.J. International Hotel	14, 15 and 22-07-05	10/03 to 05/05	526+78=604	448	7,920	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	686 685 627 637 660 654 574
14.	11-488 M/s. Hotel Kanishka	26-07-96 and 05-12-07	03/95 to 04/96 04/01 to 10/02	3+18=21 Nil	Nil 206	67,68,387 (01/98 to 09/02 adhoc cont.)	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	— — 549 572 203 508 415
15.	11-11489 M/s. Hotel Indraprastha	2, 5, 10 and 12-05-05	09/99 to 03/01	17	4	—		
16.	11-12036 M/s. Hotel Park	4, 5, and 06-08-05 and 5 and 07-09-05	08/02 to 07/05	195+154=249	62	81,46,838	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	283 — 203 152 225 195 174
17.	11-14099 M/s. Bharat Hotel	12, 15, 18 and 20-08-05	06/04 to 06/05	601+81=682	173	25,04,210	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	— 963 908 65828 41619 71642 71236

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
18.	11-24053 M/s. Hotel Park Royal	25, 26 and 27-04-06	06/02 to 03/05	434	165	35,29,985	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	527 469 501 516 486 508 539
19.	11-43063 M/s. Hotel Radison	4, 5, 7, 10 and 27-10-05 and 23-11-05	10/04 to 09/05	240+152=392	250	77,28,536	30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	337 324 317 288 325 343 347
20.	11-43174 M/s. Unison Hotel	10-09-02	11/00 to 07/02	275+129=404	171		30-09-02 31-03-03 30-09-03 31-03-04 30-09-04 31-03-05 30-09-05	380 391 372 364 392 225 403

MR. SPEAKER: Very well ! The country is seeing all this. The House stands adjourned till 1 O'clock.

11.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirteen of the clock.

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1999-2000.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions)

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4362/06]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Prasar Bharati Broadcasting Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4363/06]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Prasar Bharati Broadcasting Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4363A/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 403 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March 2006, regarding constitution of the Central Apprenticeship Council and appointment of Shri Nagaraj Chebbi, as its Chairman and Shri Mettu Surya Prakash as its Vice Chairman and members mention therein, issued under section 24 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4364/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4365/06]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Fertilizers Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4366/06]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2003-2004.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4367/06]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the Himachal Pradesh Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Shimla, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4368/06]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4369/06]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wildlife Institute

of India, Dehradun, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for the year 2004-2005.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4370/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the MECON Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4371/06]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4372/06]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4373/06]

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Manganese Ore (India) Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4374/06]

- (5) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4375/06]

13.02 hrs.

**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING
COMMITTEES—A REVIEW**

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Hindi and English versions of the 'Departmentally Related Standing Committees (2004-05)—A Review.

13.02½ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS
FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE**

Sixth Report

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

13.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Eleventh to Thirteenth Report

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): I beg to present the following Reports of the Committee on Petitions (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Eleventh Report on matters concerned with Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (2) Twelfth Report on matters concerned with Ministries of Railways, Coal and Finance.
- (3) Thirteenth Report on matters concerned with Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

13.02¾ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
Sixth Report**

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2005-06) on the subject 'National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste Students for Higher Studies Abroad'.

13.03 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
Twelfth to Fourteenth Reports**

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT (Mumbai North East): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2005-06):—

- (1) Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Power.
- (2) Thirteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.
- (3) Fourteenth Report on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2005 of the Ministry of Power.

13.03¼ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thirty-fifth to Fortieth Reports**

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:—

- (1) Thirty-fifth Report on the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2005.
- (2) Thirty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-07) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs, Expenditure and Disinvestment).
- (3) Thirty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (4) Thirty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Planning.
- (5) Thirty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (6) Fortieth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Company Affairs.

13.03½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD,
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):
Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2005-2006):—

- (1) Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).
 - (2) Thirteenth Report on demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).
-

13.04 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS**

(I) Tenth and Eleventh Reports

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2005-2006):—

- (1) 10th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Committee (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Pricing of Petroleum Products'.
- (2) 11th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Committee (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas including Coal Bed Methane'.

(II) Statement

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2005-2006) showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of recommendations contained in Chapter-V of the 8th Report of the Committee (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas'.

13.05 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN
DEVELOPMENT**

Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the

[Md. Salim]

Standing Committee on Urban Development (2005-2006):-

- (1) Fourteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Urban Development.
- (2) Fifteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Allevation.

13.05½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

One Hundred Seventy-second to One Hundred Seventy-sixth Reports

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:—

- (1) One Hundred Seventy-second Report on University and Higher Education.
- (2) One Hundred Seventy-third Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy.
- (3) One Hundred Seventy-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education.
- (4) One Hundred Seventy-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- (5) One Hundred Seventy-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

13.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

179th, 180th to 187th and 190th and 191st Reports

[English]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry:—

- (1) One Hundred Seventy-ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Committee's One Hundred Sixty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Public Enterprises (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises).
- (2) One Hundred Eightieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in One Hundred Sixty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Department of Heavy Industries (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises).
- (3) One Hundred Eighty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in One Hundred Seventy-first Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries.
- (4) One Hundred Eighty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Sixtieth Report on the Tax Proposals affecting various segments of industries of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries.
- (5) One Hundred Eighty-third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Seventieth Report on the Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.
- (6) One Hundred Eighty-fourth Report on Action

Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Seventy-second Report on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.

- (7) One Hundred Eighty-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Seventy-third Report on Inter-Sectoral Strategic Co-operation to Promote Small Scale Industries of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries.
- (8) One Hundred Eighty-sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Seventy-fourth Report on Operational Effectiveness of PMRY, REGP and KVI Schemes in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Maharashtra of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.
- (9) One Hundred Eighty-seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Seventy-fifth Report on Key concern areas of SSI in select states of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries.
- (10) One Hundred Ninetieth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of Department of Heavy Industries (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises).
- (11) One Hundred Ninety-first Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of Department of Public Enterprises (Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises).

13.07 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TOURISM AND CULTURE**

102nd to 107th Reports

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West

Bengal): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport Tourism and Culture:—

- (1) 102nd Report on 'Demands for Grants 2006-2007 of Department of Road Transport and Highways'.
- (2) 103rd Report on 'Demands for Grants 2006-2007 of Department of Culture'.
- (3) 104th Report on 'Demands for Grants 2006-2007 of Department of Tourism'.
- (4) 105th Report on 'Demands for Grants 2006-2007 of Department of Shipping'.
- (5) 106th Report on 'Demands for Grants 2006-2007 of Ministry of Civil Aviation'.
- (6) 107th Report of the Committee on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Ninety-first Report on 'Functioning of the Archaeological Survey of India'.

13.07½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE**

Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports

[Translation]

DR. R.C. DOME (Birbhum): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare:—

- (1) Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Department of Health and Family Welfare.
 - (2) Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Department of AYUSH.
-

13.07½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL,
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE**

Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice:—

- (1) Fourteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- (2) Fifteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Law and Justice.

13.08 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (I) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel**

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73-A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin—Part II dated the 1st September, 2004.

The aforesaid Sixth Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on the 23rd March, 2005. The Report was on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Committee.

The Committee in the said report has made a total

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 4376/06.

of 14 recommendations where action is called for on the part of the Government.

The Action taken Statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on the 28th September, 2005.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure I would request that this may be considered as road.

13.09 hrs.

- (II) (a) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 'Pricing of Petroleum Products' 2004-05**

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): Sir, on behalf of Shi Murlidhar Deora, I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in The Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 4-8-2005. The report relates to the subject of 'Pricing of Petroleum Products' of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2004-2005.

Action taken Statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 19-1-2006.

There are 15 recommendations made by the

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 4377/06.

Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to issues like price of domestic crude oil, crude imports, levy of cess and royalty, fixation of prices of petroleum products, cost of refining and refinery margin, excise duty on products, taxes and duties levied on products, scheme of subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS kerosene, etc.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

13.09½ hrs.

- (ii) (b) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on "Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas including Coal Bed Methane" (2004-2005)**

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Murli Deora, I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction of the Speaker under the provisions of Direction 73A on the subject "Exploration of oil and natural gas including Coal Bed Methane" was presented to Lok Sabha on 4-8-2005.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 9th November, 2005.

There are 31 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendation mainly pertain to issue like acceleration of exploration

programmes, exploration strategy of ONGC and OIL, New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), strengthening of DGH, IOR/EOR projects of ONGC and CBM gas exploration and development.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

13.10 hrs.

- (iii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the Eleventh to Fourteenth Reports of the Standing Committee on Railways**

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Reports of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways in pursuance of Directive 73A, of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The 11th Report of the Committee on "Xth five year Plan of the Railways" presented to the Lok Sabha on 03-08-2005 contained 7 recommendations which were considered by the Ministry of Railways and Action Taken Notes thereon were furnished to the Committee on 02-11-2005 (English version) and on 28-12-2005 (Hindi version).

The 12th Report of the Committee on "Rail Network in N.E. Region—Expansion and Investment" presented to the Lok Sabha on 03-08-2005 contained 5 recommendations and Action Taken Notes indicating the action taken by the Government thereon have been furnished to the Committee on 28-02-2006 (English version) and on 31-03-2006 (Hindi version).

The 13th Report of the Committee on "Procurement

[Shri R. Velu]

of wagons" presented to the Lok Sabha on 24-08-2005 contained 7 recommendations and Action Taken Notes indicating the action taken by the Government thereon have been furnished to the Committee on 29-11-2005 (English version) and on 13-12-2005 (Hindi version).

The 14th Report of the Committee on the "Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation" presented to the Lok Sabha on 30-08-2005 contained 13 Recommendations and the Action Taken Notes thereon have been furnished to the Committee on 30-11-2005 (English version) and on 23-12-2005 (Hindi version).

Statements showing details of all the recommendations contained in these Report and implementation status thereof are enclosed. Since the statements are voluminous, I request that the same may be taken as read.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take Item 26, Shri P. Chidambaram.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I would like to make an appeal. Because of the stock market disaster, the small investors are very much shocked. I think, when the House is in session, it should be discussed. It is a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You give a notice and we shall discuss.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I would also like to support this issue. It is a very important issue to be discussed....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, small investors are suffering losses....(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been downward trend in the market for three days. Small investors will be ruined. It is on account of this that they are committing suicide....(Interruptions)

[English]

I belong to the State where most of the small investors have invested money. They are committing suicides. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not good. You know it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cooperate with the Chair. I have never said that you are not allowed to discuss the issue. You are allowed to discuss the issue but we have to follow some procedure. We have just now agreed. I will allow. I have never said that I will not allow, but you give proper notices. I have said there is nothing to stop you. But the only thing is that I have to carry on with some procedure on some basis. Therefore, please cooperate. We can discuss many of the important issues. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

13.12 hrs.

STATE BANK OF INDIA (SUBSIDIARY BANKS LAWS) AMENDMENT BILL, 2006*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950, and the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956, and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the State Bank of Saurashtra Act, 1950, and the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956 and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 22-5-2006.

13.12¼ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND
SIXTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg
to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the
Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I introduce the Bill.

13.12½.

IMMORAL TRAFFIC (PREVENTION)
AMENDMENT BILL, 2006*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI
RENUKA CHOWDHURY): I beg to move for leave to
introduce a Bill further to amend the Immoral Traffic
(Prevention) Act, 1956 and the Prevention Money-
Laundering Act, 2002.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
and the Prevention Money-Laundering Act, 2002."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I introduce the
Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2,
dated 22-5-2006.

13.12¼ hrs.

NATIONAL JUTE BOARD BILL, 2006*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI
SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): I beg to move for leave to
introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a
National Jute Board for the development of the cultivation,
manufacture and marketing of jute and jute products and
for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide
for the establishment of a National Jute Board for
the development of the cultivation, manufacture and
marketing of jute and jute products and for matters
connected therewith and incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: I introduce** the
Bill.

13.13 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377†

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 may be
treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.):
Mr. Speaker, Sir Matter under Rule 377 is always taken
in the House and I am not given opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow I will give you opportunity.
Today two hours have already been wasted. A lot of
business could have been carried during this period.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2,
dated 22-5-2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

† Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Need for construction of an over-bridge at Gangadhara and Virpur railway crossings on National Highway No. 6 in Gujarat

[English]

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY (Mandvi): I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways towards need to construct an over-bridge at Gangadhara and Virpur railway crossings on National Highway No. 6 in Gujarat. This Highway goes to Dhuliya from Surat connecting Gujarat State with Maharashtra. As it is a well known that Highway goes to Dhuliya from Surat connecting Gujarat State with Maharashtra. As it is a well known fact that Surat city is a big business center in Gujarat and a number of people go from Surat to other cities in Maharashtra on daily basis in connection with their business activities and travel by road using this Highway. In the same way the farmers of Maharashtra bring their agricultural produce to Surat on daily basis. A large number of people of Mandvi Constituency who deal in diamond and textiles industry go daily to Surat through this route.

On the way to Dhuliya from Surat there are two railway crossing at Gangadhara and Virpur. Due to heavy rush on the road there is always traffic jam on these railway crossing which causes wastage to time and harassment to the public using this road. Long queues of vehicles specially of trucks and buses can always be seen on these two railway crossings.

It is very pertinent to mention here that the Ministry of Railways have agreed to construct this railway crossing on 50% cost share basis with the Gujarat Government.

Sir, I request the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways to pass orders for construction of the over-bridge on Gangadhara and Virpur railway crossing on National Highway No. 6 immediately.

(ii) Need to convert meter-gauge rail line between Tiranga Hills and Ambaji into broad gauge and introduce a train connecting Mehsana-Tiranga Hills and Ambaji in Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Sir, Ambaji

temple is not only the place of reverence for the people of Gujarat rather hundreds of people from all over India pay visit to Ambaji for 'darshan' but the people have to face difficulties in reaching there. There is no modern railway facility to reach Ambaji and people have to go there by buses which is not only a costly option but the people also have to face a lot of inconvenience. There is metre gauge line from Ambaji temple to Tiranga Hills and modern railway facilities cannot be provided on that line. So, the said line should be converted into broad gauge at the earliest so that the direct Rail Service to Ambaji from Mehsana via Tiranga Hill could be provided. If the rail line from Tiranga Hill to Ambaji is converted into broad gauge other places can also be linked with Ambaji. It is also essential to construct rail line from Ambaji Abu Road.

Through the House I would like to urge upon the Central Government that the metre gauge rail line from Tiranga Hill to Ambaji should be converted into broad gauge and railway service from Mehsana to Ambaji via Tiranga Hill should be introduced at the earliest and thereafter it should be linked to Abu Road.

(iii) Need to bring suitable legislation providing for immediate medical treatment to the injured persons in medico-legal emergency cases

[English]

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): At present, injured persons in emergency have to undergo a lot of agony before they get admitted into hospital. According to existing law, when a person gets seriously injured and is taken to hospital for emergency medical treatment, hospitals insist that first a case be registered with police and fulfill all formalities before he is admitted into hospital.

It is a well known fact that police many a times do not register the case under the garb that particular area does not fall under their jurisdiction.

If one looks at the whole scenario, one gets a feeling that those who are expected to provide relief in emergency cases—doctors, hospitals or police—have become so insensitive that no humanitarian consideration is shown towards injured. And, in some cases, persons have even lost their lives.

Furthermore, when injured person died and his relatives are not in a position to immediately pay hospital bills, certain hospitals refused even to part with dead body. I am not saying that hospital should forego its medical bills. But, I firmly believe, on such occasions, no hospital should be allowed to retain dead body. Instead, whenever such instances come to the notice of the Ministry/Police, they should suo motu, give necessary directions to authorities concerned that if anybody indulges in such an act he should be liable for criminal prosecution. At the same time, if required, relevant Acts/rules should be amended forthwith and culprits should be punished, particularly in cases mentioned above.

(iv) Need to review Implementation of National Crops Insurance Scheme in Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, the progress made under Crops Insurance Scheme in several blocks of my Parliamentary Constituency Amreli is not satisfactory owing to which the benefits of the welfare schemes run by the Government have not accrued to the farmers so far. In reply to my letter the Hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance stated that payment of more than Rs. 91 crore under the Crop Insurance Scheme is pending in my Amreli District. Besides there are so many formalities which have to be fulfilled for availing the benefit of this Crop Insurance Scheme that the farmers are incurring more losses than reaping benefits owing to which the crop insurance scheme has not been as beneficial for the farmers as had been envisaged by the Government of India. Even the State Government keeps the cases of Crop Insurance Scheme pending for long. If the farmers are not benefited by this scheme at the time of national calamity then it is of no use.

Therefore, it is my humble request to the Union Government that the benefits of the crop insurance scheme may be accrued to the farmers as were envisaged in the House during discussion prior to introducing the scheme. That the centre may give directions for the immediate payment of the outstanding amount under the Crop Insurance Scheme in my Parliamentary Constituency.

(v) Need to take steps to improve the condition of rural artisans in Murshidabad district, West Bengal

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the condition of rural artisans in the country particularly in Murshidabad district West Bengal.

Once upon a time district Murshidabad was the capital of present day Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. At that period of time rural artisans were patronized largely by the then zamindars and nawabs. In the due course of time an army of artisans was grown up with an expertise in the field of silk garments, goldsmith, motka cloths. Ivory Craft, Conch and Kansa manufacturing much to the glory of the district. The exquisite pieces of articles produced by them still demonstrates the enriched knowledge of the past. But over the ages this glory has withered.

In view of the potentialities of these artisans who are struggling for existence, I would request the concerned Ministry to utilize the skills of these artisans by fresh infusion of funds and widespread exposure and dissemination. The district should given special importance to review the heritage of art, culture and entrepreneurship.

(vi) Need to provide BSNL Mobile services in Araria Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Sir, the BSNL mobile services have not been started so far in the Forbisgang, Jogbani and Narpatganj in my Parliamentary constituency Araria whereas these services are operational in all other parts of the country. The Government is making an excuse of these areas being in the vicinity of Nepal Border whereas the BSNL has resumed its service in other areas bordering Nepal barring these three places. Today, mobile service is the need of the common man and there is a lot of resentment in the people over there.

Therefore, through you I would like to rivet the

[Shri Sukdeo Paswan]

attention of the Hon. Minister of Communications towards this and request that directions to provide BSNL mobile services immediately in Forbisgang, Jogbani and Narpatganj in my Parliamentary Constituency Araria may be given.

- (vii) **Need to ensure that derogatory remarks made against late Sardar Patel in the History Book prescribed in Delhi University are expunged**

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, I am of the opinion that the contribution of the Hon. Ironman Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for the country is unparalleled. When the country became independent the small princely states in several parts of the country did not wish to join India and Kashmir which is an integral part of India presently could become so owing to the efforts of the Hon. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. And the role played by Hon. Sardar Patelji in making the country so big and ensuring free and fair treatment and respect for the existence of all religions is noteworthy and unforgettable. Owing to the negligence of the Government of India the image of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patelji has shown to be communal in a book prescribed in Delhi University, has hurt the sentiments of the people of India and particularly those of Gujarat. Mahatma Gandhi who got the country independent and Sardar Patel who united the country were born in Gujarat itself, this has given a blow to the people of Gujarat.

Through you, it is a humble request to the Union Government that this kind of remark may be immediately expunged from this book and the Government should apologise so as to encourage the sentiments of people uniting the country.

- (viii) **Need to take suitable measures to promote programmes depicting 'Unity in Diversity'**

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, there is a need to rekindle among the people a feeling of patriotism and the one reminiscent of our glorious past and our rich cultural heritage.

There is a need to create the feeling of 'One Nation' and 'We the people of India' among the people so as to establish the supremacy of national interest and unity of

spirit. There is a dire need to take suitable measures to keep the unity and integrity of the country intact amidst the regional diversity. There is a need to further strengthen the functioning of the existing system of Parliamentary democracy.

Therefore, the Union Government should take measures to promote various programmes so as to give necessary impetus for this purpose.

- (ix) **Need to bring all the districts of Arunachal Pradesh under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme**

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act enacted by the Parliament is laudable Legislation. But the actual benefit will be reaped by the poor people only if it is implemented properly and expeditiously.

The native population of Arunachal Pradesh is around 6.5 lakh out of which the rural population is around 4 lakh only though it is largest state in the North-East. The average rural population in each district is around 25 thousand that makes the entire rural population of the State far lesser than a small district of plain area states. This is due to very difficult topographic terrains and high rise mountains.

In these circumstances the whole state of Arunachal Pradesh has to be treated as a single unit for the purpose. It is distressful to find that district like East Kameng and Kurung Kumey, the most backward districts in the Country are not getting the benefits of this scheme which is enacted for this very purpose. This is a gross injustice to the state and people of the areas.

I would like to urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister to include all the sixteen districts of Arunachal Pradesh whose total rural population is mere 4 lakh only, under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme immediately.

- (x) **Need to declare Keonjhar Telecom District in Orissa as an Independent S.S.A. with a view to resolve operational problems in the region**

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): The people of

my Keonjhar Parliamentary Constituency have not been able to get fullfledged telecom services despite the fact that the district of Keonjhar has been declared as a telecom district since last four years. At present we are facing the problem of reporting MIS data, fleet management information and updating IN Services in Website as no user Id and password are allotted to Keonjhar T.D. Similarly (Remote Operator Interface) ROI has not been allotted to my district and as a result of that ITC details are not made possible in that district.

During 2003 one 5K AXE-10 TAX was diverted to Jammu and Kashmir Circle on the plea that Keonjhar is not an independent SSA. The MBM TAX at Keonjhar is very soon going to be exhausted.

As such, I urge upon the Minister of Communications to take necessary steps to declare Keonjhar Telecom district as an Independent SSA so that the operation and development problems being faced in my district are resolved at the earliest.

- (xi) **Need for construction of foot over bridges at Pallambi and Pallipuram railway stations with a view to avoid inconvenience to the local people due to doubling of railway track between Mangalore and Shoranur in Southern Railways**

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (Ottapalam): The railway construction work for the doubling of railway track between Mangalore and Shoranur in Southern Railway is causing tremendous inconvenience and hardship for the local people in their daily life, as all the Government offices, institutions, schools, colleges, hospitals, banks and Post Offices are located across the railway track in Pallambi and Pallipuram Railway stations. As the residential areas fall on the other side of the rail track, foot-path, over-bridges may urgently be constructed for which the local people are agitating and demanding.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to construct foot over-bridges there to avoid inconvenience to the public.

- (xii) **Need to ensure that interest rate on Provident Fund is not further reduced**

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): It is reported that the Government of India is considering to

further reduce the rate of interest of Provident Fund from the existing rate of 8.5%. The reduction of interest rate will add to further distress of the working people. It is to be noted that from 9.5% interest rate it has already been reduced to 8.5%.

I would appeal to the Hon'ble Labour Minister not to proceed with any further reduction in the interest rate. The Hon'ble Minister may kindly take note of the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Labour which has suggested at least to keep 9.5% interest rate. The views of all the Central Trade Unions be also taken into serious consideration.

- (xiii) **Need to take steps for educational development of SCs/STs with a view to enable them to take the benefit of reservations in Government jobs**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, the implementation of reservation policy is a way towards certain destination, but not a destination in itself. Half a century has passed since country became independent, the reservation policy has also been in existence for a long period. Though the ultimate objective of implementing the reservation policy is upliftment of backward classes of society, the ground reality is that even today the reserved posts for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Government jobs are lying vacant. As per the Government of India's policy of reservation, 16.5% posts are reserved for scheduled castes for group 'A' 'B' 'C' 'D' posts and 6.46% per cent are reserved for scheduled tribes in the said group of posts and the inability to find suitable candidates for fulfilling the vacant posts is cited as the reason thereof, I would say it to be to the lame excuse for it is the responsibility of the government to empower and to make dalits and the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes competent enough.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government that alongwith existing trend of implementing reservation policy in letter and spirit, it should also take effective steps in all other sectors with a view to achieve target of actual upliftment and development of dalits and those belonging to backward classes of the society.

- (xiv) **Need to include road from Deori Bandh (Uttar Pradesh) to Harpalpur (Madhya Pradesh) under National Highways and complete the widening of road between Deori Bandh and Mataudh**

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh): Sir, the work regarding widening and strengthening of road from Deori Bandh in Jhansi-Morzapur to Mataudh district Banda under National Highway No.75/76 is not being undertaken. Ahead of Deori Bandh, there is a stretch of 9 kilometre which links to Harpalpur, Madhya Pradesh, is a part of Jhansi-Mirzapur National Highway. So far no action in regard to transferring said highway from Madhya Pradesh State Highway to National Highway has been completed. The width of this road is around 2.80 metre, approximately 9 feet, which is not as per the specifications laid down for national highways. Besides, due to increase in traffic, the work regarding widening and strengthening of many national highways of the country is being undertaken. Whereas, the Government has yet not given approval to the widening and strengthening of roads from Harpalpur, Madhya Pradesh to Mataudh, Janapad Banda under my Parliamentary constituency, Hamirpur-Mahoba. The length of said road is around 100 kilometres. Similarly, there is an immediate need for construction of two small 'Rapta' lying between Deori Bandh and Harpalpur and Kyolari 'Rapta' between Harpalpur to Panwadi and two 'Rapta' in both sides of Gram Sungira, district Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh on the said route. During to it during rainy season, the traffic on this busy national highway completely remain jamtoggled.

The religious places like Orccha, Chitrakot, Prayag, Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Vindhyavasini Devi Temple, are also connected by the said road. The domestic and foreign tourists going towards Khajuraho also take this route. The construction of this road will boost trade and tourism.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to take necessary action in this regard.

- (xv) **Need to take steps for early completion of Karanpura Super-Thermal Power Plant at Chatra, Jharkhand**

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra): Sir, the foundation stone of Karanpura Super Thermal Plant in

my Parliamentary constituency, Chatra has been laid twice, but the work in this regard is as yet to begin. The proposal for setting up this plant was presented to meet the growing demand of power supply in order to give a fillip to the mining and mineral based industries. In reply to a question in this regard, the Hon'ble Minister has stated that the demand of power supply in Jharkhand is not on higher side.

Sir, on one-hand power generation is being promoted under schemes of Bharat Nirman, on the other side, the Hon'ble Minister of Power stated during reply that Jharkhand does not require much of power.

Through the House, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to take steps for early completion of Karanpura Super Thermal Power Plant at Chatra.

- (xvi) **Need to set up storage facilities and Food processing industries in Krishnagiri and Dharamapuri districts for the benefit of mango growers in the region**

[English]

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): In Krishnagiri and Dharamapuri districts out of all the fruits, mango cultivation is approximately 40,000 hectares. Annually several lakh tonnes of mangoes are produced here. Number of varieties of mangoes that are cultivated here fetches huge foreign exchange to the Government. These units are also providing huge employment opportunities to the local people.

As the mango production is plenty, so is the production of mango pulp. Out of the total mango pulp produced in India, ¼th is contributed by both Krishnagiri and Dharamapuri districts. The increasing demand for mango pulp envisages the rapid expansion of mango pulp industries in the region.

To cope with the increasing cultivation of mangoes and production of mango pulp, proper storage facility and adequate number of food processing industries are required in the region.

Hence, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to set up proper storage facilities and to establish food processing industries in the Krishnagiri and Dharamapuri districts.

- (xvii) **Need for construction of a bridge on river Gomti with a view to link Deogaon Horbal-Faizabad with Sathinghat-Jagdishpur-Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Sir, the river Gomti divides district Faizabad and district Sultanpur of Uttar Pradesh. Both the districts are situated in the zone of district Faizabad. There is heavy traffic between the districts as people travel to and for administrative affairs, religious, social and other programmes. As there is Gomti river between legislative assembly area Milkipur, Faizabad and Jagdishpur, Amethi, Sultanpur people face heavy inconvenience in transportation. Hence there is a need for construction of a bridge on river Gomti to link Deogaon Horbal Faizabad with Sathinghat-Jagdishpur-Sultanpur.

As there is no bridge on river Gomti people of both areas and districts have to face various hindrances in carrying out educational, business, administrative and development related works. In the absence of a bridge lakhs of people are being deprived of all types of facilities.

Therefore, an appropriate time bound action should be taken for construction of above mentioned bridge.

- (xviii) **Need to take steps for early completion of Chhapra-Kaptanganj via Siwan-Thawe and Maharajganj-Mashrakh rail projects in Bihar**

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, several rail projects have been approved in the country Chhapra-Kaptanganj via Siwan-Thawe and Maharajganj-Mashrakh rail projects in Bihar are main projects among them. Chhapra to Kapatanganj project is regarding conversion of narrow gauge into broad gauge and Maharajganj to Mashrakh railway project is regarding laying of new railway line. Previous Government had approved the Duronda of Mashrakh Railway Project under which trains have started operating between Duronda and Maharajganj once work on this stretch was completed. Whereas even land has not been acquired till now for Maharajganj to Mashrakh Railway Line.

Once the said two projects are complete, they will not only benefit the people of thousands of villages in

the nearby areas but also increase the business activities of business centres situated in these areas as a result of which the Government will also benefit alongwith the people and the traders.

Through you I request the Government to take steps for early completion of Chhapra-Kaptanganj via Siwan-Thawe and Maharajganj-Mashrakh rail projects.

- (xix) **Need to provide special economic package for alround development of the Union Territory of Pondicherry**

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Karaikal region of the Union Territory of Pondicherry is the most backward among the four regions of the territory. It is dependent mainly on agriculture as 80% of the population is deriving livelihood from it. But the development of agriculture is conditioned by the availability of Cauvery water which is erratic as the region is on the tail end of the Cauvery. The incidence of unemployment and poverty is high as other non-agricultural avenues have not been satisfactorily developed. The social indicators are also low. The standard of education, especially higher education is abysmally low. The health facilities available are of primary in nature and specially treatment facilities are woefully inadequate and the patients are driven to far off regions. The infrastructure facilities in the form of roads, railways, ports, airstrip are inadequate. A comprehensive package for its development socially, economically and commercially is required. This district has not yet been covered under NREGP. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to initiate the following measures:

- (1) To declare Karaikal district as a backward district.
- (2) Grant Aid under the Backward District Special Fund of the Planning Commission.
- (3) Workout of a special package of development for Karaikal.
- (4) Include Karaikal district under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme as the incidence of rural unemployment is very high.

(xx) Need to allocate adequate funds for completion of Virudhunagar-Manamadurai gauge conversion work in Tamil Nadu

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): The gauge conversion in between Virudhunagar and Manamadurai via Aruppukottai is very important and was one of the long vision of great leader Shri K. Kamaraj. If the Virudhunagar-Manamadurai Broad Gauge work is completed it would be easy for passenger and goods trains to reach Trichy from Virudhunagar through an alternate route to the existing route of Madurai-Dindigul which is a highly congested. More over the MSL (Mean Sea Level) in the Virudhunagar-Manamadurai is much lower compared to Madurai-Dindigul-Trichy Sector thereby consumption of fuel can be reduced. Further it will be useful for the large number of Rameswaram bound devotees from the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Virudhunagar-Manamadurai gauge conversion work has been already sanctioned in the Railway Budget 2006-2007, but the allotted fund is not sufficient for completion of work in this financial year. So, I urge the Government to allocate adequate funds for the completion of Virudhunagar-Manamadurai gauge conversion work in a time bound manner.

13.14 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH AMENDMENT BILL), 2006—Cont.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, this is a very simple Bill. It seeks to make certain provisions mandatory on the States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and continue to have that mandatory provision with respect to Madhya Pradesh and delete Bihar from that mandatory provision.

Sir, at present Bihar is having only 0.9 percentage of the tribal population; Jharkhand is having 26.3 percentage of the tribal population; Chhattisgarh is having 31.8 percentage of the tribal population; and Madhya Pradesh continues to have 20.3 percentage of the tribal population.

Article 164 (1) of the Constitution provided that Bihar and Madhya Pradesh should have a Tribal Minister and this provision has been made mandatory. By moving this amendment and amending the Constitution, what is sought to be done is this. Bihar will not be bound by this mandatory provision of the Constitution. If Bihar wants to have a Tribal Minister, it can have but it is not mandatory that it should have a Tribal Minister, whereas Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are not bound by this mandatory provision as per the existing provisions of the Constitution. With this amendment, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh would be required to have a Tribal Minister of their Governments, and Madhya Pradesh continues to do that. Sir, this is the kind of an amendment which we are trying to introduce in the Constitution through this Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

Sir, there were two or three points which were raised by the hon. Members while discussing the provisions of this Bill. For the time being, it is not necessary to discuss those points because they relate to the de-limitation and they relate to declaring certain areas as scheduled areas. Those points are not relevant to this Bill and I would seek the indulgence and permission not to reply to those points now. When those points are raised in some other debate, the replies could be given to them.

Sir, I request that this amendment be accepted and this Constitution (Amendment) Bill be passed.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members before I put the motion for consideration to the vote of the House, I may inform the House that this being the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, voting has to be by Division.

Let the Lobbies be cleared—

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

I believe all the hon. Members by this time are aware of the procedure for voting and it need not be repeated again. If any hon. Member is new, he or she may ask or take the help of the Member sitting next to him or her.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

*The Lok Sabha divided:***Division No. 1****13.20 hrs.**

Abdullah, Shri Omar

Abdullakutty, Shri

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

Acharya, Shri Prasanna

Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Advani, Shri L.K.

Agarwal, Dr. Dhirendra

Ahamed, Shri E.

Ahir, Shri Hansraj G.

Ahmad, Dr Shakeel

Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar

Ajaya Kumar, Shir S.

*Ajgalle, Shri Guharam

*Ansari, Shri Furkan

*Antulay, Shri A.R.

Appadurai, Shri M.

Athawale, Shri Ramdas

Athithan, Shri Dhanuskodi R.

Atwal, Shri Charnjit Singh

*Azmi, Shri Ilyas

Baal, Shri T.R.

'Baba', Shri K.C. Singh

'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat

Baghel, Prof. S.P. Singh

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Baitha, Shri Kailash

Banerjee, Kumari Mamata

*Bangarappa, Shri S.

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Barad, Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Barku, Shri Shingada Damodar

*Barman, Prof. Basudeb

Barman, Shri Hiten

Barman, Shri Ranen

Barq, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman

Basu, Shri Anil

Bauri, Shrimati Susmita

Baxla, Shri Joachim

Bhagora, Shri Mahavir

*Bhakta, Shri Manoranjan

Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal

Bhuria, Shri Kanti Lal

Borkataky, Shri Narayan Chandra

Bose, Shri Subrata

Budholia, Shri Rajnarayan

Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur

Chakraborty, Dr. Sujan

Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy

Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh

Chaliha, Shri Kirip

Chander Kumar, Prof.

Chandrappan, Shri C.K.

Charenamei, Shri Mani

Chatterjee, Shri Santasri

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Chaudhary, Dr. Tushar A.
Chaure, Shri Bapu Hari
Chavda, Shri Harisinh
Chidambaram, Shri P.
*Chinta Mohan, Dr.
Chitthan, Shri N.S.V.
Choubey, Shri Lal Muni
Choudhary, Shri Nikhil Kumar
*Choudhry, Shri Bansagopal
Chowdhury, Shri Adhir
Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka
Dangawas, Shri Bhanwar Singh
Das, Shri Alakesh
Das, Shri Khagen
*Dasgupta, Shri Gurudas
Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan
Delkar, Shri Mohan S.
Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.
Deora, Shri Milind
Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan
*Dhanaraju, Dr. K.
Dharavath, Shri Ravinder Naik
Dhindsa, Shri Sukhdev Singh
Dhotre, Shri Sanjay
*Dikshit, Shri Sandeep
Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra
Dubey, Shri Chandra Shekhar
*Dutt, Shrimati Priya

Elangovan, Shri E.V.K.S.
Engti, Shri Biren Singh
Fanthorne, Shri Francis
Fernandes, Shri George
*Gadakh, Shri Tukaram Gangadhar
Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
Gaikwad, Shri Eknath Mahadeo
Gamang, Shri Giridhar
Gandhi, Shri Rahul
Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia
*Ganesan, Shri L.
Gangwar, Shri Santosh
Gao, Shri Tapir
Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya
Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
George, Shri K. Francis
Gill, Shri Atma Singh
Gogoi, Shri Dip
*Goyal, Shri Surendra Prakash
Gudhe, Shri Anant
Gulshan, Shrimati Paramjit Kaur
Handique, Shri Bijoy
*Hanumanthappa, Shri N.Y.
Harsha Kumar, Shri G.V.
Hassan, Shri Munawar
*Hooda, Shri Deepender Singh
Hossain, Shri Abdul Mannan
Hussain, Shri Anwar

*Jagadeesan, Shrimati Subbulakshmi

*Jai Prakash, Shri

*Jai Prakash, Shri

Jain, Shri Pusp

Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash

Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan

Jena, Shri Mohan

Jha, Shri Raghunath

Jindal, Shri Naveen

Jogaiah, Shri Hari Rama

*Jogi, Shri Ajit

Joshi, Shri Kailash

Kader Mohideen, Prof. K.M.

Kalmadi, Shri Suresh

*Kamat, Shri Gurudas

Kanodia, Shri Mahesh

Karunakaran, Shri P.

Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh

Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbai

Kaur, Shrimati Praneet

Kerketta, Shrimati Sushila

Khaire, Shri Chandrakant

Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.

Khanna, Shri Avinash Rai

*Koli, Shri Ramswaroop

Konyak, Shri W. Wangyuh

Koshal, Shri Raghuveer Singh

Koya, Dr. P.P.

Krishna, Shri Vijoy

Krishnan, Dr. C.

Krishnaswamy, Shri A.

Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh

Kumar, Shrimati Meira

Kumari Selja

**Kunnur, Shri Manjunath

Kuppusami, Shri C.

Kyandiah, Shri P.R.

Lahiri, Shri Samik

'Lalan', Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh

Lalu Prasad, Shri

Laxman, Shrimati Susheela Bangaru

Libra, Sardar Sukhdev Singh

Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra

Maharia, Shri Subhash

Mahtab, Shri B.

Majhi, Shri Parsuram

Majhi, Shri Shankhlal

Maken, Shri Ajay

Malhotra, Prof. Vijay Kumar

Mallikarjuniah, Shri S.

Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar

Mandlik, Shri S.D.

Manjhi, Shri Rajesh Kumar

Manoj, Dr. K.S.

Marndi, Shri Sudam

*Masood, Shri Rasheed

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

**Corrected from 'Noes' to 'Ayes' through slip.

Mcleod, Ms. Ingrid
 Mediyam, Dr. Babu Rao
 Meena, Shri Namo Narain
 Maghwal, Shri Kailash
 Mehta, Shri Alok Kumar
 Meinya, Dr. Thokchom
 Mishra, Dr. Rajesh
 Mistry, Shri Madhusudan
 Moghe, Shri Krishna Murari
 Mohan, Shri P.
 Mollah, Shri Hannan
 Moorthy, Shri A.K.
 Mukherjee, Shri Pranab
 Muniyappa, Shri K.H.
 Munshi Ram, Shri
 Murmu, Shri Hemlal
 Murmu, Shri Rupchand
 Muttemwar, Shri Vilas
 Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh
 Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso
 Nambadan, Shri Lonappan
 Nandy, Shri Amitava
 Narbula, Shri D.
 Narendra, Shri A.
 Nayak, Shri Ananta
 *Nikhil Kumar, Shri
 Nizamuddin, Shri G.
 Ola, Shri Sis Ram

Oraon, Dr. Rameshwar
 Pal, Shri Rupchand
 Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.
 Palanisamy, Shri K.C.
 Panabaka Lakshmi, Shrimati
 Panda, Shri Brahmananda
 Panda, Shri Prabodh
 Pandey, Dr. Laxminarayan
 Paranjpe, Shri Prakash
 Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas
 Paswan, Shri Sukdeo
 Paswan, Shri Virchandra
 Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
 Patel, Shri Dinsha
 Patel, Shri Harilal Madhavji Bhai
 Patel, Shri Kishanbhai V.
 Patel, Shri Somabhai G.
 Pathak, Shri Brajesh
 Pathak, Shri Harin
 Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe
 **Patil, Shri D.B.
 Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad
 *Patil, Shri Pratik P.
 Patil, Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb
 Patil, Shrimati Suryakanta
 Paul, Dr. Sebastian
 Pawar, Shri Sharad
 Pilot, Shri Sachin

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

**Corrected from 'Noes' to 'Ayes' through slip.

Ponnuswamy, Shri E.	*Ravindran, Shri Pannian
Potai, Shri Sohan	Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh
Prabhu, Shri R.	Rawat, Shri Ashok Kumar
Pradhan, Shri Ashok	Rawat, Shri Dhan Singh
Pradhan, Shri Dharmendra	Reddy, Shri Anantha Venkatarami
Pradhan, Shri Prasanta	Reddy, Shri K.J.S.P.
Prasada, Kunwar Jitin	Reddy, Shri M. Raja Mohan
Purandeswari, Shrimati D.	Reddy, Shri Madhusudan
Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala	Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
Rajagopal, Shri L.	Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal
Rajbhar, Shri Chandra Dev Prasad	Reddy, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar
Rajender Kumar, Shri	Regupathy, Shri S.
Rajendran, Shri P.	Renge Patil, Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao
Rajenthiran, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani	*Rijiju, Shri Kiren
Raju, Shri M.M. Pallam	Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.	Sahay, Shri Subodh Kant
Ramadass, Prof. M.	Sahu, Shri Chandra Sekhar
Ramakrishna, Shri Badiga	Sai Prathap, Shri A.
Rana, Shri Kashiram	Sai, Shri Vishnu Deo
Rana, Shri Rabinder Kumar	*Sajjan Kumar, Shri
Rana, Shri Raju	Salim, Md.
Rani, Shrimati K.	Sangliana, Dr. H.T.
Ranjan, Shrimati Ranjeet	*Sangma, Shri P.A.
Rao, Shri D. Vittal	Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh
Rao, Shri K.S.	Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
Rao, Shri Rayapati Sambasiva	Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed
Rathod, Shri Haribhau	Sarma, Dr. Arun Kumar
Rathwa, Shri Naranbhai	Saroj, Shri D.P.

*Voted through slip.

Satheedevi, Shrimati P
 Satpathy, Shri Tathagata
 Sayeda, Shrimati Rubab
 Seal, Shri Sudhangshu
 Seeramesh, Shrimati Tejaswini
 Selvi, Shrimati V. Radhika
 Sen, Shrimati Minati
 Senthil, Dr. R.
 Sethi, Shri Arjun
 Shah, Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra
 Shaheen, Shri Abdul Rashid
 Shahid, Mohd.
 Shailendra Kumar, Shri
 Shakya, Shri Raghuraj Singh
 Shandil, Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram
 Sharma, Dr. Arvind
 Sharma, Shri Madan Lal
 Shervani, Shri Saleem
 Shivajirao, Shri Adhalrao Patil
 Shivanna, Shri M.
 Shukla, Shrimati Karuna
 Sibal, Shri Kapil
 Sikdar, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee
 Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari
 Singh, Chaudhary Bijendra
 *Singh, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad
 Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
 Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan

Singh, Kunwar Sarv Raj
 Singh, Rao Inderjit
 Singh, Shri Ajit Kumar
 Singh, Shri Chandra Bhushan
 Singh, Shri Dushyant
 *Singh, Shri Ganesh
 Singh, Shri Ganesh Prasad
 Singh, Shri Lakshman
 Singh, Shri Manvendra
 Singh, Shri Mohan
 Singh, Shri Prabhunath
 Singh, Shri Rakesh
 Singh, Shri Rewati Raman
 Singh, Shri Sita Ram
 Singh, Shri Uday
 Singh, Shri Vijayendra Pal
 Singh, Shrimati Pratibha
 *Sippiparai, Shri Ravichandran
 Soren, Shri Shibu
 Subba, Shri M.K.
 Sugavanam, Shri E.G.
 Sujatha, Shrimati C.S.
 Suklabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan
 Suman, Shri Ramji Lal
 *Sumbrui, Shri Bagun
 Surendran, Shri Chengara
 *Suryawanshi, Shri Narsingrao H.
 Swain, Shri Kharabela

Taslimuddin, Shri

Thangkabalu, Shri K.V.

*Thomas, Shri P.C.

Thummar, Shri V.K.

Tirath, Shrimati Krishna

Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran

Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore

Vaghela, Shri Shankar Sinh

Vallabhaneni, Shri Balashowry

Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.

*Velu, Shri R.

Venkatapathy, Shri K.

Venkatswamy, Shri G.

Venugopal, Shri D.

Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

Verma, Shri Rajesh

Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash

Verma, Shrimati Usha

Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

Virendra Kumar, Shri

Virupakshappa, Shri K.

*Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar

Yadav, Dr. Karan Singh

Yadav, Prof. Ram Gopal

Yadav, Shri Akhilesh

Yadav, Shri Chandra Pal Singh

Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad

Yadav, Shri Kailash Nath Singh

*Yadav, Shri M Anjan Kumar

Yadav, Shri Mitrasen

*Yadav, Shri Paras Nath

*Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal

Yadav, Shri Umakant

Yaskhi, Shri Madhu, Goud

Yerrannaidu, Shri Kinjarapu

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction,** the result of the division is:

Ayes: 325

Noes: 2

The motion is carried by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The Lobbies are already cleared. I shall now put clause 2 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The Lok Sabha divided:

*Voted through slip.

**The following members also recorded their votes through slip:

Ayes: 325 + S/Shri Guharam Ajgalle, Furkan Ansari, A.R. Antulay, Ilyas Azmi, S. Bangarappa, Prof. Basudeb Barman, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, Dr. Chinta Mohan, S/Shri Bansagopal Choudhury, Gurudas Dasgupta, Dr. K. Dhanaraju, Shri Sandeep Dikshit, Smt. Priya Dutt, S/Shri Tukaram Gangadhar Gadakh, L. Ganesan, Surendra Prakash Goyal, N.Y. Hanumanthappa, Deepender Singh Hooda, Shrimati Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, S/Shri Jai Prakash (Hisar), Jai Prakash (Mohanlal Ganj), Ajit Jogi, Gurudas Kamat, Ramswaroop Koli, Rasheed Masood, Nikhil Kumar, Pratik P. Patil, Ponnian Ravindran, Kiran Rijju, Sajjan Kumar, P.A. Sangma, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad, S/Shri Ganesh Singh, Ravichandran Sippliparai, Bagun Sumbrui, Narsingrao H. Suryawanshi, P.C. Thomas, R. Velu, Aruna Kumar Vundavalli, M. Anjan Kumar Yadav, Paras Nath Yadav, Ram Kripal Yadav = 42.

Noes: S/Shri Manjunath Kunnur and D.B. Patil corrected from Noes to Ayes through slip.

Thus Ayes: 325+42+2=369.

*Voted through slip.

Division No. 2**13.25 hrs.**

Abdullah, Shri Omar

Abdullakutty, Shri

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

*Acharya, Shri Prasanna

Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Advani, Shri L.K.

Agarwal, Dr. Dhirendra

Ahamed, Shri E.

Ahir, Shri Hansraj G.

Ahmad, Dr. Shakeel

Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar

Ajaya Kumar, Shir S.

*Ajgalle, Shri Guharam

Ajnala, Dr. Rattan Singh

*Ansari, Shri Furkan

Antulay, Shri A.R.

Appadurai, Shri M.

*Athawale, Shri Ramdas

Athithan, Shri Dhanuskodi R.

Atwal, Shri Charnjit Singh

*Azmi, Shri Ilyas

Baal, Shri T.R.

'Baba', Shri K.C. Singh

'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat

Baghel, Prof. S.P. Singh

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Baita, Shri Kailash

Banerjee, Kumari Mamata

*Bangarappa, Shri S.

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Barad, Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Barku, Shri Shingada Damodar

Barman, Prof. Basudeb

Barman, Shri Hiten

Barman, Shri Ranen

Basu, Shri Anil

Bauri, Shrimati Susmita

Baxla, Shri Joachim

Bhakta, Shri Manoranjan

*Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal

Bhuria, Shri Kanti Lal

Bose, Shri Subrata

Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur

*Chakraborty, Dr. Sujan

Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh

Chaliha, Shri Kirip

Chander Kumar, Prof.

Chandrappan, Shri C.K.

*Charenamei, Shri Mani

Chatterjee, Shri Santasri

*Chaudhary, Dr. Tushar A.

Chaure, Shri Bapu Hari

Chavda, Shri Harisinh

Chidambaram, Shri P.

Chinta Mohan, Dr.

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Chitthan, Shri N.S.V.

Choubey, Shri Lal Muni

Choudhary, Shri Nikhil Kumar

*Choudhary, Shri Bansagopal

*Chowdhury, Shri Adhir

Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka

Churchill, Shri Alemao

*Darbar, Shri Chhattar Singh

Das, Dr. Alakesh

Das, Shri Khagen

Dasgupta, Shri Gurudas

Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan

Delkar, Shri Mohan S.

Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.

Deora, Shri Milind

*Dev, Shri Santosh Mohan

Dhanaraju Dr. K.

*Dharavath, Shri Ravinder Naik

Dhindsa, Shri Sukhdev Singh

Dhotre, Shri Sanjay

Dikshit, Shri Sandeep

Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra

Dubey, Shri Chandra Shekhar

*Dutt, Shrimati Priya

Elangovan, Shri E.V.K.S.

Engti, Shri Biren Singh

Fanthorne, Shri Francis

Fernandes, Shri George

*Gadakh, Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

Gadhavi, Shri P.S.

Gaikwad, Shri Eknath Mahadeo

*Gamang, Shri Giridhar

Gandhi, Shri Rahul

Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia

*Ganesan, Shri L.

Gangwar, Shri Santosh

Gao, Shri Tapir

Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodliya

Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram

George, Shri K. Francis

Gogoi, Shri Dip

Goyal, Shri Surendra Prakash

Gudhe, Shri Anant

*Gulshan, Shrimati Paramjit Kaur

Handique, Shri Bijoy

Hanumanthappa, Shri N.Y.

Hassan, Shri Munawar

*Hegde, Shri Anant Kumar

*Hooda, Shri Deepender Singh

Hossain, Shri Abdul Mannan

Hussain, Shri Anwar

*Jagadeesan, Shrimati Subbulakshmi

*Jai Prakash, Shri

*Jai Prakash, Shri

Jain, Shri Pusp

Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan

Jena, Shri Mohan

*Jha, Shri Raghunath

Jindal, Shri Naveen

Jogaiah, Shri Hari Rama

*Jogi, Shri Ajit

Joshi, Shri Kailash

Kader Mohideen, Prof. K.M.

Kalmadi, Shri Suresh

Kamat, Shri Gurudas

*Kanodia, Shri Mahesh

Karunakaran, Shri P.

Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh

Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbbhai

Kaur, Shrimati Praneet

Kerketta, Shrimati Sushila

Khaire, Shri Chandrakant

Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.

Khanna, Shri Avinash Rai

Koli, Shri Ramswaroop

Konyak, Shri W. Wangyuh

Koshal, Shri Raghuveer Singh

*Koya, Dr. P.P.

Krishna, Shri Vijoy

*Krishnan, Dr. C.

Krishnaswamy, Shri A.

*Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh

Kumar, Shrimati Meira

Kumari Selja

Kuppusami, Shri C.

Kyandiah, Shri P.R.

Lahiri, Shri Samik

Lalu Prasad, Shri

Laxman, Shrimati Susheela Bangaru

Libra, Sardar Sukhdev Singh

Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra

Maharia, Shri Subhash

Mahtab, Shri B.

Majhi, Shri Parsuram

*Majhi, Shri Shankhlal

Maken, Shri Ajay

Malhotra, Prof. Vijay Kumar

Mallikarjuniah, Shri S.

Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar

Mandlik, Shri S.D.

*Mane, Shrimati Nivedita

Manjhi, Shri Rajesh Kumar

Manoj, Dr. K.S.

*Marndi, Shri Sudam

Masood, Shri Rasheed

McLeod, Ms. Ingrid

Mediyam, Dr. Babu Rao

Meena, Shri Namo Narain

Maghwal, Shri Kailash

Mehta, Shri Alok Kumar

Meinya, Dr. Thokchom

Mishra, Dr. Rajesh
Mistry, Shri Madhusudan
Moghe, Shri Krishna Murari
Mohan, Shri P.
Mollah, Shri Hannan
Moorthy, Shri A.K.
Mukherjee, Shri Pranab
Muniyappa, Shri K.H.
Munshi Ram, Shri
Murmu, Shri Hemlal
*Murmu, Shri Rupchand
Mutterwar, Shri Vilas
Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh
Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso
Nambadan, Shri Lonappan
Nandy, Shri Amitava
Narbula, Shri D.
Narendra, Shri A.
Nayak, Shri Ananta
Nikhil Kumar, Shri
Nizamuddin, Shri G.
Pal, Shri Rupchand
Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.
Palanisamy, Shri K.C.
Panabaka Lakshmi, Shrimati
Panda, Shri Brahmananda
Panda, Shri Prabodh
Pandey, Dr. Laxminarayan

Paranjpe, Shri Prakash
Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas
Paswan, Shri Sukdeo
Paswan, Shri Virchandra
Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
Patel, Shri Dinsha
Patel, Shri Harilal Madhavji Bhai
Patel, Shri Kishanbhai V.
Patel, Shri Somabhai G.
Pateriya, Shrimati Neeta
Pathak, Shri Brajesh
Pathak, Shri Harin
Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe
Patil, Shri D.B.
Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad
*Patil, Shri Pratik P.
Patil, Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb
Patil, Shrimati Suryakanta
Paul, Dr. Sebastian
Pawar, Shri Sharad
Pilot, Shri Sachin
Ponnuswamy, Shri E.
Potai, Shri Sohan
Prabhu, Shri R.
Pradhan, Shri Ashok
Pradhan, Shri Dharmendra
Pradhan, Shri Prasanta
Prasad, Shri Harikewal

Prasada, Kunwar Jitin
 *Purandeswari, Shrimati D.
 Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
 Rajagopal, Shri L.
 *Rajbhar, Shri Chandra Dev Prasad
 Rajender Kumar, Shri
 Rajendran, Shri P.
 Rajenthiran, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani
 Raju, Shri M.M. Pallam
 Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.
 Ramadass, Prof. M.
 *Ramakrishna, Shri Badiga
 Rana, Shri Kashiram
 Rana, Shri Rabinder Kumar
 Rana, Shri Raju
 Rani, Shrimati K.
 Ranjan, Shrimati Ranjeet
 Rao, Shri D. Vittal
 Rao, Shri K.S.
 Rao, Shri Rayapati Sambasiva
 Rathwa, Shri Naranbhai
 *Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh
 Rawat, Shri Ashok Kumar
 Rawat, Shri Dhan Singh
 Reddy, Shri K.J.S.P.
 Reddy, Shri M. Raja Mohan
 Reddy, Shri Madhusudan
 Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
 Reddy, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

Regupathy, Shri S.
 Renge Patil, Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao
 Rijju, Shri Kiren
 Riyan, Shri Bajju Ban
 Sahay, Shri Subodh Kant
 Sahu, Shri Chandra Sekhar
 Sai Prathap, Shri A.
 *Sai, Shri Vishnu Deo
 *Sajjan Kumar, Shri
 Salim, Md.
 Sangliana, Dr. H.T.
 *Sangma, Shri P.A.
 Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh
 Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
 Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed
 Sarma, Dr. Arun Kumar
 Saroj, Shri D.P.
 *Satheedevi, Shrimati P
 Sayeda, Shrimati Rubab
 Seal, Shri Sudhangshu
 *Seeramesh, Shrimati Tejaswini
 Selvi, Shrimati V. Radhika
 Sen, Shrimati Minati
 Senthil, Dr. R.
 Sethi, Shri Arjun
 Shah, Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra
 Shaheen, Shri Abdul Rashid
 Shahid, Mohd.
 Shakya, Shri Raghuraj Singh

Shandil, Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram

Sharma, Dr. Arvind

Sharma, Shri Madan Lal

Shervani, Shri Saleem

Shivajirao, Shri Adhalrao Patil

Shivanna, Shri M.

Shukla, Shrimati Karuna

Sibal, Shri Kapil

Sikdar, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee

Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari

Singh, Chaudhary Bijendra

*Singh, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad

Singh, Dr. Raghuvaran Prasad

Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan

Singh, Kunwar Sarv Raj

Singh, Rao Inderjit

*Singh, Shri Ajit Kumar

Singh, Shri Dushyant

Singh, Shri Ganesh

Singh, Shri Ganesh Prasad

Singh, Shri Lakshman

Singh, Shri Manvendra

Singh, Shri Mohan

Singh, Shri Prabhunath

Singh, Shri Rakesh

Singh, Shri Rewati Raman

Singh, Shri Sita Ram

Singh, Shri Uday

Singh, Shri Vijayendra Pal

Singh, Shrimati Pratibha

Sippiparai, Shri Ravichandran

Soren, Shri Shibu

*Subba, Shri M.K.

Sugavanam, Shri E.G.

Sujatha, Shrimati C.S.

*Suklabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan

Suman, Shri Ramji Lal

Sumbrui, Shri Bagun

Surendran, Shri Chengara

Suryawanshi, Shri Narsingrao H.

Swain, Shri Kharabela

Taslimuddin, Shri

Thangkabalu, Shri K.V.

Thomas, Shri P.C.

Thummar, Shri V.K.

*Tirath, Shrimati Krishna

Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran

Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore

Vaghela, Shri Shankar Singh

Vallabhaneni, Shri Balashowry

Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.

*Velu, Shri R

Venkatapathy, Shri K.

*Venkatswamy, Shri G.

Venugopal, Shri D.

Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

Verma, Shri Rakesh

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash

Verma, Shrimati Usha

Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

Virendra Kumar, Shri

Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar

Yadav, Dr. Karan Singh

Yadav, Prof. Ram Gopal

Yadav, Shri Akhilesh

Yadav, Shri Chandra Pal Singh

Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad

Yadav, Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Yadav, Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Yadav, Shri Mitrasen

Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal

Yadav, Shri Umakant

Yaskhi, Shri Madhu Goud

Yerrannaidu, Shri Kinjarapu

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction*, the result of the division is:

Ayes: 305

Noes: Nil

*The following members also recorded their votes through slip:

Ayes: 305 + S/Shri Prasanna Acharya, Furkan Ansari, Ramdas Athawale, Ilyas Azmi, S. Bangarappa, Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, Shri Mani Chamamle, Dr. A. Tushar Chaudhary, S/Shri Bansagopal Choudhury, Adhir Chowdhury, Alemao Churchill, Chhattar Singh Darbar, Sontosh Mohan Dev, Ravinder Naik Dharavath, Smt. Priya Dutt, S/Shri Tukaram Gangadhar Gadakh, Giridhar Gamang, L. Ganesan, Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan, S/Shri Anant Kumar Hegde, Deepender Singh Hooda, Smt. Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, S/Shri Jai Prakash (Hissar), Jai Prakash (Mohaniai Ganj), Raghunath Jha, Ajit Jogi, Mahesh Kanodia, Dr. P.P. Koya, Dr. C. Krishnan, S/Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Shankhlal Majhi, Smt. Nivedita Mane, S/Shri Sudam Marndi, Rupchand Murmu, Pratik P. Patil, Smt. D. Purendeswari, S/Shri Chandra Dev Prasad Rajbhar, Badiga Ramakrishna, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, S/Singh Vishnu Deo Sai, P.A. Sangma, Smt. P. Sathodevi, Smt. Tejaswini Seeramesh, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh, S/Shri Ajit Kumar Singh, M.K. Subba, Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya, Smt. Krishna Tirath, S/Shri R. Velu, G.Venkat-wamy = 51.

Thus Ayes: 305+51=356.

The motion is carried by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 3,-

For "(One Hundred and fifth Amendment)"

Substitute "(Ninety-fourth Amendment)"

(Shri Shivraj V. Patil)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put clause 1, as amended, to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The Lobbies are already cleared. I shall now put the motion.

The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The Lok Sabha divided:

Division No. 3

13.30 hrs.

Abdullah, Shri Omar

Abdullakutty, Shri

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

Acharya, Shri Prasanna

Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Advani, Shri L.K.

Agarwal, Dr. Dhirendra

Ahamed, Shri E.

*Ahir, Shri Hansraj G.

Ahmad, Dr Shakeel

Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar

Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.

Ajgalle, Shri Guharam

Ajnala, Dr. Rattan Singh

*Ansari, Shri Afzal

*Ansari, Shri Furkan

Antulay, Shri A.R.

Appadurai, Shri M.

Athawale, Shri Ramdas

Athithan Dhanuskodi, Shri R.

Atwal, Shri Charnjit Singh

Azmi, Shri Ilyas

Baalu, Shri T.R.

'Baba', Shri K.C. Singh

'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat

Baghel, Prof. S.P. Singh

Bais, Shri Ramesh

Baitha, Shri Kallash

*Banerjee, Kumari Mamata

Bangarappa, Shri S.

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Barad, Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Barku, Shri Shingada Damodar

Barman, Prof. Basudeb

Barman, Shri Hiten

Barman, Shri Ranen

Barq, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman

Basu, Shri Anil

Bauri, Shrimati Susmita

Baxla, Shri Joachim

Bhagora, Shri Mahavir

Bhakta, Shri Manoranjan

Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal

Bhuria, Shri Kanti Lal

Borkataky, Shri Narayan Chandra

Bose, Shri Subrata

Budholla, Shri Rajnarayan

Bwiswmuthiary, Shri Sansuma Khunggur

Chakraborty, Dr. Sujan

Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy

Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh

Chaliha, Shri Kirip

Chander Kumar, Prof.

Chandrappan, Shri C.K.

Charenamei, Shri Mani

Chatterjee, Shri Santasri

Chaudhary, Dr. Tushar A.

Chaure, Shri Bapu Hari

Chavda, Shri Harisinh

Chidambaram, Shri P.

Chinta Mohan, Dr.

Chitthan, Shri N.S.V.

Choubey, Shri Lal Muni

Choudhary, Shri Nikhil Kumar

*Choudhury, Shri Bansagopal

Chowdhury, Shri Adhir

Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka

*Churchill, Shri Alemao

Dangawas, Shri Bhanwar Singh

Darbar, Shri Chhattar Singh

Das, Dr. Alakesh

Das, Shri Khagen

Dasgupta, Shri Gurudas

Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan

Delkar, Shri Mohan S.

Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.

Deora, Shri Milind

Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan

Dhanaraju Dr. K.

Dharavath, Shri Ravinder Naik

Dhindsa, Shri Sukhdev Singh

Dhotre, Shri Sanjay

Dikshit, Shri Sandeep

Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra

Dubey, Shri Chandra Shekhar

*Dutt, Shrimati Priya

Elangovan, Shri E.V.K.S.

Engti, Shri Biren Singh

Fanthome, Shri Francis

Fernandes, Shri George

Gadakh, Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

Gaddigoudar, Shri P.C.

Gadhavi, Shri P.S.

Gaikwad, Shri Eknath Mahadeo

Gamang, Shri Girdhar

Gandhi, Shri Rahul

Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia

Ganesan, Shri L.

Gangwar, Shri Santosh

Gao, Shri Tapir

Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya

Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram

George, Shri K. Francis

Gill, Shri Atma Singh

Gogoi, Shri Dip

Goyal, Shri Surendra Prakash

Gudhe, Shri Anant

Gulshan, Shrimati Paramjit Kaur

Gupta, Shri Shyama Charan

Handique, Shri Bijoy

Hanumanthappa, Shri N.Y.

Hassan, Shri Munawar

Hegde, Shri Anant Kumar

*Hooda, Shri Deepender Singh

Hossain, Shri Abdul Mannan

Hussain, Shri Anwar

Jagadeesan, Shrimati Subbulakshmi

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Jai Prakash, Shri

Jai Prakash, Shri

Jain, Shri Pusp

Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash

Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan

Jena, Shri Mohan

Jha, Shri Raghunath

Jindal, Shri Naveen

Jogaiah, Shri Hari Rama

*Jogi, Shri Ajit

Joshi, Shri Kailash

Kader Mohideen, Prof. K.M.

Kalmadi, Shri Suresh

Kamat, Shri Gurudas

Kanodia, Shri Mahesh

Karunakaran, Shri P.

Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh

Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbhai

Kaur, Shrimati Preneet

Kerketta, Shrimati Sushila

*Khaire, Shri Chandrakant

Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.

Khanna, Shri Avinash Rai

Koli, Shri Ramswaroop

Konyak, Shri W. Wangyuh

Koshal, Shri Raghuveer Singh

Krishnan, Dr. C.

Krishnaswamy, Shri A.

Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh

Kumar, Shrimati Meira

Kumari Selja

Kunnur, Shri Manjunath

Kyandiah, Shri P.R.

Lahiri, Shri Samik

Lalu Prasad, Shri

Laxman, Shrimati Susheela Bangaru

Libra, Sardar Sukhdev Singh

Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra

Maharia, Shri Subhash

Mahtab, Shri B.

Majhi, Shri Parsuram

Majhi, Shri Shankhlal

Maken, Shri Ajay

Malhotra, Prof. Vijay Kumar

Mallikarjuniah, Shri S.

Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar

Mandlik, Shri S.D.

Mane, Shrimati Nivedita

Manjhi, Shri Rajesh Kumar

*Manoj, Dr. K.S.

Marndi, Shri Sudam

Masood, Shri Rasheed

*McLeod, Ms. Ingrid

Mediyam, Dr. Babu Rao

Meena, Shri Namo Narain

Maghwal, Shri Kailash

*Voted through slip.

*Voted through slip.

Mehta, Shri Alok Kumar
Meinya, Dr. Thokchom
Mishra, Dr. Rajesh
Mistry, Shri Madhusudan
*Moghe, Shri Krishna Murari
Mohan, Shri P.
Mollah, Shri Hannan
Moorthy, Shri A.K.
Mukherjee, Shri Pranab
Muniyappa, Shri K.H.
Munshi Ram, Shri
Murmu, Shri Hemlal
Murmu, Shri Rupchand
Muttemwar, Shri Vilas
Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh
Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso
Nambadan, Shri Lonappan
Nandy, Shri Amitava
Narbula, Shri D.
Narendra, Shri A.
Nayak, Shri Ananta
Nikhil Kumar, Shri
Nizamuddin, Shri G.
Ola, Shri Sis Ram
Oraon, Dr. Rameshwar
Pal, Shri Rupchand
Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.
Palanisamy, Shri K.C.

Panabaka Lakshmi, Shrimati
Panda, Shri Brahmananda
Panda, Shri Prabodh
Pandey, Dr. Laxminarayan
Paranjpe, Shri Prakash
Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas
Paswan, Shri Sukdeo
Paswan, Shri Virchandra
Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
Patel, Shri Dinsha
Patel, Shri Harilal Madhavji Bhai
Patel, Shri Kishanbhai V.
Patel, Shri Somabhai G.
Pateriya, Shrimati Neeta
Pathak, Shri Brajesh
Pathak, Shri Harin
Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe
Patil, Shri D.B.
Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad
*Patil, Shri Pratik P.
Patil, Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb
Patil, Shrimati Suryakanta
Paul, Dr. Sebastian
Pawar, Shri Sharad
Pilot, Shri Sachin
Ponnuswamy, Shri E.
Potai, Shri Sohan
Prabhu, Shri R.

Pradhan, Shri Ashok
 Pradhan, Shri Dharmendra
 Pradhan, Shri Prasanta
 Prasada, Kunwar Jitin
 Purandeswari, Shrimati D.
 Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
 Rajagopal, Shri L.
 Rajbhar, Shri Chandra Dev Prasad
 Rajender Kumar, Shri
 Rajendran, Shri P.
 Rajenthiran, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani
 Raju, Shri M.M. Pallam
 Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.
 Ramadass, Prof. M.
 Ramakrishna, Shri Badiga
 Rana, Shri Kashiram
 Rana, Shri Rabinder Kumar
 Rana, Shri Raju
 Rani, Shrimati K.
 Ranjan, Shrimati Ranjeet
 Rao, Shri D. Vittal
 Rao, Shri K.S.
 Rao, Shri Rayapati Sambasiva
 Rathod, Shri Haribhau
 Rathwa, Shri Naranbhai
 *Ravindran, Shri Pannian
 Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh
 Rawat, Shri Ashok Kumar

Rawat, Shri Dhan Singh
 Reddy, Shri Anantha Venkatarami
 Reddy, Shri K.J.S.P.
 Reddy, Shri M. Raja Mohan
 Reddy, Shri Madhusudan
 Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
 Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal
 Reddy, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar
 Regupathy, Shri S.
 Renge Patil, Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao
 Rijiju, Shri Kiren
 Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
 Sahay, Shri Subodh Kant
 Sahu, Shri Chandra Sekhar
 Sai Prathap, Shri A.
 Sai, Shri Vishnu Deo
 Sajjan Kumar, Shri
 Salim, Md.
 Sangliana, Dr. H.T.
 *Sangma, Shri P.A.
 Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh
 Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
 Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed
 Sarma, Dr. Arun Kumar
 Saroj, Shri D.P.
 Satheedevi, Shrimati P.
 *Satpathy, Shri Tathagata
 Sayeda, Shrimati Rubab

Seal, Shri Sudhangshu
 *Seeramesh, Shrimati Tejaswini
 Selvi, Shrimati V. Radhika
 Sen, Shrimati Minati
 Senthil, Dr. R.
 Sethi, Shri Arjun
 Shah, Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra
 Shaheen, Shri Abdul Rashid
 Shahid, Mohd.
 *Shailendra Kumar, Shri
 Shakya, Shri Raghuraj Singh
 Shandil, Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram
 Sharma, Dr. Arvind
 Sharma, Shri Madan Lal
 Shervani, Shri Saleem
 Shivijirao, Shri Adhalrao Patil
 Shivanna, Shri M.
 Shukla, Shrimati Karuna
 Sibal, Shri Kapil
 Sikdar, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee
 Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari
 Singh, Chaudhary Bijendra
 Singh, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad
 Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
 Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan
 *Singh, Kunwar Sarv Raj
 Singh, Rao Inderjit
 Singh, Shri Chandra Bhushan

Singh, Shri Dushyant
 Singh, Shri Ganesh
 Singh, Shri Kirti Vardhan
 Singh, Shri Lakshman
 Singh, Shri Manvendra
 Singh, Shri Mohan
 Singh, Shri Prabhunath
 Singh, Shri Rakesh
 Singh, Shri Rewati Raman
 Singh, Shri Sita Ram
 Singh, Shri Uday
 Singh, Shri Vijayendra Pal
 Singh, Shrimati Pratibha
 Sippiparai, Shri Ravichandran
 Soren, Shri Shibu
 Subba, Shri M.K.
 Sugavanam, Shri E.G.
 Sujatha, Shrimati C.S.
 Suklabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan
 Suman, Shri Ramji Lal
 Sumbrui, Shri Bagun
 Surendran, Shri Chengara
 Suryawanshi, Shri Narsingrao H.
 Swain, Shri Kharabela
 Taslimuddin, Shri
 Thangkabalu, Shri K.V.
 Thomas, Shri P.C.
 Thummar, Shri V.K.
 Thupstan, Shri Chhewang

Tirath, Shrimati Krishna

Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran

Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore

Vaghela, Shri Shankar Singh

Vallabhaneni, Shri Balashowry

Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Venkatapathy, Shri K.

Venkatswamy, Shri G.

Venugopal, Shri D.

Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

Verma, Shri Rajesh

Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash

Verma, Shrimati Usha

Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

Virendra Kumar, Shri

*Virupakshappa, Shri K.

Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar

Yadav, Dr. Karan Singh

Yadav, Prof. Ram Gopal

Yadav, Shri Akhilesh

Yadav, Shri Chandra Pal Singh

Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad

Yadav, Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Yadav, Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Yadav, Shri Mitrasen

Yadav, Shri Paras Nath

Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal

Yadav, Shri Umakant

Yaskhi, Shri Madhu Goud

Yerrannaidu, Shri Kinjarapu

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction*, the result of the Division is:

Ayes: 31

Noes: Nil

The motion is carried by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.

The Bill, as amended, is passed by the requisite majority, in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution.

The Motion was adopted.

13.39 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re. Alleged rampant corruption prevailing in the country and rise in the prices of essential commodities

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, what I am now going to do is this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: As I have had the discussion with the hon. Leaders, I shall permit two hon. Members to raise the issues. I will request earnestly all the hon. Members to please cooperate and this should not be treated as a precedent in future. Sometimes, as it happens, we have to respond to the situations that develop. I repeatedly said I

*The following members also recorded their votes through slip:

Ayes: 351 + S/Shri Hansraj G. Ahir, Afzal Ansari, Furkan Ansari, Kumari Mata Banerjee, S/Shri Bangopal Choudhury, Alemao Churchill, Shrimati Priya Dutt, S/Shri Deepender Singh Hooda, Ajit Jogi, Chandrakant Khair, Dr. K. S. Manoj, Ms. Ingrid Moleod, S/Shri Krishna Murari Moghe, Pratik P. Patil, Pannian Ravidran, P.A. Sangma, Tathagata Satpathy, Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Kunwar Sarv Raj Singh, Shri K. Virupakshappa = 21.

Thus Ayes: 351+21=372.

*Voted through slip.

[Mr. Speaker]

do not wish to scuttle any issue from being raised. The only thing I implore on all the hon. Member is that let it be done according to the procedure and rules. Otherwise, it will be disorder and that is what is happening.

Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav to speak now.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government has completed two years and various things are being said about its achievements on completion of its two years. But I regret to state that in the last two years this Government's only contribution has been towards corruption and price rise as all hon. leaders and colleagues have said. You must be aware that there are various such cases which are in the knowledge of whole country. We feel that the Government is trying to protect the corrupt. I would like to draw your attention on two-three points in brief....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please, this is not right.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first is the case of a Minister who had to resign because his name was in the Volcar Committee's report, the matter is under investigation. He disclosed another name when he issued a statement in this regard. The other person was also from Congress party but why no action has been taken against that person? Everybody is apprehensive that there is something fishy in it. Attempts are being made to save the eminent persons. Volcar Committee has also named an Australian wheat agency from which wheat is being imported. Volcar Committee has mentioned that maximum commission has been paid to Saddam Hussain. It is the same disreputable company from which the Government of India is importing wheat. This wheat is being imported at the rate of Rs. 1000 per quintal whereas here wheat is being purchased from the farmers at the rate of Rs. 650 per quintal and they are given Rs. 50 per quintal as bonus. It is a very serious matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no such precedent in the world, that a bank account which was frozen by the investigating agency was de-frozen, without any appeal or request from the account holder. It was done suo motto. When a writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court in this regard, the CBI revealed the fact. The question is who is the beneficiary of this account?

This proves that efforts were made to benefit a person who is at a higher level and he was given a chance to withdraw the money which was related to Bofor's case. In this way an attempt has been made to save the guilty....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Why are you disturbing your leader?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, he just cannot go on like that, making such allegations in that sense....(Interruptions) They were exonerated in the High Court....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I haven't taken the name of anybody....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I am objecting to what he is speaking. I am not saying that he should not speak....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else except the statement of Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that it has never happened anywhere

*Not recorded.

in the world that who is leveling the allegation, against whom allegations are being leveled....*(Interruptions)* is Quattrochi your relative as you are feeling ill? If I start reading the report of CBI what will be your condition. CBI in its report has mentioned everything i.e. who met him who accompanied him, who cooked food and in whose vehicle he used to travel, I have not mentioned all these things here....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You talk to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else is being recorded except the statement of Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav. Only your statement is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in addition to that I have not revealed the most important incident which is likely to take place. Whatever I have stated, these all things are related to corruption. I had also stated earlier that try to check these things.

When they were in the power, they sold 51 per cent share BALCO during March, 2001. The number of remaining 49 per cent shares is around 10 crores 8 lakhs. Our Finance Minister in the Present Government was in the Board of Directors in an England based company namely Vedanta Aluminum till the morning of the day he assumed the charge of Finance Minister and the same company controls 70 per cent shares....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Yadav, without notice, you cannot make complaint against others.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, this is not a trivial matter. If the value of the a share is reduced by only one rupees, its result is an immediate benefit of Rs. 10 crores.

*Not recorded.

The face value of share of this company was Rs. 1000 while it was evaluated at Rs. 77.9, thousand crore rupees are involved in this case. There has been a scam of Rs. 9 thousand crores in this case....*(Interruptions)*

Sir, usually we don't raise the defence matters in the House but such scams have taken place in Defence also. There are four to five important things ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You ignore him. Only your statement is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is unbecoming to you. You are a senior member.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, there are four to five important issues though, there are several issues. Which I don't like to mention here and which are well known to all. Hence, I have to say that the achievements during the two years of their rule are insignificant. The inflation has gone up.

Just in the morning when we are sitting in the House, share market crashed by 400, 600, 800, 1000 and 1200 points within an hour and due to which trading had to be closed. It indicates that share market is being manipulated from some where. Several hon'ble leaders are sitting in the House and I would like to request them to look into this matter to ascertain the factual position lest the country would become bankrupt overnight. Just because of sudden crash of the share market the lakhs of peoples of the counry suffered huge losses. They have lost their entire assets. Their condition has become pitiable. This is the state of affairs and the way of functioning. Pay some attention towards the condition of share market on completion of the two years of the rules. Many many thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam):
Sir, I want to associate myself. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, Please take your seat.
...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what Ram Gopal Yadavji has mentioned in his speech about horrible and alarming inflation, terrorism, corruption in Government are all the achievements of UPA Government during two years of their rule.

MR. SPEAKER: You may continue. You please address the chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): How he can continue his speech in such a situation....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: His statement is not being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb your leader.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your Ministers are also here, and if they want they can respond later on. I am not compelling anybody. But please do not disturb him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not disturb him. It is a bad habit.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, it is not being recorded. Please continue with your submission.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Four Ministers had to resign and Shri Natwar Singhji had to resign consequent upon submission of Volcar committee's report. After submitting his resignation, whatever he disclosed, we want to know whether there was someone else involved with Natwarji...*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, it should not be recorded. We protest against it.

[Translation]

It has become a permanent feature....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, it should not go on record....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Bring it to me, and I will see it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not right.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it should be deleted from the records. Mr. Malhotra deserves contempt of the House for falsely alleging things that do not form part of the Report. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have to give notice for it, and you cannot say all this without giving notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am saying only *[Translation]* whatever he has said ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

to say that it should not be part of the record.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You know the rules very well with regard to this issue.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the Report says so. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, nowhere in the Report it has been mentioned like this. It is just your imagination. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

This has become a permanent feature. A way should be found out for it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may proceed.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We want to know what the Enforcement Directorate enquired of him regarding where has the money gone which was encashed against the coupons received in the name of congress party with regards to the oil for food programme? Who got that money....(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the name of Quatrochi was mentioned here and there was a lot of hullabaloo on this. With which party Quatrochi was linked and....* he was related, and to what extent, everybody knows. The whole world knows how they let Quatrochi go. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This word may be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We have heard that your Government had opposed bringing him here from Malaysia. You were in power at the time then why did you. Oppose his extradition from Malaysia? ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir,

whether it is Volcker issue, or disinvestments of BALCO issue or Scorpion issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): You had made 51 per cent disinvestment. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Who did 51 per cent disinvestment?...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yes, I am saying so. Do not go with them. Do not support corruption. You are supporting corruption....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: At what price was this 51 per cent disinvestment done? He has got no moral right to say all these things....(Interruptions) You have sold it off....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Otherwise, I will go to the next subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you disturb each other like this, then I will go to the next subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will control him, and not you. You are not the Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, they have got no moral right to say all these things.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, please address the Chair. It is my request to you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have also given notice on this issue....(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not for right. It doesn't look decent.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scorpion deal is bigger than Bofors deal. Our contention is that it is the horrible history of corruption of two years of UPA Government. There has been a rampant corruption during the last two years. So far as price rise is concerned....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please address the Chair. You associate your self with him.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotra, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when there was a bomb blast in our meeting and people were killed, they said why did they organised dharna? Today, when the Congress Party was attacked and eight people were killed, they are now trying to justify that this is a serious matter, when BJP was attacked, they said that the dharna should not have been staged. So BJP should not organize dharna. You have to face the consequences. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are two different issues.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that sky rocketing prices in breaking all previous records. Such high prices, such a corruption during the last two years is a testimony that this Government is a complete failure. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given notice on the same issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I will now come to calling attention.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Malhotra Saheb is unhappy because they have uprooted the BJP within two years....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It seems you want me to adjourn the House again.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given notice on the same issue....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. It has been agreed that only two Members will speak and without treating it as a precedent.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, we were not present in the meeting while this agreement was reached. So, we are not bound by it....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why only two Members, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Other matters will be taken up at six o'clock.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given notice on BALCO.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Kindly allow us to speak for one minute....(Interruptions) The issue of corruption is not BJP's monopoly. ...(Interruptions) We also believe that all those who are responsible for corruption should be brought to justice by this Government. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): What about price rise? People are dying....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please allow us, Sir. You should hear our views also.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you tomorrow.

13.47 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of Increasing Naxalite and
Maoist activities in the Country and steps
taken by the Government in regard thereto**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item 27, Calling Attention. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of Increasing Naxalite and Maoist activities in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, the naxalite menace remains an area of serious concern. In 2005, naxalite violence was reported from 509 police stations out of the total 12476 police stations in the country. Parts of nine States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal are badly affected. ...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please keep silence. Otherwise, what is the good of having business in the House?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: However, available reports suggest that naxalites are trying to expand their sphere of activity and influence in parts of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal and new areas in some of the already affected States....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I request you all to keep silence please. This is Parliament of India. You cannot hear and I cannot hear what the hon. Minister is saying. Is this the way the House will be conducted?

[Translation]

Everybody is speaking, what is going on the House?

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Naxalite groups continue to carry out multiple attacks in some of the affected States. Their main targets are police personnel, police stations, armouries, jails and, more recently, railway infrastructure, besides civilians. Their main *modus operandi* is to attack targets through IEDs/landmine blasts.

13.49 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

In 2005, there were major incidents like Jehanabad Jail Break in Bihar and looting of weapons from the Giridih Home Guard Training Centre in Jharkhand. There was a marginal increase of 3.8 per cent in naxal incidents (1594 incidents in 2005 against 1533 in 2004) and resultant casualties of police forces and civilians went up by 18.1 per cent (669 deaths in 2005 against 566 in 2004). The increased level of violence in 2005 was mainly due to stepped up violence by naxalites in Andhra Pradesh following their unilateral withdrawal from peace talks.

In 2005, police action against naxalities and their infrastructure became more effective (naxalities neutralized increased 17.7 per cent, those arrested by 6.5 per cent and those surrendered by 27.9 per cent).

In the four months of the current year, while the quantum of naxal violence by way of number of incidents has registered a decrease of 12.7 per cent over the corresponding period in 2005, casualties of police personnel and civilians have gone up by 31.9 per cent. Increased casualties are primarily due to a series of attacks by naxalities in Chhattisgarh.

In the current year upto 30th April, Chhattisgarh has witnessed a very high level of incidents as well as casualties (234 incidents and 187 casualties). This accounts for 42.5 per cent of total incidents, and 66.5 per cent of resultant deaths. The State Government's sustained police action against naxalities in their strongholds and anti-naxal movement locally called *Salva Judum* in some blocks of Dantewada district have led to greater counter offensive by naxalities in Chhattisgarh.

In the first four months of the current year, the overall naxal situation in the remaining affected States has shown

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

improvement with an overall decrease of 36.2 per cent in the number of incidents and of 51.8 per cent in terms of casualties of Police personnel and civilians.

The Government has a definite policy and approach to combat the challenge posed by the naxalite menace. Keeping in view that naxalism is not merely a law and order problem, the policy is to address this menace simultaneously on political, security, development and public perception management fronts in a holistic and coordinated manner.

There will be no dialogue with naxalities unless they agree to abjure violence and give up arms.

The affected States have been asked to formulate and implement action plans to undertake intelligence based operations against naxalities and their infrastructure and alongside accelerate developmental activities and improve governance and delivery systems in the affected areas. In particular, the Government of Chhattisgarh has been asked to take more effective steps to contain the naxal situation and is being given all possible help by the Central Government.

The Ministry of Railways have been asked to strengthen the Railway Protection Force (RPF) wherever necessary. The States have also been asked to ensure effective coordination between RPF and Government Railway Police (GRP) and local police so as to prevent disruption of train services and damage to railway infrastructure.

The Central Government has deployed more than 26 CPMFs. BNs on no cost basis in naxal affected States to assist the State Police forces to undertake anti-naxalite operations. These forces are being given specialised training in jungle warfare. More than Rs. 1,690 crore have been released to the naxal affected States in the last three years under the Police Modernisation Scheme to enable them to strengthen their security structures. Rs. 170 crores have so far been reimbursed to these States under the Security-Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme. The SRE Scheme which was expiring on 31-03-2006 has been extended for another five years.

Mine Protected Vehicles (MPVs) have been given

to the States. Ten more India Reserve (IR) battalions have recently been sanctioned by the Government to enhance the striking capabilities of the naxal affected States. The level of financial support from the Central Government is now Rs. 20.75 crore per one IR battalion.

On the development front, the Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 2,475 crore under the Backward Districts Initiative (BDI) Scheme for 55 naxal affected districts in nine States for filling in critical gaps in physical and social development in the affected areas. More districts affected by naxalites influence have been prepared to be covered under the new Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Scheme.

The Government has also impressed upon the States to undertake speedy and effective implementation of land reforms, put in place a progressive and forward looking rehabilitation and re-settlement policy for displaced tribals, ensure meaningful implementation of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) (PESA), Act, 1996, withdraw/compound minor forest offences and allow debt waiver in the naxal affected areas etc.

The States have also been asked to post young and committed officers in both civil and police administration with a stable tenure in naxal affected districts and give them greater delegation of power and flexibility to improve governance and ensure better delivery systems to facilitate rapid people centric developmental activities in these areas under the various schemes like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Bharat Nirman, PMGSY etc.

The Government is aware of the threat caused by the naxalite menace and remains fully committed and determined to combating it. The necessary mechanisms including the Standing Committee of the Chief Ministers of the naxal affected States have been set upto regularly and closely review the situation. The Government is in constant touch with the affected States who have been advised to further strengthen their police and development response to effectively contain and control the problem.

While every possible steps are being taken to ensure rapid socio-economic development of the backward and tribal areas, violence in a civilised society has to be dealt with most firmly.

It is incumbent on all of us, the Central Government, Governments of the naxalite affected States, media, spirited groups of civil society and the people at large to signal a collective will and determination to meet the challenge posed by naxalism.

I would again like to reaffirm that the Central Government views the naxalite menace very seriously and remains committed in providing all possible help to coordinate and supplement the efforts and resources of the naxal affected States to successfully counter the naxalite menace.

Sir, we have prepared a booklet giving the policies which are adopted at the national level and the State level to deal with naxalite problem. Copies of this policy booklet have been circulated to the hon. Members. I have given the copies to the hon. Members who are likely to participate in the discussion on this Call Attention Motion today personally. Now, these papers explain, in greater details as to what is being done. If there is anything more than this, which has to be explained to the hon. Members and the House, I shall be happy to do so.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the statement of the Hon'ble Home Minister and also the book titled 'Status Paper on the Naxal Problems' published by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The seriousness and the intensity of the problem was reflected to some extent in the statement of the Minister of Home Affairs.

14.00 hrs.

It has been mentioned in the statement that how many police jawans have been killed, how many trains have been attacked, and how many innocent people have been killed and most of the States of the Country have been victims. I am happy that Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has announced it for the first time as a policy of the Central Government that *[English]* "There will be no dialogue with naxalites unless they agree to abjure violence and give up arms".

[Translation]

Until and unless they agree to give up arms and

abjure violence, there will be no dialogues with them. I remember when I last raised the issue of internal security, the Ministry of Home Affairs stated in their reply that we will talk to them because who are involved in it are our own people, our own children. There is nothing wrong in talking to them. But we have seen its outcome. They are still involved in violence, they are still attacking and killing people mercilessly. They are terrorizing them by slitting their necks. They are killing police personnels by land mines. All this is happening. He has mentioned that nine States are affected by it. But I would like to state that just saying that action is being taken in *[English]* 55 naxal affected district in 9 states *[Translation]* is nothing, Excuse me, Mr. Home Minister, but to minimizing the problem. A total of 170 districts are affected. The reports published earlier had proved that 150 districts are completely in its grip and 170 districts are badly affected. The heart rending incidents which took place in Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh taking an ugly turn. It is therefore, necessary, that the charges that have come about in Nepal where Maoists have succeeded in changing the Government and if they apply the same policy here that violence can be used to bring a change, it wont be right. If the Maoists succeed in spreading all over India, Bengal, Bihar, and several other States would be affected. They have arms, and their arms are being smuggled into India, so, Hon. Home Minister need to consider this issue in particular.

The second thing which I would like to state is that providing assistance to that area is a good move on their part. However, we have to take into account the fact that by carrying out explosions using the various types of weapons and mines available with them, they are blowing away the Jeeps and Trucks of the police and also the commuters. The anti landmine devices through which we can locate the land mines were purchased for the use of our Army. But in may places there have come unstuck. Therefore there is a need to bring these anti land mine devices here. They should be given the helicopters as there is a dense forest in that area and they take recouse to these forest routes to kill our Army and police personnels. So they should be provided with helicopters and similar types of weapons. After the recent incident, the people of Chhattisgarh came together for the purpose of the peace process. Cutting across the party lines, people from all parties including the congress were

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

involved is this. All of them have jointly decided that they would create a mass awakening among the people. To counter the Naxalite violence and to restore peace and tranquility, they came together under the umbrella of 'Sarvo Judanthu'. This effort of the people was condemned by some people here and they blamed them that by creating such an association they were trying to kill people. This issue is not confined to a particular region. It is faced by the entire country, so efforts should be taken in this regard.

At the time of elections, some people accept the assistance of naxalites in order to emerge victorious in elections. I am of the opinion that like the flames of the revolution which devour its own offsprings, these people also had accepted the assistance of the naxalites paying dearly for that. In Andhra Pradesh, the Congress Party accepted the help of naxalites, promoted them and tried to establish their rule there and today it is the worst affected state from naxalism. The same scenario applies to Assam and other states. So our nation should make pledge that nobody will accept the help of the Naxalites and nobody will give them their help also and the central leadership should formulate a policy in this regard. Hon. Home Minister please forgive me, it is written here 'confusion in Delhi' and we have not formulated a comprehensive plan for this. Today for the first time, he has explained his policy and plan and I hope that the Ministry of Home Affairs would prepare a nationwide anti-Naxalism policy in near future and could implement it earnestly and after holding discussions with the affected states, would do the needful to solve this problem in all the affected districts. Alongwith this, urgent attention should be paid to the developmental works in the affected areas, and steps should be taken to solve the issue of unemployment in those area and my request to the Home Minister is that the entire nation should act as a single unit to counter the menace of Naxalite violence.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please put your question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, I heard the reply given by the Hon. Home Minister. He has also given a booklet. A large part of our country is already affected by Naxalism. However he has given a

detailed reply in his typical manner, he has given detailed information, but I would like to present before you 2-3 points. The issue of Naxalism is no more an internal issue of ours. The reason behind this development is that as per the information received, from Nepal to Sri Lanka, Naxalites are acting in cohesion and the coastal areas especially the coastal areas of Karnataka have already been taken over the Naxalites. They are using those areas as a transit point to bring weapons into India from other countries. The tentacles of Naxalism have spread over entire Nepal. The manner in which a change in ruling system was effected in Nepal with the help of Maoists is a clear indication to the fact that after the passage of sometime, Maoists would capture power in Nepal and if Maoists are successful in assuming power in Nepal, from that day a large part of India would also be affected. However, even now the states adjacent to Nepal border like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have been affected by it. The Hon. Minister has said that Army has been deployed there to look into this matter, but even after this step, the Naxalites activities are on the rise there. He will also acknowledge this fact. It means that even after all the arrangements put in place by him, success has been elusive in countering this menace. After going through the list given by him regarding the number of civilians, police personnels and Naxalites killed there, it is evident that double number of civilians and police personnels were killed compared to the slain Naxalites. If he is satisfied with the arrangements he has made, then I have nothing more to say. If he is not satisfied with his arrangements, then I would like to know about the new steps selected to fight Naxalism.

He has written that they are allocating funds to the states. He has also written that development works in the affected areas should be speeded up and protective measures should be taken. Hon. Home Minister, I would like to pass on this information that now-a-days Naxalites no more rely on the disparity in social structure to mobilize their cadre, rather they are developing financial muscle by usurping the funds which are being allocated to the states, a large chunk of which ends up in the hands of Naxalites, whenever one wants to implement a project there, be it in the tune of 100 crores or 200 crores, Naxalites, threaten that unless and until they are given 5 crores or 25 crores or fifty crores the said project cannot be implemented. The police force of the Government plays

the role of an intermediary and arranges as settlement by paying the amount, then only one can initiate the project. In such a scenario there used to be struggles for the social structure till date, now it has changed. Now more and more youths are falling in naxalite grip because it is becoming a source of income for them. If the Government would talk about development with naxalism flourishing side by side has a source of income then it is not going to work. Until you make the means of employment available and generate jobs, the naxalite clout and their number would keep increasing. I would like to know what strategy the Government have prepared to provide employment to the people in naxal affected areas to curtail their activities? The Government has mentioned that they are going to provide them employment through employment guarantee scheme. Will it generate employment? The funds meant for assured employment scheme would be diverted under this scheme now, which means that employment has already been provided there. So if they are trying to tell us that it would stop all the naxal activities, then it certainly appears that formality has been done and the problems has not been addressed properly. A list of 55 districts has been provided which are naxal and maoist affected. I want to know what is the underlying formula for labelling them naxal affected? Whether the districts where such incidents take place are listed as naxal affected? They should find out through the intelligence agencies which of the districts are really naxal affected.

I want to give an example that entire Bihar is naxal affected and I would prove it with examples. At places it is going on openly and at some place it is being organized in an underhand way, but all the districts are in its grip. I don't know whether Shri Sita Ram Singhji is present in the house or not, some people attacked his house and fortunately his son was not there, otherwise he would have been killed. Likewise an attack was made in Vaishali District and police had to open fire. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has mentioned the Jahanabad incident. The hon. Home Minister has also admitted in his reply that such incidents are taking place. The newspapers have published names of some members as being on the hit list of these maoists. In these circumstances, the list of the naxal affected districts that has been prepared needs to be amended. The complete details must be found out through the intelligence agencies and a new list of

affected districts should be prepared and steps should be taken to contain these activities.

You have also written that recently approval has been granted for setting up ten India reserve battalions for countering the naxal activities in the affected states. We would like to know whether these battalions have been constituted at the Union level or approval has been given to the states to constitute such battalions? If such approval has been granted. Bihar is not merely affected by naxalism and maoism but several private forces also exists there. I would not like to name them all...(Interruptions) Please listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, please address the Chair and conclude soon.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am addressed you only. I want to state that many private forces exists in Bihar, they also promote terrorism and naxalism there. There is a need to make separate provisions for such states, they need to be empowered to constitute forces arrangements should be made to impart high quality training to law enforcement agencies there and Bihar should be provided more funds in comparison to other states. Today Bihar is in the grip of naxalism and Maoism. I want to ask the hon'ble Home Minister whether he has made separate provisions to counter naxalism, terrorism, Maoism and other private forces active in Bihar or not? If not, whether he proposed to take action to combat those antisocial elements in Bihar? I request the Minister to reply to this question in either yes or no.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussions have been held in this House earlier also regarding the situation that has arisen due to increase in the naxalite and maoist activities. It is a very serious matter. Our hon. President has also said about this problem that constant neglect of the poor paves way for terrorism and naxalism.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I am happy that the hon'ble Home Minister's reply is only partially correct. He has stated that the number of these activities has come down during the last six months, is not correct. As compared to 2004, there has been an increase of four per cent in the naxalite activities in 2005. The hon. Home

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

Minister has said that he will provide assistance to 55 districts of 9 states. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra was right that only 55 districts are not affected but there are 13 such states in the entire country wherein more than 100 districts are affected by these terrorist activities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the backward state initiative scheme we have demanded a package of Rs. 2475 crores for these 55 districts. He must be aware that in the Danteware district of Chhattisgarh three such incidents took place in succession. It gives an impression that there is no democratic government in Chhattisgarh and naxalites are wielding power there. Through you, I want to ask the hon'ble Home Minister whether the action plan that is being made by him and which he has mentioned, addresses the problems of unemployment, economic disparity and regional imbalance in real terms. I feel that the steps, being taken by the government are reformative. Sir, through you, I would like to ask the government about its long-term scheme to overcome the problem of naxalism, which is prevalent in the whole country, and which must not only be contained but uprooted entirely.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I would just like to ask some specific questions to the hon. Minister through you.

I would like to know whether the Prime Minister has acknowledged naxalism to be the single biggest internal security threat that India has ever faced. Is it recognised, in recent years, that naxalism cannot be treated as a law and order problem alone? Is the Government aware that, while reiterating the socio-economic dimensions of the problem, there are some serious flaws existing in this area? For instance, it is often assumed that the task is essentially bureaucratic one, of getting resources from Delhi to the poorest naxal affected regions of the country. But is it not difficult for the naxals and Maoists to sabotage that process? Given the propensity of corruption, is sabotage necessary? The only ones who can ensure these resources used in the region are those who are closely involved in local politics. But are the local politicians often finding it easier to woo the naxals? If

they happen to be targeted by the naxals and Maoists, do not they prefer to use the same violent methods to deal with the challenge? How is this vicious circle of naxals going to be broken? This is my direct question to the Government. What is the Government thinking on how this vicious circle of violence going to be broken? What is the Government contemplating to do to bring peaceful environment where the people can get to develop a variety of social, political and economic identities?

Orissa has been asking the Government to help to raise special Armed Forces or the India Reserve Battalion in the naxal affected districts. Some battalions have been raised but three more districts have been affected by this problem. Will the Government consider to provide adequate funds to Orissa to raise the India Reserve Battalion for those three districts also?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has discussed in detail the naxalite and maoist activities in different parts of the country, which is a matter of deep concern. The Government is making immense efforts in this direction. Despite the all out efforts being made by the Government, it is inexplicable why it is unable to control the naxals and the maoists who are gaining strength and expanding their reach. It is a matter of concern for the country. The entire country is in the grip of turmoil. They are getting more powerful in Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, which was a part of Bihar. Has the Government tried to go to the bottom of this problem? What is the reason that in spite of our efforts the naxal and the maoists activities are on the rise. What efforts have been made by the Government in this regard and what needs to be done to contain them? Bihar is a backward state, which does not have modern arms for its law enforcement agencies. Whereas the naxals possess latest arms. The naxals snatch the arms of the police force deployed to fight them. They are consequently unable to fight them. The hon. Minister has said that funds are being provided to tackle the naxal and maoist menace. But, what is the Government doing to speed up the development of backward states. In our state there are several police stations without wireless sets. They do not even have vehicles. The police force is at a disadvantage

there. What steps the Government propose to take to strengthen the police force in Bihar? And, whether the Government would provide special forces to contain the naxals and the maoists? Would the Government allot funds to make the police force self-sufficient? What steps the Government would take to develop backward states like Bihar. The unemployment and poverty there, are the main reasons for the rise of naxalite and maoists activities. Whether the Government has any effective plan to contain them.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, I have a feeling that, in this discussion, the Government has not taken into account one of the most recent developments of international significance. When a big socio-political change is in the offing in Nepal, the Maoists of that country have agreed to come to the democratic process and are now agreeing to work along with the seven-party alliance. I think, this is a very significant development and it has its implications in relation to India also.

Considering these facts, I want to know whether the Government will take more concrete steps to see that the poverty-stricken, marginalised and unemployed people especially living in the most backward regions and tribal areas of the country will be given special packages and programmes so that the people living in these regions will have some hope of development in future.

The Minister, in his statement, has stated that the Rural Employment Guarantee Programme will find a place in these areas so that the people will get employment. I would like to ask a specific question on that. I would like to know whether in these 58 naxalite districts, the Rural Employment Guarantee Programme would be implemented as soon as possible.

As far as tribal areas are concerned, the Joint Parliamentary Committee has almost finished its work and the Report is coming here today for enactment of a very radical legislation to do justice, which we could not do for the tribals. It is about tribal land and their rights over the forests. I would like to know whether that legislation would be enacted and implemented soon so that we can take some concrete measures to ameliorate their problems.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I would request the hon. Minister to approach the issue in a different way which is politically good for the country. Nepal experience is very much welcome. The Maoists have joined the people's liberation movement and became part of it. The new Government has embraced them and is negotiating with them. They have come to the mainstream politics. Will we follow Nepal in dealing with them? In dealing with people's issues, especially land reforms, corruption, etc., if there is a people's movement, definitely they will be behind it or they will be in the forefront.

The Government of India is adopting the policy of negotiating with extremist outfits throughout the country. If that is the case, why not adopt the same policy in dealing with Maoists as well as naxalites also? Recently there was an attempt by the Andhra Pradesh Government to negotiate with the naxalites. Sometimes there may be failures. In Jammu and Kashmir also we have taken several peace initiatives. Yesterday bombs were thrown at a rally of Congress Party in Srinagar. Even then the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has declared very clearly that this would not hamper the peace process. If that is the case, even if there are unjustifiable actions on the part of these outfits, my humble request to the Government would be not to deviate from the policy of negotiating with these people, with the ultimate aim of bringing all these outfits to the mainstream politics. That is my request.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I listened the speech of the hon. Minister of Home affairs very carefully. I have already said that the problem cannot be solved without going into its root cause. Just as even the best doctors would not be able to treat a patient without knowing the disease, similarly naxalism and maoism are sound diseases.

I have said earlier that this problem is a revolt against centuries of social injustice, poverty, starvation and helplessness. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has dwelt a lot on the steps being taken to strengthen the police force. This has been going on ever since the naxal problem emerged. I have been hearing about it since then. God knows how many millions and billions have been

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

spent since then. But the problem continues to grow. The only way out is our commitment to change the centuries old social system. The social system needs to be changed. But, just the opposite is being done in this case. Ranbir Sena was formed, which is being supported by several parties to combat this menace. For a long time regional president of the congress party held the reigns of this Sena. Due to this reason the activities of violence have increased instead of decreasing. Violence cannot control violence. The world has never witnessed such a thing and it would not take place here also. The only solution is to give social justice to those who have been downtrodden for centuries and to convince them that it is the law that is supreme, not the Ranbir Sena. Since time is short, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your suggestion.

Now, Shri Kharabela Swain. Please put question only. You are the last person.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I will be very brief. I do not believe that any social upliftment in the backward areas is going to do away with the naxal menace because the naxals themselves do not want any development. They do not want that there should be any road, there should be any development in that region. It is the question of simply, mere holding on to the political power. There are different State Governments which are having, which have developed different types of ideas with regard to the root cause of this naxalism just like some States having very soft approach towards them. I would like to know whether the State Governments have already developed uniform strategy, uniform outlook towards the naxalism? ...*(Interruptions)*

My second question is this. Now, the Central Government, as the hon. Minister said, is sending the CRPF to the States specifically after the last round of elections. My point is whether the CRPF battalions are properly trained to wage a guerrilla jungle warfare against the naxals. How does the Central Government expect these CRPF battalions to be deployed in the States?

My last question is this. I am very happy that, at least, the Central Government, the Home Minister, has understood the futile effort of just having negotiations with the naxals because they started this process of negotiations in Andhra Pradesh. Everybody knew and we had very strongly objected to that....*(Interruptions)* But they did it. I think he has understood it.

My last question is as to what sort of help has been extended to Orissa to modernise the police forces to deal with the naxal menace.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'. Please ask a direct question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several states are affected by naxalism and maoism. Bihar is the most affected state. The government has accepted that Bihar is an extremely sensitive state. Being contiguous to Nepal, Jharkhand and Orissa, Bihar is most affected by naxalism. Bihar has witnessed major incidents of naxalite violence. Like the incident in Motihari, the residence of our hon. Member Shri Sitaram Singh was attacked....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put the question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': The naxals carried out an attack in Jehanabad. I want to know whether the Government have any plan to break the alliance between the naxals and the maoists in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question has already come.

Now, I call Shrimati Karuna Shukla.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': My second question is regarding information that I have got that the

naxalite affected states would be given help to form special security forces to combat the naxalites. However, Bihar has not been included among such states. I want to know the purpose of this, and the intention of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The problem relates to his constituency. Therefore, I have given him a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You did not give any notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, not all Members have given notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Every one has given notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): I have given. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know how to run the House. I know my duty.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, I know my duty.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would ask only two questions. The naxalite problem is assuming menacing proportions so much so that if our UPA Government ignores following two issues, the outcome can only be imagined. Firstly, if the youth are not provided employment this problem will keep growing. Secondly this problem is somehow related to conversions. I feel this with regard to the two tribal dominated districts of my constituency where naxalites are gaining strength. I visit the area and can gauge the reason. This problem is somehow related to conversion. The lure of money is attracting the poor tribals to naxalites who exploit them.

Every year naxalites extort money to the tune of Rs.1000 crore in the Chhattisgarh region. The Minister of Home Affairs should pay attention towards this. The hon. Prime Minister had convened meeting of the Chief Ministers to tackle the naxalite problem....(Interruptions) They should be provided latest weapons. I want to tell the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that if this is not done, then the poor will continue to be killed every day. In Chhattisgarh the hopeless public, who is carrying out a peace campaign is being targeted by the naxalites. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, hon. Minister is on his legs....(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I have one pointed question please. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please. Hon. Minister is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have taken their name, Now, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ok. Please put your question.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I am hailing from the State where naxalism was originated. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put your question please.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Three or four districts of West Bengal have been severely affected by naxalism. What I would like to suggest hon. Minister is this. Naxalism is fed by poverty and penury. Further, ideology is also a component which has been hailed to flourish the naxalite activities in various parts of country. So, I would like to suggest the Union Government to wage an ideological battle against the naxalite menace.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): I have a very specific question please. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No! Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a number of questions have been raised here. I will try to answer maximum of those. The first question was that we made policy and placed it before the House. In reality notice of this calling attention motion came to us and it didn't happen that we made this policy sitting in the office and placed it before the House. This policy has been with us from quite a long time. We have been practicing it and we have repeatedly stated in House and even outside House that Government has policy to control naxalism and the same is being practiced. In spite of stating this, the same question is raised that there is no policy. Hence we gave printed copies of policy to members and again giving the same today also.

The other point was that we have curtailed the matter, while presenting it before the House and people, though this is not true. I have stated one sentence in my statement [English]: Naxalite menace remains an area of serious concern [Translation] We didn't presented curtailed matter before you. We presented the matter before you in the same seriousness as we had received it.

Thirdly it has been repeatedly stated here that 177 districts are effected from naxalism. I am giving the present status orally and in written form, but I still have a worry that the same will be repeated inside and outside the House that 177 districts and 13 states are affected from naxalism, so and so districts of India are affected. This is not a right thing....(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: When you have admitted in your reply that out of 150 districts naxal activities are taking place in 55 districts and they are effected. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was going to tell that whether whole district will be considered affected if something happens in one village or one person is caught? What does it mean? Whether the efforts are not being made to increase the number of districts?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister was stating that if naxalism incident takes place in one village of any district then whole district will not be treated as affected, but it can effect other district also. You kindly analyze this problem from another point of view.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can discuss with these hon. Members in my office, but here I am attempting to answer questions of other hon. Members. ...(Interruptions) If hon. Members will speak in between then it will break my link. I was trying to tell that in other House also a Member raised this question that affected states are 13 and district are 177. I said similar thing to him that we are taking you all alongwith us and not letting the importance of matter go off. Hence, sitting in my office, I asked my friends that how many police stations are affected. I didn't wanted to know that how many villages are affected from naxalism? This figure further decreases with the number of affected villages but I didn't asked about villages though asked about affected police stations. Today we have such 12 thousand police stations out of which only an area under jurisdiction of 509 are affected from naxalism and only 55 districts are strife torn, due to naxalism. But it is repeatedly stated here that 177 districts are affected from naxalism. I would like to tell the House about the consequences of such talks. Anti-social people with guns in their hands create fear psychosis among people and coerce them to snatch their money and property. This feeling of fear is further strengthened after such statements that so and so districts are affected. We should neither understate the factual position nor should we exaggerate them; both the things are tantamount to creating mistake. Hence, repeatedly saying that 177 districts and 13 states are affected and there exists a red corridor from Nepal to Tamil Nadu. It will give rise to fear in the mind of people though it is not the reality. It is not a good thing to develop fear psychosis among people....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Prabhunath you please sit down. It is not going on record.

Only the speech of the Minister of Home Affairs will be recorded not of others.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is the thing. Someone creates terror by carrying arms and shooting. Someone else creates terror by written warnings and someone creates terror by verbal words. Our objective is that we should not allow fear psychosis to be developed. Hence it is necessary to keep reality in mind.

Sir, a lively long discussion was held here, good and pointed questions were raised. In spite of getting into war of words, we should learn to overcome our mistakes in tackling these problems. This is not a right practice that we criticize each other. This is not right thing to say that 170 or 200 or 400 districts are affected from naxalism in the entire country. There is a need to understand reality. If one does not accept reality he cannot be compelled to accept it and he is free to maintain his view about what is happening in Bihar, or how many districts are affected from naxalism. If one is under the impression that statements can result in decrease in naxalite activities in Bihar than he is free to do so. But if the same generates fear than its not a good thing....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Prabhunath Singh please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the submission of the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, nothing is going on record. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, he is all the time getting up....(Interruptions) I am not yielding. Why is he standing up?....(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, it is not a question of yielding....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, he had his say, allow me to have my say....(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He should not criticise....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Why should not I criticise?....(Interruptions) I am not bound by his statement ... (Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We are also not bound by his statement....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, they should follow the procedure....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, why is he disturbing me all the time?....(Interruptions) What is that I am saying? Am I blaming his party or their parties? I am talking about the principle. Why is he getting up? If he does not want to accept it, let him not accept it....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, if the House maintains....(Interruptions) I am not saying a word against a party, against a Government, against a Member. I am talking about the principle. The principle is that if we create the fear psychosis; and then making strident statements, is not going to help us to control the Naxal movement. It will help spread fear psychosis by making wrong statements, strident statements and that is exactly what I am trying to say. Why are they getting up unnecessarily? Did I say anything against his Government, his party or himself?

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am quoting what you have written in the book....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: He should just keep quite and hear me. If he does not want to accept, he should not accept it.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am trying to pacify them.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am saying that 177 districts are not affected. I have given the number. I have given the number of police stations which are affected and it is in the vicinity of 500 police stations.

[Translation]

Out of 12000 police stations 500 police stations are affected. You guess whatever, you may, I cannot stop you from that. A good point has been made here that weapons are coming from the sea route and terrorism is increasing. It has been said that weapons may come here or are coming by the sea route in Tamil Nadu. It has been said here but at another place it was said that weapons are coming from Gujarat and other routes also. For that we have taken steps. We have framed a scheme for the security of our seashore. For it, the Government of Gujarat in particular has made a demand. Under this scheme we are helping the Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamil Nadu with an amount of rupees five hundred crores approximately and asking them to establish police station at sea shore and appoint the workers working in the coastal areas and give them boat, ship and weapons. We expect that the state Governments would definitely utilize the funds centre has given to them. An Hon'ble Member, who moved calling attention motion has observed that presently grandes and land mines are being used by the naxalites. His suggestion was that the army should use the same equipments, which are being used to take out land mines. We have already accepted this suggestion that the retired army officers' help should be taken in this job. We particularly avoid the use of army in the states which are affected by naxalism, but we would employ them to take land mines if need be.

14.52 hrs.

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*]

It was also asked here as to what is the use of employment-oriented scheme? How can employment be given immediately if there is no use of this scheme? Employment oriented scheme has been implemented in Maharashtra about thirty-forty years back and it has been useful there. The employment-oriented scheme, which has been implemented here, would also be useful. The cost of the scheme would be Rs. Forty thousand crores. I am thankful to the Minister for it. It is a very good scheme. If fifty people demand for work, they will get it. If a man is unemployed and on the verge of starvation and he demands for work, then neither collector, nor MLA, nor MP may give him anything. He would get work after this scheme is implemented. This scheme has to be implemented by the state Governments. This scheme has to be implemented with the help of the Government, no matter, which party that government belongs to. It seems to me that the people would be benefited to a great deal with this scheme if not entirely. It has also been said as to whether any orders or guidelines have been issued from the government to implement this scheme in the naxal-affected area? I am not aware whether the Ministry of Rural Development has issued orders or not. When we have talks with the Chief Minister, we say that this scheme would be beneficial if it is first implemented in the naxal-affected areas.

Sir, it has also been said here that local politicians and the naxalites are hands in gloves with each other. The locals may be knowing move about it. I cannot comment about it because it would send a message that I am commenting on this or that party. We leave it on the leader of that party and will ask him to check it if it is so but we will not interfere on behalf of the Government. But the naxalites are resorting to bloodshed or threaten to people. The law will take its own course and everything possible would be done in this regard.

Sir, in response to a question regarding organizing a battalion, I would like to say that we have granted permission to the Government of every state to raise a battalion. We have granted permission to Bihar to raise three I.R. battalions, to Orissa to raise two battalions, to Chhattisgarh to raise two battalions, to Maharashtra to raise two battalions, to Jharkhand to raise three battalions, to Madhya Pradesh to raise one battalions, to Uttaranchal to raise two battalions and to Tamil Nadu to raise two

battalions. We would grant them permission to raise more battalions. I would like to tell that earlier we used to give 13, 14 and 15 crores of rupees to raise one battalion reserve battalion in India now are giving about 20 crore rupees. We give this money to the State Government but I am sad and I would like to say in the house that the State Government, did not raise battalion despite being given money by the Union Government to raise battalion, some of our colleagues have spoken in the House that this much and that much funds be given to us and we gave them the money but even after that they did not raise the battalions. We request you to tell your colleagues that this money is being given from the exchequer of the Union Government, not from your pocket, and it should be used. I am giving the number of States and telling you here that this amount should be used. If it is not used, then you would speak outside that the Union Government did not give us financial assistance. We will not be there to answer but that amount is not going to be used. Again I would like to tell you that we have given para-military forces to every state and I would like to tell the House for its information that we have given 26 battalion to the naxal affected states. 26 battalions troops are more than the total strength of army of some small countries. And we have given them that much police force, para-military force. In addition to these battalions, we are giving them 10 more battalions. Thus 36 battalions are being given to naxal-infested states. 26 battalions are already there, 10 more battalions we are giving to them. But we have left it on the states how to use them. It will be not proper if we advise them with regard to use of battalions and constitution also does not allow it. But the House will have to keep in mind the military force we have given them. 26 battalions constitutes of approximately 20 thousands men and officers. If they are not using 20 thousand men and officers to curb naxal activities and some states have a force of one lakh, some states have a force of 50 thousand; some states have a force of 60 thousand. This is over and above what they have and in addition to that they have these special forces and if they are not utilized there then we shall have to sit here and to work our....*(Interruptions)* Number of one battalion varies between 700 to one thousand.

Here some one asked about our long-term planning or the measures being taken to curb the naxalites, it is a good question. Our long-term plan is that we shall have

to take it very seriously. You heard here questions of two Hon. Members. One Hon. Member said that we shall talk to them, they are our brothers and sisters. We say that those who live in India are our brethren and sisters. Whether they are disgruntled or quarrelsome, they are after all our countrymen. For them we had also told earlier that if our disgruntled brother-sisters are killing others with guns and we will put our hand on their back and shall say that you are doing good thing, we shall talk to you, I have never said so.

15.00 hrs.

One Hon. Member have said that they are our children, if people from another country fight with us and you talk to them, if people of other countries come here with arms and kill the native people, if we talk to them then why should not we talk to them—we have been told so. We have been saying so since long with keeping all these things in mind. We have already said that those who have laid down their weapons, those who have adopted path of peace, there is no problem in talking to them. It is not our approach not to talk with those who have committed some mistakes. But someone is coming with gun in his hand and we are approaching them for talks—it is not so. Those who will abandon the guns, as we have given jobs and training to the persons who abandoned guns in Jammu and Kashmir and north-east, thus given them means of livelihood. If in Andhra Pradesh these things are happening, we have not said that we will not do so there or this will not happen. There is a balance. The balance is that we will talk to those who do not resort to violence, leaving violence apart we are coming forward to talk. But we shall not talk to anyone....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): That is what I mean.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am supporting your stand. Why are you getting up?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please listen him completely.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What has been told by the government is balanced one. We have been asked

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

about our special plan. First of all I would like to say that the way state government wish to solve it, they chalk out a plan according, we have made request to them. You wish to solve it by emphasizing our economic development, social justice, with the help of police, by resorting to use of force, in whatever manner you wish to solve it, you prepare a plan, you discuss the said plan with the neighbouring states and with us also. We shall tell you the final outcome thus arrived and we shall fight against them in such a manner.

Secondly, I am saying that the duty of controlling naxalites should not be left on eight-ten persons of the police station. In some districts of Bihar and Chhattisgarh, fifty, sixty or two hundred people attack on the police stations having ten personnel. There police either resort to firing or do not resort to firing, we have said that keep your company on alert for operation and when ever you get information, utilize that and try to control them.

Third point that has been raised is if there is any measure that can control terrorist or violent activities is intelligence. Information and intelligence work more than weapons. Today, IB, RAW and Defence Intelligence collect information and work on national level, but these are not utilized properly, because it is of utmost importance to have the feedback of the incidents likely to occur. In past these in formations were collected, they were collected by the police constable on behalf of the Village Kotwal on Taluk and district level and he also used them. But in recent days it is appeared that earlier system has been abandoned. Therefore we are talking about the states. [English] Actionable intelligence, that is, intelligence on which you can act and which will give you information as to the place and the time when the attack will be made by the terrorists, should be available. [Translation] So, we are telling him first to make the plan and then work. We told him if you are interested to work over this issue that whatsoever forces are required, you make the plan, you have to take action within six months and we will provide you one or two battalion and after taking action you can return our force. If you use this force for Police Thana or law and order control on the road, we will not allow the same. This is our another plan.

Third point that I mentioned is this that land mines, grenades and car bombs are taking place. We have adopted some ways to control the use of landmines, grenades and car bombs. For which we are providing armed vehicles to State armed police. We have given him 50 armed vehicles and also giving him 10 armed vehicles. Thus we are going to give 200 armed vehicles to state government and saying that these vehicles may be used.

Fourth thing is that these policemen sit inside it because they are also the children of someone. They should not die. If injured man is picked up from somewhere, we are going to provide him helicopters. We have given him money but I am sorry to say that the funds provided for police modernization and expansion could not be utilized so far. Our colleagues from Bihar also said that the reason for non-utilisation of fund. It is very sad that no funds could be spent there and the funds provided to some other states also could not be utilized. What can we do? If the released funds are not utilized properly then how can I help it? It would not merely suffice by thinking the naxalite activities as activities, which can be curbed by arms only. Nearly two thousand five hundred crore rupees have been given away for economic development of naxal affected districts. This is in addition to the funds given for irrigation, education, Health, power and transport by the Government. If the money that has been given is not utilized properly then what is the use of it. If we only have to blame each other and swap allegations that you did not do this we did not do this then it is all right. Funds have been granted. Had the funds not been granted, it would have been a different thing. I can name the persons, but will not do so, but hon'ble Members should be aware that if funds are granted, then there must be utilisation of the funds.

I believe nothing more in this regard is required to be said now....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is still some more agenda. This is a calling attention motion and its time is over. No debate is held on the Calling Attention Motion. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar):
We are not having a debate here....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever questions were raised by you, have been answered. There is still more agenda remaining.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs as to whether he would set up Rapid Action Force in Bihar or not?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You must at first raise those battalions that have been given to you.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now item No. 39 of hon'ble Minister of Agriculture shall be taken up....(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): As per the List of Business, the National Institute of Fashion Technology Bill, 2006 may be taken up first. Later on, item no. 39 may be taken up....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker has given the ruling that it should be taken after the reply of Minister of Agriculture. My ruling is that Minister of Agriculture may give his reply....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have no objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You understand both situation. Although Minister of Agriculture has given a detailed reply, even then hon'ble Member is not satisfied....(Interruptions)

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): If they would give employment to a naxalite who surrenders then all the unemployed people would become naxalites.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is one way to eradicate naxalism and it would be possible only with the development of agriculture. His reply would be supplemented by this. You must remain assured.

15.10 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

(i) Suicide by farmers in various parts of the country

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank Shri Ramji Lal Suman for drawing the attention of the House towards the biggest problems of the country, i.e. towards the farmer's condition. Situations under which the farmers are committing suicide and apart that the other issues that have come before us during the last many years. If we immediately did not take any step unitedly then a large population of the country who has the responsibility to feed the people of this country, may land into a major problem. On this issue, discussion has taken place for many hours. Members of all parties of the House took part in this discussion and gave some very good suggestions. I am extremely happy that a discussion took place in this House to solve the problems of farmers and agriculture of this country by setting aside all political considerations.

Earlier also this House has discussed the issue of farmers committing suicide where many questions were asked. During last few days the media of this country has also paid a lot of attention towards this. Media has contributed a lot in bringing this issue before the country. This situation is happening in many states. The break-up of the cases of suicides committed in various states is made available to the government of India through the state Governments, which I have discussed in the House earlier also but, I have received some fresh information. The information is that whatever crimes are committed in the area under control of every police station of this country, be it dacoity, murder, theft etc., suicide also is one of the categories of crime, information from all police stations is collected and sent to Home Minister. Each year Ministry of Home Affairs publishes a book in this regard. Through that book the country becomes aware of the situation. To find out the factual position, I got all the previous year's reports that were published by Home Ministry in the Bureau of Crime and one thing that I

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noticed is that the problem of suicide is not current problem. Problem of suicide is aggravating day by day.

I do not want to take the precious time of the House by quoting the figures of last 50 years but I would like to give information of the year 1998....*(Interruptions)* I am having information of the year 1995 with me. I can give information from the year 1995 also. If they want information for the year 1998, there is no difference, as the position remains the same. There are two parts of this report, one part is regarding total number of cases of suicides committed in this country and the Ministry of Home Affairs has tried to keep a separate record from the year 1995 and how many cases out of these are the cases of suicide committed by farmers. They have started giving this information separately. In the year 1998, as many as 1,04,713 people committed suicide in the entire country of which 16,015 people were from farmer's families. *[English]* In the year 1999, the total number of suicides in the country was 1,10,587. Out of it, 16,082 suicides were committed by the persons coming from the farming community or farmers.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Were they farmers or from the farming community?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is written here 'farmers'. In the year 2000, the total suicides in the country were 1,08,593 out of which farmers were 16,603. In the year 2001, the total suicides in the country were 1,08,506 out of which 16,415 were committed by farmers. In the year 2002, the figure was 1,10,417 for total suicides in the country out of which farmers were 17,977. In the year 2003, 1,10,851 suicides were committed in the country out of which there were 17,164 farmers.

[Translation]

With this, one thing has become clear that out of the total cases of suicides committed in this country, 15-16 per cent cases are the cases of suicides committed by farmers. This also reveals that this problem is prevailing since last many years but I would like to thank media for the fact that media has given special attention towards this during the last two years due to which this problem came up before the country and discussion on this issue

was also held in this House. There are some states where a large number of cases of suicides have been reported. It has been engaging our attention as to why suicides were committed in these states, some expert committees have also appointed and it has been tried to carry out a detailed investigation through these committees in Andhra Pradesh an Institute called national Institute of Agriculture Extension and Management has been assigned the responsibility of carrying out investigation into the farmers suicides in Andhra Pradesh. They tried to gather information by talking to the families of the farmers who committed suicide and have cited the reasons for suicide in their report. In Karnataka, *[English]* Karnataka Government has appointed Viresh Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. G.K. Viresh. *[Translation]* The report has been presented to the Government. National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad has presented its report after conducting a survey regarding the suicides being committed by the farmers in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, the Mumbai High Court has entrusted the responsibility of conducting a survey in this regard to the Tata Institute of Social Science. After conducting a detailed survey in this regard the institute has submitted its report to the State Government as well as to the Mumbai High Court. In Andhra Pradesh the State Government has appointed a commission of the farmers welfare under the chairmanship of Prof. Jayanti Ghosh, which has submitted its report. In Maharashtra, another institute—Indira Gandhi Institute of Development and Research was assigned the responsibility of conducting an inquiry in this regard and they have also submitted their report. They have presented the entire picture before the state Governments as to how the farmers are led to commit suicide. The first reason given in all the reports is common in almost all the reports and that is *[English]* natural calamities causing high indebtedness, and the reason given is failure of crops. *[Translation]* if the farmers' crops are damaged due to poor monsoon, crop failure and natural calamities. Due to the above reasons they do not remain in a position to repay the loan which they had raised from banks or private money lenders. This state of helplessness ultimately forces the farmers to commit suicide. *[English]* The second reason given is uncertainty of monsoon; third reason is non-availability of the term loan; fourth reason is high rate of interest; fifth reason is high rate of interest from private

money-lenders; sixth reason is diversion of loan for marriage, sickness, education etc.; seventh reason is mono crop; eighth reason is no supplementary income other than agriculture; and ninth reason is too much pressure on the land because of the growing population [Translation] In older times, nearly 50 years back if a family had 20 acres of land and later he had four children then after division the land that would remain with each child be only 5 acres. Now after that, if one of the sons begets two or three children then the land would ultimately reduce to one or two acres each. Therefore, the increasing population and pressure on the land has adverse effect on agriculture because now the size of holding becomes small. This is also one of the reasons given.

Probably these or some other reasons could be forcing the farmers to commit suicide. On a broader scale these reasons have been cited in all the report therefore, something is definitely required to be done in this regard. It does not reflect good on any government if 15-16 per cent farmers of the country commit suicide. We need to pay some attention towards this as to what all we can do in this regard.

It has been two years since the new government came into power. We have been continuously repeating that the entire attention of this government is set upon the farmers. We have promised certain things in the Common Minimum Programme of our Government, which we have presented before the nation. The promises that have been made are, [English] The proposed initiatives for the agriculture sector include stepping up public investment in this sector in a significant manner, and accordingly giving highest priority to infrastructure for irrigation; nursing back to health the rural cooperative credit system; doubling the flow of rural credit within three years; easing the burden of debt and high interest rates on farm loans; making more effective crop and livestock insurance schemes; introducing special programmes for dryland farming in the arid and semi-arid regions; taking up watershed and wasteland development programmes on a massive scale; ensuring adequate protection to the farmers from import; and ensuring fair and remunerative prices for the farmers. These are issues, which this Government has selected, and this Government has taken a decision to concentrate on all these areas.

[Translation]

Many such steps have been taken during the last two years. I would like to say that for the first time a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the hon'ble Prime Minister after studying all about agriculture and agrarian pricing. The committee includes Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Minister of Rural Development, Minister of Water Resources, Minister of Power and Minister of Fertilizers as its members. Regular meetings of this committee are convened to see as to what we can do in this field and what steps are required to be taken. The committee also reviews as to what efforts have been made by us to implement the decisions taken by the committee. The Prime Minister himself presides over this committee because our government feels this as a matter to be given more importance.

In the reports that have been submitted regarding farmer's suicides, the major reason cited is non-availability of loan to farmers. There are two reasons for this. The first reason is that the farmers who take loan from banks like cooperative banks, Society banks or commercial banks, invest their entire amount in agriculture and after that if the weather turns bad and their crop get damaged due to this then they no more remain in a position to return the loan amount to the banks and become defaulters. If he becomes a defaulter once, then even if there may be a good monsoon the next year and good rains too but he is not granted any crop loan because once he has become a defaulter. Under such conditions he approaches private money lenders and is forced to take credit on 25 to 45 per cent rate of interest. After paying so much of interest he fails to pay the principle amount and is burdened under the pressure of loan, which forces him to commit suicide, ultimately.

The first step that the present government thought about taking as soon as it came to power was that how to increase the agricultural credit for farmers. In the year 2004-05 a target of providing crop loan to 1,05,000 farmers was set. Earlier the target was fixed for disbursing crop loan to 86,000 farmers. But now the Government has promised crop loan to 1,05,000 farmers and I am glad that the actual disbursement of 1,25,309 crore in the first year was made to the farmers. In second year

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the target was fixed to disburse loan to 1,41,000 farmers but 1,57,479 farmers have been provided loan so far. For many years in the past, there has never been made any provision in this country for disbursement of loan on such a large scale. I am hopeful that we would cross the target of doubling the loan amount in the third year, and there is no second opinion about it. One more aspect has come to light after disbursing agriculture credit supply at such a large scale that only 40 per cent farmers of this country can avail the benefit of this. Rest of the 60 per cent farmers are nowhere near ambit of banks and co-operatives and therefore, we will have to chalk out a separate programme as to how can we bring them under the purview of banks and co-operative banks.

Alongwith this, attention has also been paid towards Kissan Credit Cards. 5 crore 7 lakh farmers have already been provided with Kissan Credit Cards till December 2005 and this has made a good provision for them to get some credit. But alongwith this another problem has come up. Earlier also in this August House, I had stated that in the Credit system prevailing in our country since last many years, no attention has been paid towards agriculture. If someone has to purchase a Maruti car then the banks are willing to lend him money on 8 per cent rate of interest and if one has to purchase a flat then also banks are willing to give credit but none of the banks, be it co-operative bank or any other bank, are willing to lend money to farmers on even 12 or 14 per cent rate of interest. No country in the world gives credit to farmers on such higher rate of interest. There was a need to make some improvement in this. I am glad that the hon'ble Finance Minister took a good step in the previous year budget which was that the Union Government took the responsibility upon itself to credit in their accounts an amount of 2 per cent of the total loan raised by a farmer or the total interest have to be paid by him before 30th March. A sum of Rs. 1,700 crore was treasured in all the banks of the country before 30th March, 2006 and this was the first step towards lessening the burden of long-lasting interest on the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this august House is informed of the fact that the Government led by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee took an initiative to

reduce the rate of interest on loans. This could be done in the case of loans upto Rs. 50,000/-. They reduced the interest rate from the prevailing 9% and it was a good step. It was virtually needed to be done and this Budget has carried forward that reform. As per this reform, the loan limit has been increased from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 3,00,000/- and the rate of interest has been reduced from 9% to 7%. This rate of 7% has been made effective from this year...(Interruptions). This is a collective responsibility of all the banks of the country whether they are cooperative banks or private banks. There is no discrimination.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): You should further reduce the interest rate.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have already reduced it from 12% to 7%. ...(Interruptions). You may give any logic you like, it costs nothing. But it is a fact that we have already reduced it from 12% to 7%. Some State Governments have also taken steps in this direction before this. After the new Government has taken over in Karnataka, they agreed to contribute their share of 3% into the rate fixed by the Centre at 7% and they should bring at 4% for their farmers. Similarly, the Government of Maharashtra has agreed to contribute their share of 1% into that 7%. We are endeavouring to bring the rate of interest at 6%, but this is a big challenge....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Swaminathan Committee had recommended four per cent.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I would say that I would be happy to give at two per cent. Why should we wait for Swaminathan? But there has to be money. One should not forget that we....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): Sir, I would like to urge the Central Government to support Karnataka Government to help its farmers by giving remaining three per cent because. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: You would get an opportunity to speak. Till then, please do not disturb me. ...(Interruptions). [Translation] We have reduced it to 7% from the earlier 12%. We would try to reduce it further

which is also necessary. We are consulting with RBI, NABARD and all other cooperative banks on further reducing the interest rate. The talks are on for a solution. I do not want to go into details now. Let me give you a small example on this. The NABARD provides loan to State Cooperative Bank at 4 per cent interest rate. The State Cooperative Bank further disburses it to District Central Cooperative Bank at 5% rate. The District Central Cooperative Bank adds a 2% more interest and forwards this as a loan at 7% interest rate to some village society and that society distributes this loan to the farmers at 9% or 11%. Now, one suggestion in this context was to abolish this four-tier system. We have thought of having only one level in this process and we can save 2% interest through this, but it would require cooperation of all. Here the money is emanating from RBI or NABARD and we have suggested the State Cooperative Banks or NABARD and we have suggested the State Cooperative Banks of the States to reduce one level of disbursement-channeling of the loans. All these institutions mean to help the farmers and not to incur them loss. One level in this process, i.e. anyone of the institutions which forwards the loan, need to be removed to make this process streamlined. This is a necessary step to take and we are consulting on this. We are sure we will find some way out and the further reduction in the interest rate, as desired by this House and as recommended by Dr. Swaminathan Committee, will be somehow maintained. I wish to inform this House that we are already into this.

At present, the Cooperative movement is in crisis in the country. Only five years ago, the 60% of the agricultural seed-supply was being done through Cooperative institutions and the rest through other commercial banks. But today, the Cooperative sector is only dealing with 27% of it while the commercial banks are enjoying the rights of supplying more than 60% of it and the trivia stands with the RORs. As to why the Cooperative Sector has degraded in such a way that it stands responsible for only 27% of supply, we wanted to probe and appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Vaidyanathan. We asked them to furnish their report within six months as we wanted to revamp the cooperative sector. By all this, we could assess that the Rural Cooperative Societies are facing many problems and this situation has led to the loss to farmers

due to which they are unable to repay the loans further incurring losses to the societies economically. Consequently, the societies fail in repayment to the Central Cooperative Banks and the Banks lose their money for good in this way. This chain-system is now otherwise endangering the entire Cooperative System. Some step was strongly needed to be taken in this matter, so, after the Vaidyanathan Committee had presented its report, a conference of all the CMs and Ministers of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the States was called for under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister in which a big decision was taken. It was that the loss incurred by the Cooperative Banks amounting to Rs. 14,000 crore was to be partly shared by the Govt. The Govt's share to compensate for the loss was set at Rs. 12,000 crore which was targeted to help the societies revive themselves. Further, the State Government were asked to contribute for the remaining amount of Rs. 2,000 crore. In this way, we thought that this would improve the societies, financial health and in turn they would be making the banks recover of their bad shape and, finally, it would re-open the path to easy loans for the farmers.

Only 7% of the farmers are not covered under our credit-cover. We will open venues for them. We have taken steps to provide money for this purpose and the work is on for this in the States. We hope that this will be done soon. As I said, there are a number of reasons behind the farmers' committing suicide. One of them is diversion of credit-money i.e. compulsion to expend the loaned money elsewhere e.g. medical treatment, marriage of offsprings etc. instead of investing it for the crops. This is common in our rural system that you have many obligations to expend the money, otherwise kept reserved for some special cause. So, the credited sum for agrowork is diverted to either medical treatment or for marriage or for studies for their children. But why are we forced to deal with such situation even today? There are many ways for people of almost every class of our society to get credits but no alternative ways for our farmers. So with a thought on this, we have put a proposal before the Ministry of Finance and RBI and the decision is awaited thereon. Our proposal is about starting a new system of 'Investment Credit' and 'Consumer Credit' on the lines of 'Agriculture Credit'. The said 'Investment Credit' is proposed to be given to the farmers for their routine activities like,

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installation of tubewells, pipelines or electric motor or purchase of an oil engine or any such agro-requirements. Earlier, there was an institute named Land Development Bank and its branches were working all over the country. 90 per cent branches of Land Development Bank have been closed in the country today due to which investment credit for farmers has come to an end. There is a need to restart this. Therefore, we have given the responsibility to suggest ways to revive Land Development Bank Institutions to the Vaidyanathanji who had earlier been entrusted with the work to examine the situation of Credit Bank and societies. The report in this regard will be presented to the Ministry of Finance and to me then, we will take steps in this regard.

My third point is that the Agriculture credit gets diverted to marriage, treatment for illness of a family member, education of children. For this, there is a need to introduce a new scheme named Consumption Credit in the country. Unless we do it, farmers will continue to borrow money from private money lenders and they will not get rid of the burden caused due to this. Therefore, we are taking it seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of credit is the most important one. We have also paid attention to it and taken some steps. I have placed some data regarding these steps before you. Apart from this, crop insurance is also an important scheme. We have started agriculture insurance scheme for the last one or two years but there are some lacunae therein and we have revised the format of this scheme and sent it to the Chief Ministers and Members of Parliament of the country. Many hon. Members and state governments have given some important suggestions to improve this. Some notices were received during discussion on that such as that there is a need to have improvement in area approach block in insurance. Apart from this, some suggestions were also received from your side that Panchayats should also get involved in this scheme. Many participants, during discussion, had made a demand to include villages, and if not villages, there is a need to get it done by the Panchayats. This has been approved by the government and we are in the process of getting final approval of the Finance Ministry and Planning Commission. We will

accept and implement it. We will take steps to take Panchayats as a unit, if not the village.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): The government of Madhya Pradesh has given its approval to this.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Nine to ten states have approved this and the rest are in the process of giving their approval. I am sure that all the states will cooperate in this regard. There was also a need to take many new steps along with this, such as how we can generate supplementary income, how we can increase the percentage of irrigation. Apart from this, steps be taken as to how we can properly use the limited water available by micro irrigation system and how we can do diversification. We have also given importance to the horticulture for the last two years. I had said this in the House earlier also. We have been successful in increasing the Budgetary provision for irrigation to the tune of rupees seven thousand crore from Rs. three thousand crore. But I am not satisfied with this because the total amount which is spent for irrigation. [English] that amount is only 0.35 per cent. It is not even half a per cent. This is not good. [Translation] It is right that it has been implemented. It has reached 7,000 crore rupees from 3,000 crores but I do not think it proper to make the State Government to bear the total burden. Therefore, there is a need to share some burden by the Central Government. The Union Government has taken total responsibility after the drought situation and a need of irrigation has emerged to deal with the drought situation. Therefore, the Government has to pay more attention to this. More and more attention has been paid towards this. Some improvement has been made but we are trying to ensure more than this. We are giving it priority.

Our second endeavour is to know as to how we can use water and India has accepted the new technology developed by countries like Israel for the use of limited water. During NDA regime, a committee had been appointed under the Chairmanship of Chandrababu Naidu regarding drip irrigation system and sprinkler irrigation system as to how we can enrich our country in this regard. We have accepted report of this committee, we have increased the amount to Rs. 450 crore, from the amount of rupees 150 crore or 200 crore which was provided earlier for this purpose. The Central Government

is prepared to give 40 per cent as a subsidy to those farmers who are ready to accept this technology. We have written to all the State Governments regarding this and I want to assure you that Rs. 450 crore have been allocated for this year and more amount will be allocated in the next year. It is necessary to think as to how maximum subsidy could be given to the farmers.

There is a need of diversification also. A farmer grows the same crop every time. A change in this was needed and that is why Horticulture Mission was established. Rs. 1,000 crore have been managed for this year. The Government is prepared to provide more funds to those states which deserve more attention. I want to inform the House that Orissa is cooperating us properly in this regard. We had adopted 12 districts of Orissa. Five Chief Minister have put proposals before us and there is a need to accept this in four districts. They have put this point before us and we have accepted that and are prepared to give the amount required. We will bring wasteland areas under horticulture and we will concentrate on one crop only by having cluster approach such as, we will concentrate on mango in mango areas, guava in guava areas and apple in apple areas. It can be beneficial from this point of view that we can establish processing industries and a way could be devised to give more value added price to farmers. Only two per cent of the total agriculture produce specially vegetables, milk and horticulture items is processed in our country. Whereas 70 to 80 per cent agriculture produce is being processed in other countries. I had said earlier also in the House that we process two per cent only therefore our post harvesting losses are more. A loss to the tune of more than Rs. 50 crore is usually suffered by our farmers due to post harvesting losses. Therefore, there is a need to boost agro based industry. This agro based industry will prosper only when raw materials would be available and this will happen only if more and more areas will come under horticulture. Therefore, a new scheme has been launched by the Central Government. Under this scheme subsidy of 50 to 60 per cent is being given to the state governments. Out of rupees 1,000 crore we have given Rs. 400 crores to the states and we have answered its proper implementation. We are keeping an eye on this. Through this, we are trying to give a new dimension to our system of cultivation. Besides this, much has been

talked here regarding minimum support price. We will bring more areas under horticulture. Today we are trying to introduce a new method in farming. Besides, views have also been expressed regarding minimum support price.

Sir, it is true that we all wish that the minimum support price should be increased. A machinery has been set up to fix the minimum support price and it is working since the last few years, experts of different fields have been included in it. They send notification to all the states and take information regarding cost of cultivation. They also collect data from the agriculture universities of the country and submit a report to the government based on it. The Government of India is empowered to accept or make amendments in it. After the acceptance by the Government of India the minimum support price is announced every year for all the farmers of the country. The minimum support price must be announced before the showing season and the farmers should know the minimum support price they would be getting regarding any particular crop. We have introduced it but this alone will not do because if the prices fall below announced minimum support price, in such a situation, it becomes the responsibility of the government of India to purchase the produce of farmers in order to prevent them from making distress rate. Now we are taking steps in this regard.

Sir, our colleague from Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh were always making complaints regarding non-procurement of mustard. Before the present Government came into power Rs. 300 crores were earmarked for procurement, market intervention and preventing distress rate. I feel happy to inform the House that last year, we have procured mustard worth 3,000 crores of rupees from Rajasthan and parts of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. There was shortage of oilseeds in the Country. Therefore efforts were made to increase the production of oilseeds in Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh and this effort resulted in massive production resulting into the fall of mustard from the minimum support price of Rs. 1,700 per quintal to Rs. 1,300 per quintal. Chief Minister of these three states requested the central Government to intervene and they had a valid point. We looked into it and I am happy to inform the House that we have procured mustard of worth Rs. 3,000 crores.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

[English] The amount of money received by way of distress sale this year was Rs. 3,000 crore.

[Translation]

Sir, the present Government have increased it and fixed at Rs. 3,000 crores and I am happy to inform you that we have made procurement of Rs. 3,600 crores this year. Hon. Members have complained that in Sikar or in some other districts farmers produce is still lying in the absence of any buyer. We would talk to the Chief Minister and certainly find way out.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagar): Hon. Minister, Sir, my submission is that it is good that mustard is being procured in Rajasthan but farmers are called in after one month for weighing it and they are given a token for it and again they are called after one month to receive their amount. In this way it takes two months to get the money....(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH HOODA (Rohtak): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I support the submission made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, it was difficult to make the entire payment at a time. That is why this system was adopted. We sometimes release the state government Rs. 200 crores or 300 crores or 400 crores.

Sir, I would tell you the situation with regard to mustard in Rajasthan is such that hardly it had happened when I had not received a call from the Chief Minister even while being in other states. She tells about it continuously and we make arrangements for money. We would certainly evolve a way-out in this regard too. We had to make arrangement for more money than the budgetary provisions. The difference between the minimum support price and distress sale was huge. We would like to inform the hon. Members that shortage of funds would not come in the way and the farmers would be paid regularly.

Sir, there was a serious problem regarding the minimum support price of cane in Uttar Pradesh. Farmers were not paid for years. The government of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra,

Gujarat and Haryana looked into the matter. I am happy to say that cane farmers have been paid Rs. 18 thousand crores as arrears and the outstanding amount is below 4 per cent. It was never done in such a large scale before. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has done the maximum work in this regard. For this I congratulate the government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, I would like to know about genetically modified seeds.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I will tell you about it.

[Translation]

Sir, we have started procurement of crops from the markets where it has become necessary. It has been mentioned in the market that in spite of our farmers doing stupendous work towards food security why we had to import foodgrains. It has been mentioned by all our colleagues. I think it necessary to go into its background. There is a law in our country called Agriculture Marketing Act. At the time of NDA Government Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Rajnath Singh had prepared a paper for framing a new law called Modern Agriculture Produce Act by taking into confidence all the states. This paper was submitted to state governments and they were told to change their respective Agriculture produce act in the states as it was finalized in consultation with the government what were these amendments. Under the APMC Act farmers could sell their produce only in the mandis of APMC and only licence holder agents were allowed to make the purchase. It has been suggested in the modern act that this condition may be done away with so that farmers may sell their produce anywhere. An administrative order was issued in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana that farmers may sell their produce anywhere. Before this farmers of Punjab and Haryana used to bring wheat in the mandis and the food corporation of India, NAFED and some agents used to purchase it. The farmers had to sell their produce there. After the amendment in APMC act, arrival of foodgrains went on decline because the farmers were selling it at the best available price. The production of wheat this year is more than the last year.

16.00 hrs.

It was produced in larger area even then its arrival in the market registered decline because the traders started purchasing it directly from the villages. I have told to all the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been decided that another item would be taken for discussion at 4.00 p.m., therefore either you conclude now or seek the permission of the House to continue it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly listen to me please keep quiet. Another item would be taken at 4.00 p.m. with the permission of the House the time of the House is extended till the reply of the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): It is our request to you that the next item should be taken up immediately after the reply of the Hon'ble Minister is over....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: That is why, the cultivated area of wheat and the production of wheat has increased this year. Meanwhile there was a problem and the representatives of Punjab and Haryana must be aware of it. They know that at the flouring stage of wheat there blow a wind laden with moisture but it did not happen this time and the weather turned hot for 15 days and it posed difficult situation. Although the production of wheat was not affected much by this, we fixed the rate of wheat of Rs. 650 per quintal for the farmers....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: This rate is much less than the market rate where wheat are sold at Rs. 900 to 1100 per quintal....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: May be so. The present price of Rs. 650 was fixed taking into account the prices fixed previously at Rs. 640, 630 and 610 for two years. Actually the procurement starts on the 1st of April but actual procurement starts from Baishakhi which falls around 14 April and I have realized it going through the last ten years record in this regard. After Baishakhi

everyday around 8 to 9 lakh tonne purchase is made. But this year on 15 to 18 April we realized that was not coming in the mandis in sufficient quantity. I immediately contacted the Chief Ministers of all these states, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Capt. Amrindra Singh and Shri Bhupendra Singh Hooda and asked the reasons thereof. They informed that there is a huge difference between the government's rate and markets rates. We asked for the remedial steps and they suggested that we should announce a bonus of Rs. 50. I said that the announcement of bonus would put a heavy burden on the exchequer of the Government.

[English]

We tried to have the consent of the Finance Minister. He was not available. With great resistance he agreed to it. Ultimately to protect the interests of the farmers, by then, we have practically accepted to bear a burden of Rs. 700 crore. *[Translation]* All traders had announced the rate at Rs. 750 after our announcement. It became Rs. 800 in Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 850 at many places in Gujarat and the total procurement today has reached at around 92 lakh tonne though we wanted it to be around 16 million tonnes.

Today the total demand of foodgrains, wheat is around 140 million tonne. We will procure from our existing 90-92 lakh tonne upto 95 lakh tonne and we have a stock of 20 lakh tonne as previous stock. Therefore there may be some problem regarding buffer stock. We have decided to import taking into account this problem because if for this and that reason monsoon fails, though it should not happen, but even if it happens we will ensure that the situation of starvation does not prevail in any state. We should take care of it and there is a necessity to create stock and once we do it. We would overcome this problem. Therefore the Government have decided to import 3.5 million tonne initially. We cannot ignore the fact the responsibility of production is upon us. We cannot ignore the responsibility to provide foodgrains to poor people through public distribution system. If we are to strengthen the public distribution system and foodgrains problem of poor people we will have to improve the buffer stock. We are told that we pay 600 to 700 rupees for the foodgrains procured in the country but pay higher amount for the imported one. I would like to tell the House that they have

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

got a different system. As per this system the Food Corporation of India procures wheat from the entire country and send it to the Godowns situated in all over India. We have to bear Rs. 140 to 150 as transportation cost for transporting one quintal wheat from Punjab and Haryana to south. After the purchase if we include mandi charges, Bardana charges, commission, loading, transportation unloading, storage and the interest on it, it comes around 1,100 rupees per tonne in domestic purchase. The foodgrains purchased in other countries are delivered in Chennai, Mumbai, Calicut, Tuticorin and Vishakhapatnam and we also thinking about Kandla the total price comes up at Rs. 997 till its distribution and storage. So the domestic price is around 1,100 rupees and import price at 997 rupees. You have suggested that why we could not have increased the amount instead of 700 rupees. How we could have saved the interest of consumers by increasing it. It is my responsibility to issue minimum support price. It is my responsibility to avoid distress sale, the need of giving more bonus was suggested by the Chief Ministers and it is my responsibility to implement it. But we will also have to ensure that consumers do not suffer due to this excessive expenditure, therefore the need to import foodgrains has arisen.

[English]

As the Agriculture Minister, I am the most unhappiest person that I have to import. But I have to choice. As the Minister for Food, it is my responsibility to protect the interest of the consumers and provide sufficient food and keep sufficient buffer stock through which we can face any eventuality tomorrow. That is the reason why such a decision has been taken by the Government of India. I am confident that we will be able to fulfill our requirement, the responsibility to provide sufficient foodgrains to each and every person who got every right to ask foodgrains from our side.

[Translation]

This is the work in it. Secondly there was shortage of wheat. Thirdly the situation of paddy purchase has improved this year. Its purchase was never done in such a large scale as has been done this year. We were always

purchasing the paddy from Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh. We were thinking over the way as to how we can make procurement in decentralized manner. I am happy that Punjab is at the top this year and Chhattisgarh is on the second place, not Haryana Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal has been placed at number three, four and five respectively. Bihar and Haryana too have helped this year. Certain states were never in position of procurement. Today there is no need to send rice to Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar. Farmers and Governments of these states have made great contribution. Condition has improved there. Therefore, we have enough stock of rice today. We would improve the situation by providing more rice to such states which need it and reducing the quantity of wheat. We have also looked into the procurement of coarse grain. We have a stock of ten lakh and this year our efforts would be to improve the buffer stock situation by including more areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka regarding the procurement of millet. We have taken steps in this regard.

I would like to tell one more thing that the condition of Punjab and Haryana which are considered our granary is getting bad to worse by repeatedly sowing wheat and paddy crops and the water level is getting down there, there, the soil texture is worsening and there has been a situation of stagnation. Some improvement will have to be made in it. For this, rest of the states will have to concentrate on the production of foodgrains. Uttar Pradesh is well placed in production of wheat but this year it has supplied to the Union Govt. only 50 thousand tonnes of wheat. Total requirements of foodgrains of Uttar Pradesh is 92 lac tonnes. The state which produces largest quantity of wheat will supply only 50 thousand tonne wheat to the Central Government kitty and will ask to fulfill the requirements of foodgrains of the state. Then we will do but we will ask Punjab to supply foodgrains. It will not be proper to put pressure on the farmers of Punjab time and again. We will have to grow wheat, rice, and coarse grains in a decentralised manner otherwise some states will produce only cash crops fetching handsome amount whereas others will produce foodgrains only. In this way, the condition of these states will become miserable. Today maximum financial burden and indebtedness are on the farmers of Punjab.

An article has been published in 'The Tribune' newspaper today. It is written that water level is coming down by one metre every year in Punjab. If the problem continues even after two-three years, it may lead to starvation. Therefore, there is a need to ponder over this problem by all the states. Be it a problem of foodgrains or suicides by farmers, we will have to treat it as a national problem and we should not play politics' thereon. There is a need to pay more attention to agro sector by every state taking this as its responsibility. The Government of India will fully cooperate with them. I want to give assurance to the farmers of the country through this House....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you have concluded.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Please reduce the prices of inputs in agriculture. Crops are not yielding profits....(Interruptions). You are talking of interest but you will not get even principal....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item number 40.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have delivered a long speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): I want to make only one submission that hon. Minister of Agriculture has told that a Committee has been constituted comprising of different Ministries under the Chairmanship of hon. Prime Minister. I want to know from the hon. Minister of agriculture whether the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of hon. Prime Minister to complete the irrigation projects pending for a long time is making effective endeavours....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: They will do.

16.13 hrs.

(ii) Rise in prices of essential commodities

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, The United Progressive Alliance

Government is completing two years today. But, there is a disturbing trend in the price situation. There has been a steady increase in the prices of essential commodities.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Members who want to present their written speech, can do so.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there are commodities which are required daily by the common people of our country. The Agriculture Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar, has elaborately stated about wheat prices while replying to the debate on farmers' committing suicides. But, it is indeed a fact that there has been steady increase in the price of wheat for the last six months. It is being sold at more than Rs. 11 per kilogram, which was just half about a year back. The same is the case with rice, vegetables, edible oil, mustard oil and other oils. There has not been a steady increase in inflation but that does not mean that it has a positive impact on the prices of essential commodities. We have, in our country, a disturbed basket. There are some commodities where there has been deceleration in the prices which are not being used by the common people of our country. And because of that when there is increase in the prices it does not reflect on inflation particularly in the case of Wholesale Price Index (WPI). But that is not correct in the case of Consumer Price Index in the case of industrial worker or in the case of Consumer Price Index in the case of industrial worker or in the case of rural workers, rural labour and industrial labour. What is the situation today? Rise in the case of WPI was 5.5 per cent in the year 2004-05; it has now increased to 28.5 per cent. Price rise in the case of wheat is 23.8 per cent. The prices of pulses increased by 4.2 per cent. In the case of cement, it is about 30 to 35 per cent. Last year, one bag of cement of 50 kg. was sold at Rs. 155 to Rs. 160. Today it is not less than Rs. 200.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is more than that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What did all the cement manufacturing unit do? Firstly, they reduced the production and they artificially created deficit; they artificially created crisis and suddenly they decided to raise their prices by

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

more than Rs. 200 a bag, and the Government of India is a helpless spectator. They cannot control them. What will happen to the middle class people? Even under Indira Aawas Yojana, the Government's allocation is Rs. 30,000 crore.

This amount was decided two years back when the price of cement was Rs. 140/- or Rs. 150 per bag. After that, the price of cement has been increased by more than Rs. 200/- per bag, and with this amount of Rs. 30,000 crore, millions and millions of houses have to be constructed under the Indira Aawas Yojana. The question is whether these houses under the Indira Aawas Yojana can be completed with this amount of Rs. 30,000 crore or not.

Sir, not only the price of foodgrains but also the prices of pulses and edible oils have increased. In regard to service sector, there has been an increase in expenditure in the case of Education and Health. If you compare, Sir, with the figures for the year 2005-06 with the figures for the years 2004-05, you will find that there has been an increase in all these sectors by 30 to 50 per cent but there has not been any increase in the rural earning of the workers and the people of our country.

Sir, the Public Distribution System is also in doldrums. We have adopted the Public Distribution System. Previously it was a universal system. The Food Minister, four months back, decided to enhance the prices of wheat and rice but because of the opposition even from the Congress Party...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): It was not for the BPL or APL categories but for above APL category. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The condition of APL category people is not good. There is an artificial line which is dividing between APL category and BPL category. Increasing the prices for APL category means restricting the Public Distribution System within the BPL category.

We are demanding universalisation of the Public

Distribution System but the Government, on the contrary, is trying to restrict the Public Distribution System within the BPL category. When the NDA Government was in power, they increased the prices of wheat, rice and sugar for both BPL category and APL category—for BPL, it was half of the economic cost and for APL, it was the full economic cost—so that the price for APL category becomes higher than the market price.

Sir, the people belonging to APL category will not go to the Public Distribution System if the price under the Public Distribution System becomes higher than the market price. The ultimate aim is to dismantle the Public Distribution System.

Sir, last year the price of the petroleum products was increased twice, once in the month of June and again in the month of September. The argument of the Government was that the international price of the petroleum products was steadily increasing.

16.25 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

When this Government came to power, the price of one barrel of crude was 36 dollars. In the month of May, 2004, the price of crude was 35 dollars per barrel. It steadily increased from 35 dollars to 75 dollars. Today, it is 75 dollars a barrel. As the price of crude is steadily increasing, the Administrative Price Mechanism was dismantled in 1999 because the Government at that point of time took a decision that whenever there is increase in the international price, the domestic price would also be automatically increased. The Government would have no control over the price. So, they decided that there would not be any Administrative Price Mechanism.

The argument of the Government today is that the oil marketing companies are losing. Their total unrecoverable amount will be Rs. 73,000 crore. But that is not their loss. Why am I saying that this is not their loss? With the increase in the prices of crude, how much are the Government, the Central and State Governments together, getting? If the price is increased to that extent, both, the Central and State Governments together, are getting, or they will get Rs. 1,26,600 crore. That is what they are suggesting. How much do they get from customs,

duty? It is Rs. 9,600 crore. From excise, they are getting Rs. 49,300 crore. What the Government has earned due to other taxes, etc., during the year 2005-06 is Rs. 18,900 crore. The Central Government's total earning during the year 2005-06 is Rs. 77,800 crore. The unrecoverable amount was Rs. 73,000 crore. The Central Government got the revenue of Rs. 77,800 crore. That means even when the crude price is 75 dollars a barrel, the oil marketing companies are not losing.

Sir, we have made several suggestions for the last two years....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, the time fixed for you by yourself is ten minutes. You have taken 15 minutes. The total time fixed for the discussion is two hours. What should I do?

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the time will be extended. Initially always, the time is fixed for two hours....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time was fixed by you and not by me.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Our experience is that it takes about five to six hours.(*Interruptions*) No, I want that the discussion should be concluded today itself.(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You yourself have decided the time as two hours. You are entitled to speak for only ten minutes. Should I follow your direction or should I act according to the position now available?

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have spoken for ten minutes only.(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not have any voice in this. You yourself have decided.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we have been giving suggestions for the last two years....(*Interruptions*) There has been no need to increase the price and

increase the burden....(*Interruptions*) In the month of September, 2005, there was an increase of Rs. 2.50 per litre... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, I am on a point of order.(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not ask you under what rule? You say whatever you want to say.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, such an important issue is being discussed on petroleum and look at the Benches on the Congress side....(*Interruptions*) What are you worried about? I am not worried about you, I am worried about the country. You may not be worried.(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, there is no point of order.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Then, I raise the issue of Quorum....(*Interruptions*) May I point out, Sir, that there is no quorum in the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the bell be rung.(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now there is quorum in the House. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you may continue. But please conclude within five minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will take another ten minutes and then conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude within five minutes; otherwise, somebody else may ask for quorum and it will go on like this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will quickly conclude in ten minutes.

We have been suggesting that without raising the prices, without increasing the burden on the people, whenever there was an increase in the price of the petroleum products, there has been cascading effect on other commodities. We have seen that since September, 2005 there had been steady increase in the prices of essential commodities. If you see these prices, month-

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

wise, you will find that it had its cascading effect on other essential commodities.

What we had been suggesting is this. Why can the Government not restructure the duties on cess? It is being levied on *ad valorem* basis. *Ad valorem* means that whenever there is an increase in the international price of crude, there is an increase in the collection of cess, duties and customs duties. When the Budget was prepared, at that point of time the price of one barrel of crude was 55 dollars. On the basis of that price, the Budget was prepared and the Government projected the revenue. The Government did project that at that point of time the revenue that the Government would get from petroleum products would be to the extent of Rs. 77,000 crore. But, in the subsequent months, there has been an increase in the crude prices. Today, in one newspaper there is an indication that the price may fall. The price may fall; but once the price is increased or even if there is a deceleration in the price of crude, that always does not pass on to the consumer. That is the problem.

That was one suggestion to restructure or rationalise our tax structure. That suggestion was also made by the Rangarajan Committee. The Committee had submitted its report long back. I do not know what action the Government has taken on some of the recommendations of the Rangarajan Committee. One such suggestion was to set up a price stabilisation fund. The Standing committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas also recommended it. But, today the Action Taken Report on that Standing Committee's report says that the Ministry of Finance has not agreed to the proposal of setting of the price stabilisation fund. Why is it so? When both the Rangarajan Committee as well as the Standing Committee have recommended for the price stabilisation fund, the Ministry of Finance did not agree to that proposal.

Sir, I was referring to how the taxes are levied on *ad valorem* basis and because of that, whenever there is an increase in the international price of crude oil, there is an increase in the revenue collection more than the Government's target in the Budget. Why? There will be more benefit. What is the need for more revenue collection than the target? The burden which would fall on the

people by increasing the prices of petroleum products, can be reduced. They should not be increased.

Another important point is that during the last two or three years, since 2002-03 or 2003-04, subsidy on kerosene and LPG has been reduced by Rs. 8,000 crore; it has not been increased. That means in addition to more revenue the Government is getting, the Government also has to spend less on providing subsidy on LPG and kerosene. Government is benefited both ways, but the common man of our country are being over-burdened. So, today when the price of crude oil has gone upto the extent of US \$ 75 a barrel, there is no need to increase the price either of petrol/diesel or LPG or kerosene. The UPA Government has not touched the price of kerosene during these two years. When NDA was in power from 1998 to 2003, how many times did they increase the price of kerosene? From Rs. 2.75 a litre, they increased the price of kerosene to Rs. 9 per litre. When they had come to power, the price of kerosene oil used to be Rs. 2.75 per litre and when they were thrown out of power, it had gone upto Rs. 9 per litre. Rupees 9 per litre was the official price while the people in the rural area were getting kerosene for Rs. 13 a litre....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Just see, what is the situation now? What was the price of sugar earlier and see what is it now? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You do not have any right, please do not speak....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: You are also in increasers. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except his speech.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech alone will be recorded and nothing else.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This Government has not touched the kerosene. Their Government had increased the price of kerosene oil. They had increased the prices of wheat, rice and sugar under BPL as well as APL.

Sir, we have been criticing. That is why, I raised this issue which is the people's issue because the people are suffering. Their purchasing power is increasing. Today, the availability of rice and availability of foodgrains has reduced to the extent of *per capita* availability which was there during the Second World War. The availability of pulses has also been reduced. So, there is malnutrition. The cases of malnutrition are increasing. That is why, there is a need to strengthen the Public Distribution System and that has been incorporated in the National Common Minimum Programme. Instead of strengthening the Public Distribution System, the Government tries to weaken it. Who is benefited by this? It is not the poorer section of our people who are getting benefited from it. Therefore, they need succor and help as essential commodities like foodgrains, vegetables, etc. are daily required by them. The price of potato this year is abnormal, but the farmers are not getting the price for it. Yesterday, I was in district Purulia.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia, you have already taken more than 30 minutes to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Today, they have become self-sufficient in growing vegetables.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Shri Lakshman Singh, you can start speaking.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA. I was surprised to find that in a place called Bangwan, [*Transalation*] There you get three gourd in one and now a days prices of it have increased to ten rupees per kilo in Jamshedpur.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. Shri Lakshman Singh, you can start speaking.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But that is not available to farmer. [*English*] The middlemen are getting the benefit out of it. We can also see that they are trying

to change the base year for the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have done this without consulting the trade unions. The trade unions were not represented in it. Once we raised this issue, subsequently, the trade union representatives were incorporated in the Technical Committee. Thereafter, they decided on various aspects of...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing more will go on record.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am concluding. Today, this Government has completed two years in office, and we are supporting this Government from outside. We want all the pro-people programmes that are mentioned in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) to be implemented sincerely. A period of two years is not a small time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Common Minimum Programme will be implemented.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there is no check on the rising prices, and the prices are increasing unabated. Therefore, I demand that the Government—while replying to the debate—should come forward and mention about the concrete steps going to be taken for resolving this issue. I am concluding my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When are you concluding? No, it is not allowed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, Sir. You are not listening. I am concluding my speech. The Government should mention about the concrete measures, which it is going to take in this regard. What steps is the Minister going to take to arrest the rising prices in case of cement, vegetables, foodgrains, edible oils, pulses, etc.? The Minister should mention about these issues in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have begun speaking on another point. When will you conclude?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am concluding. We demand that immediate steps should be taken to arrest the rising prices in this country.

[Translation]

*SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, I want to lay on the table my written speech in the discussion I want to point out that common man is facing acute problem due to increasing prices. Commodities of daily use are going out of reach of the common man. Every item got costly after this government has taken over. It seems that brokers and hoarders by having nexus with the Government have created artificial shortage due to which prices of every item have increased. Today, UPA Government has completed two years in power and the issue related to the people is being discussed in the Lok Sabha. But what assurance the Government will give, only time will tell. But as the Government is keeping mum, one feels that the prices of every item are increasing with the taut consent of the Government. And the Government is not concerned about this. Coming in power with the promise of implementing economic reforms with human face, this UPA Government has done whatever it could do to show its inhuman face. A Government talking about common man and saying that 'Congress ka hath aam aadmi ke sath' is showing that 'Congress ka hath aam aadmi ke gale ke pas'. Earlier, prices of items used to increase in a mild way but now there are being increased by 50 per cent or 112 per cent.

	20-5-2005	20-5-2006	Increase
Flour	7.50/8	11.15/12.00	50%
Rice	7.50/8	16/17	112%
Mustard Oil	35/36	58/60	66%
Vegetable Oil	38/40	60/69	55%
Sugar	15	23/24	60%
Petrol	37.97	43.51	15%
Diesel	26.45	34.47	15%

A goldsmith met me. He told me that 3 to 4 customers used to come to the shop to purchase gold weighing 5 gram to 15 gram. But now, due to increase in the price of gold no small customer comes to the shop.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

We are now jobless. Construction of houses is on the verge of closure due to increase in price of cement. Price of one bag of cement has increased from Rs. 125 to Rs. 145 in 2003 to 2005 to Rs. 225 now. Price of bricks has also increased. Due to this, labourers are becoming jobless. If labourers do not have work, then how will they feed themselves? There is a need to have a check on this price hike. There is a resentment among the people. People are being forced to launch agitation. If this continues then lawlessness will prevail. Measures be taken to check this price hike.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given to me to speak. I also thank Shri Basu Deb Acharya to have presented a very good proposal to be discussed in this august House. I would like to make a suggestion to the Government through you Sir. The Annual Report brought out by them calls the consumer to wake up, i.e. Jago, Grahak, Jago'. In my view, it should have been like this. 'Jago, Sarkar, Jago'. I think that the Government needs to wake up first as the prices of essential commodities are on rise, they are sky-high today. This Congress led Government boasted that Congress ka Haath' Aam Admi ke Saath' and promised to reach the common man in their CMP. But, look for yourself where the common man lies today. He has to purchase his 'dal' at a rate of Rs. 60/- per kg! And the dearth of commodities is expected to rise further, if not suitably controlled.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday I was watching a TV programme which was covering this issue of price-hike. There was Mr. Kapil Sibal to defend from Congress-side. Kapilji my respected friend and a famous lawyer. His fee counts into Lakhs of rupees for one visit of a case, yet I doubt his experience to go to a market to buy 'dal' or to book a gas cylinder for cooking. I do not know whether he cares for these domesticities or not. But this shows that the Government is not so serious to control the escalating prices. What Kapilji said yesterday is also the version of this Government that what can they do when the oil-prices in the international market are on rise. I accept your logic that you cannot control the international market prices but please give your attention to the point just raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharya and which I have supported. But, also be cautious please as the Rightists supporting the left can further aggravate problems for your

Government. Shri Acharya has mentioned about the 'Price Stabilization Fund' suggested in the report of Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Committee has pointed out this to the Finance Minister who is fortunately sitting here now. I, through you would like to urge him to pay attention to this and establish a price Stabilization Fund for the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas so that the intermittent hikes of price of petrol and diesel may not affect the prices of essential commodities unexpectedly. This is an important issue to be attended to.

We have seen that the open market-price of sugar and onion has reached upto Rs. 22 a kilo and Rs. 30 a kilo, respectively. But I am regretted of the reply given by such an able minister like Shri Sharad Pawar, when he was asked by the people to do something about the prices hike. His answer was that the [English] people should bear the rise in the prices of onions. [Translation] This means the rise in the prices is a bounded reality and I cannot do anything about that. He also said that [English] The Government is not contemplating any action [Translation] Sir, he is a Union Minister, it does not suit his status. Why are you only concerned with the benefit of the onion-producers of Maharashtra? I am not against the farmers of Maharashtra who grow onion; I myself am an onion-farmer of Madhya Pradesh. But why don't you see the consumer who buys those onions? Don't you have any responsibility towards them? Are you not in charge of the Consumer Affairs Department? You are presently looking after both the Ministries—Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. It is solely your responsibility to look after this, right from the sowing of the seed till the consumer buys the full grown commodity out of it. And, I may say it with regret that you are not doing justice with your duty.

Just remember what Shri Mani Shankar Ayyar said on the issue of price hike. When he went to Chennai, the local women there went to him and asked to get the prices reduced. On this, Manishankar Ayyarji said [English] Women should avoid seeing films and buying sarees [Translation] what an answer? Women should avoid buying sarees as the prices are on rise! Can you expect such an answer from a responsible Minister? Does it mean that if the prices could not be controlled the women should

leave buying sarees? This is shameful and we don't expect replies like this from the Government.

Now, I come to the Essential Commodities Regulation and Enforcement Act. What action will be taken against the black marketeers? I have figures with me; you conducted 71409 raids in 2005. 3462 persons were arrested and 1880 prosecuted. But how many of them were convicted? Only 39 persons were convicted. This requires amendment to this Act. Rather you should ask the State Governments too, to make amendments to their respective laws in this regard. Presently, many black marketeers go scot-free as the Central and State Governments have powers to pardon them in this matter. You can see from this example yourself that even after the case gone into the Court of law; only 39 persons got convicted whereas the number of total raids conducted was 71409. The reason behind it is very clear that our legislation has a big loophole somewhere. Therefore, it is essential to plug the said loophole otherwise, black-marketing and prices will go on increasing. However in context of the rising inflation if we find, that one of the reasons that can be attributed for it is the failure to meet the target of growth in agriculture production.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Sharad Pawar talks of fulfilling the target. At present growth rate of agriculture is 2.7% but it should be 4%. Why the target is not being fulfilled. I respect the Minister of Agriculture, however I would like to say that he was busy in achieving other targets. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has achieved all the targets within one year of formation of Government, be it getting the portfolio of Minister of Consumer Affairs, becoming the President of BCCI—but he has not fulfilled the target set for agriculture. In the year 2003-04, the rice production was 88.28 lakh metric tonne, in year 2005 which reduced to 85.31 lakh metric tonnes. Similarly, as against the wheat production of 16.80 lakh metric tonne in year 2004, it decreased to 14.79 lakh metric tonnes. I was expecting hon'ble Minister's reply in this regard during his speech, but he did not replied. My colleague, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav has raised an issue as to the Government import wheat at the rate of Rs. 1000 per quintal, but is procuring wheat at the rate of Rs. 650 per quintal from the farmers and after that the Government is offering them bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal. What is the reason? The hon'ble Minister should state it clearly in his

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

reply? Similarly, the target in regard to oilseeds has not been completed? For last so many years, the production is stagnant at 13-14 million tonnes, we have not been able to increase it. The hon'ble Minister has mentioned wasteland development in his reply. As far as the question of pulses is concerned, it is an essential commodity. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to pay attention in this regard so that prices could be controlled. The hon'ble Minister is an eminent sugar baron, but what is the condition of the common man? The sugarcane production has got reduced from 257.71 lakh metric tonnes to 232.32 lakh metric tonnes, therefore the prices of sugar has increased. The Government has imported 5.28 lakh metric tonnes of sugar, despite that the price of sugar is Rs. 22 per kg., why is it so? The hon'ble Minister should give reply in this regard to the House and the country. The target for edible oil was fixed at the rate of 26.28 lakh metric tonnes, but its production has fallen, the hon'ble Minister should reply as to why production declined and target not fulfilled?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas has raised a question about the mustard. High production of mustard has been recorded in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, but procurement is not being done and at present mustard oil is being sold at the rate of Rs. 80 per kilogram. Why the prices of mustard are rising despite bumper production; the hon'ble Minister should reply in this regard. The Government have removed some items from the category of essential commodities, what is the reason? The Government has removed pesticides, insecticides and fungicides from the list, what is the result? The black-marketing of these items have increased, today spurious drugs and being sold in the market. I am witness to the fact that spurious pesticide and insecticides are being sold in the market, because insecticide spray is not killing caterpillars that are affecting sugarcane crop I am witness to it. There is also a need to control it, it affects our production and leads to price rise.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, just now I was discussed black-marketing. I would like to tell him the number of detention cases in Maharashtra. Only one case been filed, though in Gujarat, which is always condemned by him, 98 detention cases

have been filed. These figures are from the "Jago Upbhokta Jago" report issued by his Ministry. The hon'ble Minister has formulated National Action Plan. I would like that he should cooperate and coordinate with Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Finance, because it is again being heard that the prices of petrol and diesel are likely to increase. I would like to thank Shri Basu Deb Achariaji, due to his control on UPA Government; the prices of petroleum products have not been increased. We heard that the price of diesel will be increased by Rs. 10, petrol by Rs. 9, LPG by Rs. 170, and kerosene by Rs. 17. If the Government continues to do it, then I do not know upto what extent the price of these items would be increased. I would like to submit that the Government should pay attention in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, I will conclude my speech after mentioning one-two facts. In regard to cement, it has been said—

[English]

This is what he said. It has come in the papers that he warned that the Government would consider various options including a ban on export and imposing a cess if the cement companies did not take steps aimed at curtailing the unjustified and unacceptable price rise.

[Translation]

Kamal Nathji said, if cement prices are not decreased the export would be banned.

[English]

Today, the e-auction prices, of coal are, on an average, 40 per cent higher than the notified prices.

[Translation]

Kamal Nathji, is a learned man and he is my friend. I do not know as to how many times he goes to market to purchase pulses or LPG cylinder, but he might be aware, as to why the price of cement have increased. I would like to tell that the price of cement have increased, because the coal prices has increased by 40 per cent. I am not supporting the cause of cement manufacturers, but telling the truth. The Government should take whatever steps it proposed to take to reduce the prices of cement

and should reduce the price of cement. It is true that the prices, of other items have increased with rise in price of cement and it has affected the common man.

Sir, I would like to tell that primarily the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel have a spiraling effect and a trend of increase in prices of many commodities is witnessed. The Government is trying to bring oil and gas from Iran by laying pipeline under the sea, but many disputes are involved in it. I would like to tell that Baluchis damaged the oil pipeline in Pakistan and hampered oil and gas supply. The Government wants to lay pipeline from Iran and India and handover its security to the Pakistan. I would like to tell that when Pakistan cannot protect its own pipeline, then how will it protect India's pipeline. If this happened, then notorious elements in Pakistan would be able to damage pipeline at any time and hamper oil and gas supply to our country. Therefore, I would like to suggest that if oil and gas pipeline is brought Myanmar it would be good. If this happens, north-eastern states of our country will also develop. The pulses, which are being sold here at the rate of Rs. 60 per kilogram are being sold at the rate of Rs. 90 and Rs. 100 in the north-eastern states. If this pipeline is brought via Myanmar, then those states will also get developed. The hon'ble Prime Minister has also said that road from India to Myanmar would also be constructed. If road is constructed, the oil and natural gas can be brought via Myanmar through underground pipeline, and oil and natural gas supply will also not get hampered.

Sir, with these words, I would like to express gratitude towards you for giving me an opportunity to speak and through you I would like to tell the Government, if Government do not control the price rise immediately, the opposition will launch a mass movement against it.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, the discussion on price rise is very crucial. It has to be done at regular intervals in the interest of the people, particularly the poor. But unfortunately the discussion has come at a stage when the BJP cannot plead for it.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Why not?

SHRI K.S. RAO: Please listen to me. A couple of years ago, when the elections were held to Delhi Assembly,

increase in onion price has brought BJP down. The opinion of the people is reflected through their vote in the election.

Elections were conducted in five States only a week back and in no State, BJP could succeed; all the five States were won by the UPA. It does not mean that the prices have not gone up; but had it pinched the common man, the results would have been different. What is the point that BJP has to argue in its favour? Absolutely nothing is there. But yet, I support a discussion on price rise; but this discussion does not give any edge to the BJP.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): If the prices have not risen then why did Shrimati Sonia Gandhi write a letter to the hon'ble Prime Minister?

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Making criticism is their job. They have to criticise, by virtue of sitting in the Opposition; and I am not finding fault with them. But BJP cannot criticise the UPA Government on price rise.

I would like to add something more to this. During BJP's tenure in the Government, the oil prices were stable in international market. But today, as we all know, the oil price is touching 90 dollars a barrel. During BJP's tenure, it was less than 30 dollars a barrel; it was 26-27 dollars a barrel. This country is importing Rs. 1,10,000 crore worth of oil; in spite of that, this Government took a decision not to increase prices for a very long time. Even today, we have not increased the price of kerosene which is used basically by the common man. All of us are worried about the price rise particularly for the common man or the poor man who cannot afford.

Rise in price to an industrialist does not make any difference. He would add it in the cost of production. The prices of all manufactured goods are increasing every time; but the industrialists are not at a loss; their share values are going up substantially—100-200 times or even 1,000 times. That means, price rise has no impact on the rich. Whatever effect is there, it is only on the common man or the farmer or the rural citizens. We all appreciate the criticism on price rise.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

In this context, though I belong to the Congress Party and the UPA Government, my humble request to the hon. Finance Minister and also to the hon. Agriculture Minister is that they could consider reduction in interest rates. Rate of interest is one of the reasons why prices are going up.

Money will earn further money; even if one were to sit idle in his house, if he has got money, that will earn further money. That means, it is not the human component, it is not the toiling, it is not the sweating, it is not the intelligence and it is not hard work that will earn money. If we were to reduce the rate of interest, then everybody has to work, which will generate wealth and then the prices will not go up. But in this case, a man is sitting idle, without any production and is wanting to make further money by having *nidhi* business. That means, there is no production and there is no increase in wealth, which will lead to increase in prices.

So, I once again make this request. Many a time, I have told this and the Government has brought down the interest rates substantially. Now, I do not know whether we can bring it down further. One of the reasons why inflation was very minimal in the developed nations like America is its low rate of interest. So, the prices are stable there.

Shri Lakshman Singh was talking about the Essential Commodities Act. I do agree with him; he asked, when the sugarcane production has gone up, why the price of sugar has gone up. Similarly, he said that when the production of mustard is good, the price of mustard oil has gone up. All these things are not Central Subjects alone. The State Governments are also there; they can also legislate on essential commodities. Nobody has come in their way in controlling the prices or in their taking action through that Act. It is the State Government that has to take action against black-marketing, smuggling and even hoarding. There is a provision for that. It does not need to be discussed here entirely just because we happen to be Members of Parliament. We are discussing it but we cannot blame the Central Government for everything. Shri Lakshman Singh should see that the price of mustard oil is going up in Madhya Pradesh where the production is substantial. He can question them. The BJP Government

is there. Even then I appreciate that because they happen to sit in the Opposition, their criticism is all right.

In regard to sugar also, the production has gone up and the prices have not come down. These things have to be taken care of. But unfortunately, when we accepted the open economy, everybody is permitted to export to a place where it is being sold at a higher price. So, we must find a way where the interest of the poor people in this country is not affected. That is why, we want the Public Distribution System to ensure that the supply of essential goods be it rice or wheat or kerosene oil or edible oil or sugar, all these things must be given to the poor people at fixed prices and in quantities that are required by them. Later on, if somebody wants to sell it, let him sell. We do not mind that. Let them earn foreign exchange. That might help the farmers. We have no objection. While on the one side we are making hue and cry that the agricultural produce prices are not going up, on the other side, we say that the prices have gone up for the common man. We have to find a balance in between these two. We must evolve some method where both farmer as well as poor man are not affected. We have to find a solution for this.

I was suggesting to the hon. Minister while the prices of the commercial goods and manufactured goods are going up like anything not today but since decades, the agricultural produce prices are not going up in the same proportion. That is why, poverty in the villages is increasing and the people in the rural areas are affected with the price rise. If the Minimum Support Price were to be increased in proportion to the manufactured goods neither the poor man in the villages nor the farmers will be affected. But possibly because those are the commodities which are being consumed essentially by the poor man, the Government is restricting the increase in the prices of the agro-produce. But they must change their idea and concept. We have seen from our childhood that in a village if a farmer were to get better rates, he used to pay better wage to the labourer. Not only that, we were paying earlier in the form of material and not in currency. If you were to produce ten bags, one per cent or two per cent, he used to give to the farm labourer. Therefore, he is not affected by the price increase in the essential commodities. So, by increasing the prices of the farm produce, I do not think the rural poor people will be affected. The urban

poor might be affected but we have introduced PDS for them.

As regards PDS, I was suggesting that the Food Corporation of India has become a white elephant. We are giving Rs. 25,000 crore as subsidy to Food Corporation of India in the name of PDS and other things. This is apart from fertilizer subsidy. Now we are encouraging Self-Help Groups of women folk in the villages. They are all poor women. If we were to give finance through them at low rate of interest and ask them to procure paddy and then mill it, store it in their own traditional way in their own areas and tell them that throughout the year, you have to supply it to so and so fair price shops at a price fixed by the Government, they will be able to do it. Now today FCI is procuring in one part from the farmer, taking it through commission agent, and transporting it to the rice miller. Then the rice miller converts it from paddy to rice. They bring it once again to their godowns in Andhra Pradesh and send it to North India, and it comes back from Punjab to Andhra Pradesh. What amount of waste! You know the quality of storage in the godowns of FCI and how they maintain it. There is pilferage and wastage. There are unfortunate and pathetic conditions. Sometimes thousands of tonnes of foodgrains stored in the Food Corporation of India godowns are useless even for animal consumption, leave alone human consumption.

The condition is pathetic. Why is there the FCI? The hon. Minister for Agriculture had mentioned that we have agreed constitutionally to provide food security to our people. Food security at what time? It was at a time when production of foodgrains was insufficient to meet the needs of our countrymen. Today we are producing more than what we require and so there is now no need for providing any food security as such. But even then the Government can think of reducing the buffer stock and consequently reduce subsidy. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to think about reducing expenditure on FCI and instead provide food directly to the poor man through the Public Distribution System, through the Self-Help Groups. I am confident that, at least a sum of Rs. 10,000 crore could be saved in this way. This amount of money could be utilised through the Self-Help Groups for the betterment and upliftment of the womenfolk in the countryside. It would be of great advantage.

If we were to make an intensive study on this, then we would be able to control this rise in prices, particularly those of the essential commodities. I would not say that rise in prices should not be curbed, or should not be restricted, but certainly the performance of this UPA Government in controlling prices, particularly of the essential commodities, is far better in comparison to what it was during the last NDA regime when the people responded very badly to such rise in prices. This Government has controlled the rise in prices, particularly of the essential commodities. But I still support the contention that prices should be controlled and checked, more particularly of the essential commodities which are required by the common man.

The prices of agricultural produce must be increased and brought on par with the manufacturing goods without which there would not be a balance. The urban rich would continue to grow richer and the rural poor, not only the poor but the farmers, would continue to grow poorer if parity in prices were not brought about in comparison to the input cost. I would like to request the hon. Minister to apply his mind accordingly and not afford the opposition an opportunity to criticise this Government even one bit on this score.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is deliberating on a very serious issue. One can easily imagine the problems faced by common man as a result of increasing prices. The Government claims that the production is increasing at the rate of eight per cent and if it has resulted an increase in production then it should also increase the purchasing power of the people. It is a very simple principle of economics that if larger stock of goods is available in the market the prices would be lesser but here the situation is quite contrary. The graph showing growth of economy in the country has a rising trend whereas the common man is not getting basic necessities like food, shelter and clothes. It is definitely a cause of concern. The most important question is that instead of taking out a solution the government is evading the issue. The figures, which are presented before us, are far removed from reality. If we see the wholesale price index the rate of inflation has increased from 3.59 to 3.96 per cent and this figure shows

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

a nominal change whereas in reality as per a statement of the congress Chief Shrimati Sonia Gandhi on 16th May she has the Manmohan Singh Government to exercise check on inflation however the Minister of Finance has not paid desired attention towards it. I said that when Government makes announcements in regard to inflation it actually refers to the wholesale price index which has nothing to do with the common man.

17.20 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

If they want to mention the problem regarding price increase in the context of an individual they should refer to consumer index. Almost all the things which are listed in the consumer index are those which have nothing to do with the common man, for example washing machine—which is not used by 70 per cent people but it is also included in that category. The price of the commodities of daily use by common man should be the basis for announcing consumer index.

There has been approximately 50 per cent increase in the price of commodities of daily use by the common man from 20th May 2004 to 20th May 2006. This increase has been 112 per cent in rice, 66 per cent in mustard oil, 60 per cent in sugar, 60 per cent in toor, 70 per cent in Moong dal and the prices of vegetables have increased likewise. During the reply of the Hon. Minister of Finance, I would definitely like to know whether there has ever been any reporting about the impending crisis due to the shortage of the said commodities in the market. If these goods are available in the market then he should state the reason why the prices of these commodities have skyrocketed. It is my conviction that this crisis is artificial created by hoarders who enjoy Government's protection. I believe that if we monitor these things and keep an eye on the blackmailers then I do not think that there can ever be a shortage of these said commodities. The prices of these commodities skyrocketed despite their availability.

The inflation in our country is much higher in comparison to those countries with which we are in competition. In the year 2004 the rate of inflation in the US was 1.9 per cent, 0.3 per cent in Japan, 2.0 per cent in France, 1.2 per cent in Germany, 2.6 per cent in

England and 4.3 per cent in India. In the year 2005 the rate of inflation was 3 per cent in the US, 0.1 per cent in Japan, 1.6 per cent in France, 106 per cent in Germany, 3.2 per cent in UK and 4.4 per cent in India. If we see even in comparison to other countries we would find that inflation is highest in our country. The Government should take it seriously.

If the prices of the sources of food and fuel are allowed to increase in this manner, it will hamper the path of development of the country. It will definitely affect the balanced growth of the country. The resources of the country are mostly in the hands of few people. Inflation is a necessary evil in the developing countries. If the prices of these commodities do not increase it will affect their production and if there is an increase in production the income will not increase. However, the prices of the said things should not be allowed to increase which comprise the items of daily use for poor and lower income group of the people.

Through you I would like to request that most of the people in the administration are those who have nothing to do with the common man in reality. Recently a statement of the Chief of the Planning Commission was published that the price of petrol and diesel should increase. After all the prices of petrol and diesel would be increased to what extent? There must certainly be some rationale behind this increase? Whenever prices of crude oil increase in the international market we raise hue and cry that it has become necessary to increase the price of petrol and diesel in the country. However, when the prices of crude oil plummeted in the international market has there ever been even a nominal reduction in the prices of petrol and diesel in the country? It has never been there. The major role played by inflation in the country is owing to the increase in the prices of sources of fuel.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, in the year 1999-2000 the rate of inflation was 6.5 per cent in which the increasing prices of petroleum products contributed 4.6 per cent. Similarly, inflation increased to 5.1 per cent in the year 2004-05 in which the increasing prices of commodities contributed 35 per cent. That is why the biggest issue is that if we have to check inflation then as long as we will not reduce the prices of diesel and petrol we cannot put a check on increasing prices which affects our entire country, our

system and our entire society. Today, the reason for increase in the prices is that as soon as the price of diesel increase it results in the increase in the rate of transportation. The rate of transportation increases when we send goods from one place to another. So unless we tighten our reins on the increasing prices of petrol and diesel the process of rising prices cannot be checked.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, that the increase in the price of crude oil at international level would adversely affect the rate of economic growth and the hon. Minister seems more concerned with the pace of international economic growth rate. Chidambaram Saheb should also ponder over the economic growth rate of our own country. The showing down of International growth rate would have a bearing on the rate of our economic growth rate and this is very natural that our growth rate will also slow down. So attention should be paid to this aspect.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the basis of national Sample Survey the per capita income in rural area is Rs. 380 per month, out of which he spends more than 50-55 per cent on food items. The result is that he does not get a balanced diet. What can be more shameful than this that six crore children in the country are victims of malnutrition. This figure is double the figure of children in the African countries, which are labeled as extremely poor countries of the world. 43 per cent children in Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh are victims of malnutrition who do not get balanced diet. The per capita income has increased in every state from the year 1980-81 to 2002-03. There has been maximum increase in Tamil Nadu with 2.7 per cent, 1.2 per cent in Assam and Minimum in Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh where the annual rate of increase was from 1.5 to 1.3 per cent. This increase was recorded from 1980-81 to 2002-03. But in comparison to this, price rise has gone far ahead. That rate has no comparison with the price rise. This is such an important issue that if attention is not given towards it. It will have severe implications which will be beyond your imagination. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Please conclude.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I am concluding within a minute. Now gold is not a symbol of richness. Our country has a tradition that whether it is a marriage or in

relations whether a person is rich or poor, people have to use gold particularly in marriages and functions. The most worrying thing is that gold prices have never been so high as they are today. Today, even 10 gram of gold costs above rupees 10,000 marriage season is on. How come a poor person can marry his son and daughter when gold prices are skyrocketing? Mr. Chidambaram does not know about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, rich or poor everybody needs cement. In May 2005 the price of a 50 kg. cement bag was rupees 130 whereas this has reached rupees 230 in May, 2006. According to the Government's estimates, when the cost of raw material used in making the cement is evaluated, then this price should not have increased more than rupees 16. But this price has increased by rupees 100. I mean to say that the problem of price rise in the country is deliberate. Our country has no scarcity of either foodgrain or any other item, but this problem has been created artificially. The main reason is that proper action was not taken against those who created this artificial crisis. Government should take stern action against those who play with lives of the people, only then the price rise can be checked.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia that he provided this opportunity for having a discussion under Rule 193 in the House and we are having a serious discussion on the issue today. In today's context and scenario this is definitely an important issue. The House is discussing about the manner in which prices of all commodities are going out of control.

Sir, today this Government is completing two years in office. When our Government was not in power and NDA Government was in power, the price rise was the main issue. As prices continued to rise uncontrollably during the NDA Government, it is just because of that the NDA members who earlier used to sit on this side are now sitting on the other side. I was listening the speech of hon. Member Shri Lakshman Singh but when his Government was in power, he never paid heed to all these things. It is only because of that, he is now sitting in the opposition. ...*(Interruption)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please calm down.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, the public which has supported us whether they are farmers, labours, hawkers, rikshaw pullers or other and specially the poor people, they all must be thinking that even this Government is unable to control the price rise. Today, there is no item, which has not witnessed the price rise. The prices of all items have increased by 10 per cent to 20 per cent and even upto 30 per cent. I would like to say that owing to this our Government is certainly becoming unpopular. When hon. Minister of Finance had presented his Budget a few days back, he had stated optimistically that we will certainly control the price rise and will not allow it to rise. At that time tax relaxation was extended on cars, soft drinks and other similar items. But giving tax relaxation on cars and soft drinks have no impact on the poor people. If the price of car is raised by rupees 20-25 thousand, the person buying the car can very much pay rupees 20-25 thousand more but all this has given a desperate feeling among the poor people on whose support we are sitting here. I would like to tell about the price rise during the past one year.

Sir, I am talking about one year. In 2005, the price of milk was rupees 17 per litre, which is now rupees 22 per litre. Potato were rupees 4-5 per kg., which has now reached upto rupees 8-10 per kg. Pulses were around rupees 29-30 per kg. which are now rupees 35-38 per kg. Similarly, the prices of tomatoes which are used daily by the people, have gone up from rupees 4-5 per kg. to rupees 6 per kg. Flour which was then rupees 110 per ten kg. Has now gone upto rupees 140 per ten kg. The rice which was then rupees 20-21 per kg. has now gone upto rupees 23-25 per kg. The price of onions in 2005 was around rupees 6-8 per kg., which has now risen upto rupees 15 per kg. Earlier sugar was rupees 18-20 per kg. and today it is rupees 22 per kg. The price of LPG has increased from rupees 244 to rupees 294 per cylinder. Kerosene oil, which is used by the farmers and labours living below poverty line, its price has increased from rupees 20 per litre to rupees 30 per litre. Similarly, the price of steel has increased from rupees 22,000 per tonne to rupees 24,000 per tonne. Cement bag of 50 kg. which was earlier available for rupees 140 is now at rupees 240. Hence there is no item, which has not witnessed the rise.

We have got the fundamental right of having food,

cloth and shelter under the constitution. But poor people and the common man is facing problems in buying these things. The price of sand and bricks, required for construction of a house, have also gone up. I have a rate list of all items but I will not take more time in elaborating them. If the wages of labourers had also increased on similar lines it would have been understandable but it is not so. Today a common man thinks twice over before constructing a house, for him it has become like a dream to construct a house.

Of course, the UPA Government came into power with a commitment that we will provide relief to the common man. It was our commitment that we will not allow the prices to rise. I would like to state specifically that the prices of foodgrains are increasing and this is a matter of concern. We are also thinking to import. Recently we have imported wheat. Production of wheat was 68.64 lakh metric tonne in 2004-05 and its procurement was 147 lakh metric tonne, whereas in 2005-06, production of wheat was 71.55 lakh metric tonne and I feel bad to say that procurement was merely 95 lakh metric tonne. This procurement was done only in two states i.e. Punjab and Haryana, whereas it could have been done in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh too, but it wasn't done there. It is unfortunate that we buying wheat from our farmers at the rate of rupees 650 per quintal and importing it at the rate of rupees 1100 per quintal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, kindly conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: As yet I have just taken two minutes while I am the first member from my party, to take part in this debate. I will sit if you ask me to but I wish to take some more time. I was telling you that price rise is definitely a matter of concern for us and the Government. We do not produce pulses, we import them. What are the reasons that we are unable to produce them here? We are spending lakhs of rupees of ICAR. A number of scientists are working there, they should find out which are the states where we can produce pulses and in which states we can produce other products.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to state that if seeds, manure etc. and other required things are made available then Bihar alone has the capability of making the nation self-reliant in pulses or wheat and it alone can provide foodgrains to the whole nation, but due attention is not

being paid in this direction. There are many such states, which are definitely capable of producing sufficient food products to meet the country's needs, provided required help is offered.

Sir, here I would like to state one more thing that until purchasing power of poor people increases, prices will not come down. The prices of petrol and diesel are increasing. It is said that prices of petrol and diesel are increased according to the international market. One can look at the neighbouring countries as to what are the prices of petrol there? What are the reasons that petrol and diesel are available at lower prices there? These commodities are available in Srilanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan at cheaper rates than here. We need to attract the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance towards this because we cannot check price rise in our country until we decrease the prices of petrol, diesel, ration and oil, which are being used by the poors, farmers and labourers. To check price rise we also need to remove unemployment. Employment opportunities need to be generated, only then purchasing power of the people will increase until purchasing power of the poor is increased price hike cannot be controlled. It makes it doubly worse for the poor that on one hand their purchasing power is less and on the other hand prices are increasing. The hon. Minister will have to think of concrete measures regarding this. Our poor people will be able to tide over the problem of price rise only if employment opportunities are provided. A Delhi Court has recently ordered to stop thousands of rickshaws from plying on roads. This will increase unemployment. It will render thousands of people jobless. Where will they go? This country is ridden with poverty. A large number of people live below poverty line. Until their financial condition is improved price rise cannot be controlled. Article 41 of the constitution mentions right to work according to which every citizen of India has the right to work. The Government has formulated Rojgar Guarantee Yojana. The Government will be able to face the situation successfully only if they provide employment to people.

I would like make one more request that when production is taking place then definitely black marketing is going on somewhere and shortage in foodgrains is being manoeuvred by the big traders. They are hoarding these commodities in their houses, and godowns. Owing

to which it is not reaching the markets and prices are increasing. Hence the hon. Minister needs to begin a campaign at vast level for the black-marketeers and even states may be requested to help in this. Black marketing can not be checked until State Governments help in this work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The hon. Minister needs to make effective laws in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, the way prices are rising the general public is reeling under the burden.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Look at the time.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I know what the time is. We are discussing such an important issue. Kindly permit to speak more on this issue. I will conclude in a short while. I will obey you keeping country's situation in mind Government needs to make effective policies. Until policies are made prices will not come down. The way prices are constantly increasing, the condition of the poor and people living below poverty line might become worse. Rich people will be able to manage with high prices. The hon. Minister of Finance is an efficient and experienced Minister. I don't know why he is unable to control price rise? What effective steps will be taken by him in this regard? Steps should be taken to control price rise and provide relief to general public.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Shri Basu Deb Acharia for moving this motion and you also for giving me the opportunity to speak. The matter, which is being discussed today, is related to the common man of the country and it is the Government's responsibility to tackle this issue. The Minister of Finance is a responsible and efficient Minister. Naturally a doctor is able to give treatment only when he has diagnosed the disease. It is not that Government is unaware of the root cause of the problems ailing the country. What are the reasons for spiralling prices? We will not be able to solve this problem until we know its cause. The reason for price rise is that supply is not in tandem with requirement, hence prices increase. When demand is more than the supply then naturally prices

[Shri Mitrasen Yadav]

rise. Secondly hoarding is the biggest reason of price hike. Thirdly, prices increase due to indiscrepancies in distribution system. Fourthly, the lack of equitable proportionate value assessment of industrial and agriculture production contributes to price hike. Fifth reason is black marketing done by the capitalists who go about looting the public unabatedly paving way for price hike. These are five reasons for price rise. The Government is aware of these reasons but since it also has a part in such manoeuvre, it tries to tide over things by manipulations only.

The hon. Minister has tried to gain much popularity in the country and in the international arena by showing that our national income is increasing and the percentage of our national income, which is 8 per cent at present, is going to be 10 per cent. When national income is going to be so much then we have the right to ask that why people living in rural areas are poor? They ask us that when country's income is increasing then why do they face starvation and why are the prices of essential commodities increasing? The rates of cars are coming down. The Government has lowered the prices of luxury items. The price of essential commodities like food and clothes are increasing. It is but natural that a question has crept in the minds of the general public. We would like the hon. Minister of Finance to explain the reasons of price hike when national income has increased? The hon. Members have already given the details of growth in production. I would not like to repeat all that, but the latest data that has been presented shows 50% price rise in flour, 112 per cent in rice, 66 per cent in mustard oil, 55 per cent in vegetable oil, 60 per cent in sugar, 60 per cent in pulses (arhar), 4 per cent in LPG, 15% in diesel and petrol. Similarly there has been a considerable increase of 50% in the prices of cement. Members of various political parties will stage dharna at the state level or national level against this in a day or two. In reply to this question the Government should mention about the efforts being made to control the price rise. It has been observed that animals like cock, pig, billy-goat etc. are fed well to sell them in the animals markets organized in our country. This is the characteristic of a capitalist society. Our government also works in the same manner. We are

also subject to the exploitation by the Government whenever production increases. Banking on the support of the capitalists, this Government reduces the prices every time when there is an increase in the production by the farmers. When there was a bumper crop of potatoes, the Government reduced its prices. My colleagues from other states are also mentioning that at the time of bumper crops of mustard, sugarcane and wheat, the Government reduced their prices. It always happens whenever farmers are likely to get benefit. It has been the policy of the Government, may be it happens because of the hoarders or capitalists; every time the earning class suffers the most. I fail to understand that in a country which is known as a country of farmers and poor, farmers are the most exploited section of the society and people are not awakened to this fact. And the biggest irony is that the Government is not making any efforts in this direction.

I, therefore, would like to submit that the capitalists want maximum benefit at minimum cost of production whereas labourers want less work and maximum wages. Here is the clash between the two. The Government should formulate a policy in view of this clash. Farmers cannot recover even the cost of their production though project in industrial production is just double. They are provided with all types of facilities like waiving off tax and interest etc. People in my village are unable to purchase the medicines as their prices have increased. I mean to say that though the country's income has increased but the rural people are unable to protect their lives.

Just now, hon'ble Shri Ramji Lal Suman was rightly saying that a large percentage of children die due to malnutrition. It is a blot on our country. Therefore, I have raised certain points and made some suggestions also on the major issue of price rise. I hope the hon'ble Minister will reply accordingly.

With these words I conclude. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anant Gudhe—not present.
Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Hon. Chairman, Sir, the price index of the essential commodities

is the reflection of Government's performance in fiscal management. We are now witnessing that the prices of essential commodities are soaring up in the country. They are now in a very alarming situation. The UPA Government's assurance in National Common Minimum Programme to keep the prices of essential commodities stable has immensely failed. The Congress has also cheated the people. In its election Manifesto, the Congress had assured the country that they would keep the prices stable, and during the time of election its slogan was '*Congress ka hath aam admi key sath*'. Now the *aam aadmi*, the common man is getting the result.

[Translation]

They may be with the common man or poor man, at present the common man is seeling as to how the Government is working and bearing the brunt of rise in prices of essential commodities.

[English]

Now, the hoarders and the black marketeers are encouraged during this period.

Sir, the Reserve Bank of India has projected inflation to range between 5 and 5.5 per cent during the year 2006-07. During the months of March and April, the inflation rate has gone upto 4.4 per cent. So, we can understand now as to what will be result during the end of this year.

In 2005-06, the prices of non-metallic and mineral products, rubber and plastic products, beverages, tobacco and tobacco products, sugar, wood products, paper and paper products went up. We have witnessed that. Among the primary articles, the prices of vegetables, fruits and wheat have also increased. We have also witnessed that. The price of wheat also went up because of inadequate supply of wheat.

Sir, the wholesale Price Index of fuel, power, light and lubricants increased at a pace of 9.5 per cent in 2005-06 and the trend has continued in the current fiscal year as well.

The Government is also planning to increase the prices of diesel, petrol and LPG which may put an upward pressure on the inflation rate. I want to know from the

hon. Finance Minister—he is not available here now—as to how many times—the price of petrol had been increased during the UPA Government, and whether it was necessary to increase the petrol price because this increase in the price of petrol has indirectly effected the price rise and it has also affected the common man.

Sir, the Meteorological Department has predicted rainfall this year to be lower than normal. If the nature will be cruel to us and if at all the rainfall this year turn out to be poor, then the crop output would get affected, thus leading to an inflationary pressure in the entire market.

Sir, inflation measured in terms of the Consumer Price Index for the Industrial Workers was also higher at 4.4 per cent during 2005-06 when compared to 3.8 per cent in the previous year, that is, 2004-05. The rate was higher in 2005-06 which mainly reflected the rise in the prices of food articles and fuel group, which carry a higher weight in the Consumer Price Index. So, in comparison to 2004-05, the prices of essential commodities were higher in 2005-06 and the Consumer Price Index was higher in 2005-06,

Sir, the Annual Wholesale Price Index-based inflation rose to 3.59 per cent during the week-ended April 29th of this year, and it was higher than the previous week's annual rise of 3.54 per cent. So, in the previous year, the Annual Wholesale Price Index had increased and during the last week of April it has also increased at a very dramatic rate.

Sir, the Wholesale Price Index for all commodities rose by 0.1 per cent to 199 points during the latest reported week from 198.8 points of the previous week.

18.00 hrs.

Also, on a disaggregated basis, the Primary Articles' Group Index rose to 0.4 per cent to 195.4 points this year.

Among the Primary Articles' Group, the index for food articles' group rose to 0.5 per cent to 198.2 points. Prices of poultry rose to 14 per cent while the prices of egg were up by six per cent, followed by barley 3 per cent, wheat 2 per cent and *urad*, fruits and vegetables and gram one per cent each.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble members, I would like to take the sence of the House. 10 hon'ble members are yet to speak. Therefore, if the House agrees, the time of the House may be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: It may be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of the House is extended by one hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: When will the bill be taken up?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bills will be taken up after this.

SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR (Dhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at what time will zero hour be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Zero Hour will be taken up after discussion. The sence of the House has been taken to extend the time by one hour.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The prices of edible oil have also increased during this period. In the non-food articles' category, cottonseed became more expensive by two per cent, and prices of copra, raw cotton and groundnut seed were higher by one per cent each. Board paper got dearer by five per cent. Prices of zinc during the week increased by 21 per cent and other aluminium materials also saw an uptrend of four per cent. In machinery and machine tool category, the prices of automatic power-loom, cranes and power-driven pumps went up by four per cent, two per cent and one per cent respectively. Other hon. Members had mentioned about the price of cement. The price of cement has also gone up dramatically and the Government is expressing its helplessness.

The three national commodity exchanges, NCDEX, MCD, NMCE, have been witnessing huge volumes amidst hectic speculation. Part of the volatility in the commodity market can be traced to a new breed of investors—day traders. This segment of investors, very common in the stock market, diverts their money into commodities, sensing a hidden treasure. Day traders jack up the prices

by creating huge demand and book their profit within a day.

What I am just expressing is that the hoarders and the blackmarketeers are encouraged. Traders are now hoarding the articles in the market. Thus, they are creating an artificial scarcity to increase the prices of essential commodities. Also, the Government should look into this matter as to what is happening in Bombay Stock Exchange and why the stock market traders are now shifting to book the food articles, creating an artificial market in order to earn their easy money.

The wheat price in Delhi has reached Rs. 1,050 per quintal last week. As on January 1st, wheat stock with the FCI is only 6.2 million tonnes.

18.04 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

If huge wheat stocks are there, then I do not understand why the Government is importing wheat at the cost of the farmers, and the price of wheat is also increasing. What is worse is that the Government has completely failed to control the market. The price is increasing. Stock is there but the Government is importing. What is the policy of the Government? When they are importing wheat, we can understand that the price will come down but the price of wheat is not coming down. That is why, the Government has no control over the market. Whatever the businessmen are detecting, they are doing in their own way. That is why the prices of these essential commodities are going up. Sir, there is complete disconnection between the official inflation rate and the number and the reality on the ground. It is no secret. Everybody knows that whatever the inflation rate the Government is mentioning here is not the reality on the ground. The inflation rate is much more. The prices of essential commodities are much more. That is why, the number the Government is also giving publicly, that inflation rate is not the actual inflation rate. It is much more of that thing.

Lastly, I would like to say that the prices of several essential and non-essential commodities have gone up. So, what is the policy of the Government to control all these things? My suggestion would be that the Government should carefully monitor the price levels of

all the essential commodities and undertake measures as required to contain the same. The Government should also adopt anti-inflationary policies and take care of fiscal and monetary discipline. If the Government takes all these steps, then, to some extent, the prices can be controlled. If the Government will fail and help the hoarders and blackmarketeers, the prices of the essential commodities will not come down and the common people will suffer. So, my request would be that since the hon. Minister of Finance is an able Minister, he would take care of all these things so that the common man will get relief out of these soaring of prices of the essential commodities.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude.

SHRI SHANKAR SINH VAGHELA (Kapadvanj): Sir, there are two small Bills. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of the House is already extended upto 7 O'clock.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR SINH VAGHELA: Then, at 7 O'clock they can be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I am very happy that the House got this occasion to discuss the question of price rise on a motion moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

It is an important occasion that we are discussing this matter on the eve of the UPA Government celebrating its second anniversary. This is probably a time for those who are in office to do a little introspection of what has happened during the last two years. This is also a time that they have to remember the promises that they have made to the people.

Sir, in this context, I would like to mention one thing. Last week or two weeks before when Tamil Nadu election was going on, our hon. Minister of Finance was campaigning for the DMK Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): It was for your Party also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I agree. It was for my Party also. I agree that you campaigned very well for the

alliance there. When he was campaigning, it was telecast live in Surya TV. Then, he removed his mask of the Minister of Finance. The grimness and the seriousness were much less. You were campaigning for vote. Then, the hon. Minister of Finance with all the capacity at his command justified the promise of Rs. 2/- a kilogram of rice. It is a good thing that you have done it. I am not denouncing that. Now, what does it mean? It means that the Government of Tamil Nadu will have to subsidise rice in a situation when people are in distress. Now, the problem that we are facing today is that the prices of all the essential commodities—I do not want to parade, it is plenty and already it has been paraded here—have increased to a great height. If I mention only the question of rice, the price of ordinary rice was Rs. 7.50 or Rs. 8.00 a kilo at the time when the UPA Government came to power.

Now, that is 16 to 17 rupees per kilogram in the open market. So, at this time, I want to know whether the Government will take certain measures by which they can effectively intervene in the market and bring down the prices of essential commodities to a level that the common man will find his life much more comfortable. It requires a certain political will. It requires certain hard decisions. I want to know from the Government whether they are prepared to do so.

When we are discussing it, tomorrow this Parliament will be over....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Only this Session would be over. You do not want the Parliament to be over....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: No. I do not want that.

When this Session of the Parliament would be over tomorrow, there is a shadow in the whole country that the moment the Parliament Session is over, the Government would probably increase the prices of the petroleum products. You are waiting for that opportunity. That is almost a foregone conclusion.

All the economists have discussed about the petroleum products and how the Government is making a lot of revenue out of the price rise of the international prices of crude. There is taxation, duty etc. The Government's exchequer is very well filled with this detail

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

of international price rise of the petroleum products. Since the hon. Minister of Finance was arguing that a certain amount of subsidy would be required to help the common man when he was speaking in Tamil Nadu, I want to ask one thing. To give one kilo of rice at the price of two rupees, that means he was pleading for subsidy. Otherwise it is not possible. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Finance a direct question. About the money that you are getting by way of huge taxes on these petroleum products, an amount that will be sufficient to protect the interests of the common people about all the essential commodities that he purchases and to bring down the price—whether a subsidy will be announced as a new package on the eve of the second anniversary of the UPA Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I think this is a misconception which deserves to be dispelled quickly. Firstly, there is no connection between pricing of petroleum products and the promise by the DMK in its manifesto that out of State Government's resources it will bear an additional subsidy. One of your candidates was contesting in my parliamentary constituency.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: He got elected. Thank you.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please ask him the extent of help that we gave to make him win. All that we said was that the promise is feasible in Tamil Nadu having regard to the State Government's resources and the capacity of the State Government to raise additional resources. That is an entirely separate issue.

On petroleum, I think one other hon. Member also said—last year, in the Budget that Parliament approved, we estimated; the Budget Estimate on petroleum products, both customs and excise, was Rs. 64,738 crore. The Revised Estimate, or actuals or near actuals, was only Rs. 62,874 crore. We got less than the estimate by Rs. 1,864 crore. So, we did not get a windfall. We did not have a bonanza. We did not raise more revenue than what was estimated. In fact, the final figure turned out to be marginally less than the estimated figure. I want to clarify that.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, now the Finance

Minister has clarified that he did not get a windfall of money by way of taxation of the petroleum products according to the estimates. The revised estimates will come later.

I was also understanding that Rs. 2 per kilogram of rice which they provided in the Tamil Nadu was not provided by the Central resources but by the resources amassed by the Government of Tamil Nadu. We have a very efficient Finance Minister who can amass sufficient resources to finance the badly required need for helping the common man. That is what I meant. I did not, for a minute, think that he is financing the Government of Tamil Nadu. Nobody can think like that.

I am asking this question that you should not shirk the responsibility of raising sufficient money for supporting the Public Distribution System, to subsidise the essential commodities to the extent that the inflationary consequences will not be shifted on to the shoulders of the common man. I am only asking whether you will be prepared to do that and also take such measures that the black-marketing and hoarding is not allowed in this country. It is a difficult task, but if you do it with a political determination, there are ways you can check black-marketing and hoarding and also do market intervention, where it is needed. If that is done, probably the situation will be better.

Many of my colleagues, while speaking mentioned the fact that there is import of wheat at a situation when our own production of wheat was also there. When we were offering our peasants in the country Rs. 650 per quintal of wheat, what was the price offered in the international market? With all our difficulties, in the international market, we are offering Rs. 950 or Rs. 975 per quintal, if I remember correctly. Whatever it is, it was a much higher price that you have offered to those companies who offered to export their wheat to our country. What is the logic behind it? We were on the eve of our crop season and the market would have provided sufficient wheat if an attractive price was offered to the peasants. Then, there was a very miserly attitude that we will not offer an attractive price to our peasants and we will import wheat. I will not go into that.

I would like to ask whether the company that has offered to import wheat is a company that was implicated

in the Volcker Committee Report and whether the wheat that they have given to us is substandard and the pesticide they used is questionable. The pests and the weeds that were there in the wheat imported will affect our ecology. This kind of a policy should not be there. This kind of a policy should not be allowed to pursue. On the contrary when the Finance Minister campaigned for State elections in Tamil Nadu as Congressman, he accordingly took a very correct decision. He was very sympathetic to the common people and their needs. He wanted the Tamil Nadu Government from their resources to subsidise rice and help the people. I am requesting that he as the Finance Minister of the country may please adopt an attitude of sympathy and understanding to the problem of the common man and find resources so that enough subsidy is provided, enough help is provided, and black-marketing and hoarding is stopped and the people are given a new situation. Probably, that is one thing they can do on the second anniversary of the UPA Government, which will make people happy and happier about the future.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important issue.

The issue of price rise raised here is a contemporaneous burning issue. The entire House, be they the allies supporting the UPA Government, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav of RJD, Sumanji or the Members of CPI and CPM and even my friends from the congress party are of the view that prices of all commodities are sky-rocketing. And the common man is the most affected by this all-round price rise. The common man is caught in the grip of price rise. There is a common refrain to tell a member of the opposite party that when they will come into power they will come across the ground realities. The newspapers are reporting that UPA Government has completed two years of its tenure. I am not aware of the English newspapers but Hindi newspapers have made it front page news. I have 'Amar Ujala' dated 21st May, 2006 with the front page headline that price rise has affected the common man during the regime of Manmohan Singh. The cost of mill flour was Rs. 7.50 kg. on 20th May, 2004 which has been increased to Rs. 12 per kg. on 20th May, 2006. That means 50% increase in the prices. The price

of ordinary rice was Rs. 7.50 per kg. at that time. It has increased to Rs. 16-17 per kg. now i.e. 112% increase in the prices. The price of mustard oil was Rs. 35/kg. in 2004 and when NDA Government handedover the power, its prices increased to Rs. 60 i.e. 66% increase. Prices of Edible oil and sugar increased from Rs. 38 to Rs. 60-62 i.e. 55% increase and Rs. 13-14 per kg. to Rs. 23-24 per kg. i.e. 60% increase respectively. Pigeon pea pulse (arhar), which was available at the rate of Rs. 26 per kg. has been increased to Rs. 42-45 per kg. i.e. 60% increase in the price. Besides, the prices of building material, sand, cement, iron and all the commodities relating to food, clothing and shelter have increased.

What is the reason behind it. I do not think that the policies framed by the policy makers who have been assigned this responsibility of controlling the prices may be right, though it is understood that if the policies are right, their outcome will also be good. The policies may appear right on papers but there is need to oversee whether or not these policies are being properly implemented on appropriate time in the country and what is the intention behind it. There is also need to analyse whether the intention is aimed at the welfare of the countrymen or that of a particular class, which may comprise of big manufacturers, large scale producers or middlemen. If the policy makers intend to benefit them, then it will definitely result in allround price rise. Now, this issue of price rise is not restricted to wheat only. Had it been so, we would have assumed that there is a shortage of wheat in the country and wheat is being imported, but the current price rise is all pervasive encompassing all essential commodities like the pulses, rice, sugar and sundries. In other words, there has been a total turnaround of the economy of the country and the most frightening situation has emerged between 20 May, 2004 and 20 May, 2006. Compare and contrast it with the former NDA regime when India used to export wheat. The country is the same, the production is the same rather growth is being registered in production and still the country's produce was being exported to foreign countries and the wholesale and retail prices of oil or any other commodity were affordable for the common man. Yes, there was an exception of onion, the prices of onion shot up. Today, there is not an issue of onion. Its price also increased, but artificial shortage of onion was engineered at that time which was an election gimmick and later on

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

it came to light that some people opted for hoarding it and as a result the prices got increased and after that it became an election issue. But, today, the prices of all the commodities have increased, and the Government is in the dock and unable to absolve itself of the allegation of failing to check the inflation. There is a simple doctrine of demand and supply that if the demand surpasses supply, the prices are bound to register an increase, but in this case there is no shortage of supply and the demand is restricted to general items of food, clothing, rice, pulses and sugar. It is not so that there has been an overnight upsurge in the demand. The prices would remain stable if the balance between demand and supply is maintained. But if demand decreases and supply increases, then everybody knows what would be the result. The farmer is also of this basic principle, but what has happened today? Why is there less supply? Why is there a shortage in the market? It was said that due to low production, fifty lakh tonnes of wheat is being imported. I do not want to go into the details, but I have been informed that it is being imported through a company which is linked with Volcker Committee and I was surprised to know that wheat is being procured at the rate of Rs. 1000 per quintal from foreign countries, whereas it is being procured at the rate of Rs. 600 to 625 per quintal from our farmers. It is a serious issue on which a discussion was also held in the House. This is not going to serve the interests of the farmers of the country. What has happened is that the processed food products manufacturing units of the country like Britannia who need to procure wheat have blocked the whole crop of wheat in their area in the fields itself, as they need wheat for manufacturing biscuits and other food products. This is why a shortage has crept in. Earlier, the Government was exercising control over the business houses of the country. Now it is not so. My suggestion is that the Government should reconsider it. Earlier the process of granting licenses was made lengthy in order to keep a check on speculators, hoarders, black-marketers and the licence holders were only allowed to go to the fields for procurement and the limit for storage was also fixed. Now, that cap has been removed. Earlier, if somebody was transporting foodgrains from terrain area to eastern area, it was mandatory to make a mention in this regard in the control order. That has also been done away with. The ill-

effects of granting so much liberty are coming to the fore today. I would like to urge that the particular concern expressed in this regard in the House is not only mine, but of the common man.

In the end, I would like to say that earlier the price of cement was Rs. 150 per sack; now it is Rs. 250-275 per sack. I am aware that by the end of the next financial year, it would be sold at the rate of Rs. 300 and above and similarly, the price of steel will also shoot upto Rs. 3000 and above. The common man, who had dreamt of constructing his own house is not able to do so. The common man is not even getting food. Under such circumstances, where will the common man go. In remote areas like Uttaranchal, where people transport goods on foot, the cement sack is available at the rate of Rs. 300-400, because it involves heavy head load upto a distance of 30-40 kms. Our life has become miserable. People recall how the prices were under control during the NDA regime and the country was prospering. The situation has become miserable during the last two years. Therefore, I would again like to say that the hon'ble Minister of Finance and the Government should pay serious consideration in this regard, in order not only to refurbish its image but also give impetus to the policies and programmes aimed at giving relief to the common man.

I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is having a serious discussion over inflation. The truth is the House is seriously mulling over it, but the question is whether the Government which have completed two years in power are serious about this inflation or not. The Chairperson of UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has aired her concerns in this matter. In spite of this, there are no signs of Government taking any concrete steps to control inflation. In the one and a half, two years there was a price increase of 25 to 50% in every articles like wheat, rice, cement, iron etc. The tentacles of inflation were omnipresent. Ours is a country of poor and 75% of the population reside in rural areas. Has anyone spared a thought about the plight of such people who earn their daily bread on day-to-day basis? Last year the price of the wheat was pegged around Rs. 800 to Rs. 850. Now it has touched Rs. 1200 to Rs. 1500. The situation has come to such a head in this country that the poor are deprived

of even two times meals. But notwithstanding all these facts, the Government are unperturbed in this regard. I fail to comprehend this today there is a discussion going on about this matter, the hon. Finance Minister will furnish a reply also but after the said reply, would any concrete steps be taken in this regard or everything would be limited to mere discussion in this House? Those who are hopeful of getting some reliefs, those who hope to have essential commodities at fair price, whether they will get anything or not?

Today there was a talk of importing of wheat. The wheat lying in our godown become rotten and we had thrown it out. The Central Government had formulated many plans like the Rozgar Guarantee Yojana under which there is a provision for giving away foodgrains to the labourers...*(Interruptions)* why are we resorting to importing even after having surplus foodgrains? The Government have got no answer in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now. Your name has already been called. But you were not present still. I allowed you to speak for just two minutes only. You too have agreed to speak only for two minutes. Now please conclude within a minute.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: A little while ago, hon'ble Minister Mr. Sarad Pawar has given a reply here. But in his reply he didn't elaborate about the circumstances which necessitated the importing of wheat. Are we facing any shortage of wheat? We had imported wheat despite any obvious shortage of it. Is it a better option than rewarding the foodgrains producing farmers by giving them fair price for their products? This is the condition prevailing in the country. No answer has been given about the Government's steps to address this situation.

The wedding season is now on. The poor are feeling the pinch while buying gold for the purpose of making 'Mangalsuthras' (the sacred marriage thread worn by the woman as long as her husband lives) to marry off their daughters. Wedding is an one time affairs....*(Interruptions)* I have not even taken two minutes....*(Interruptions)* The

price of the gold was Rs. 5,000 four months ago, now it is Rs. 12,000. We cannot do anything about it.

In his budget speech the Finance Minister has talked about the imposition of VAT. While imposing VAT, it was said that local taxes would not be added alongwith it. But today corporation tax, Municipal corporation tax also are added to it. As a result, the inflation is crossing all the limits. Government should stick to the statement made by the Finance Minister that there would be a uniform tax-structure for the entire country. Today there is a separate tax system of the corporation....*(Interruptions)* Six per cent tax is being levied there, due to which also prices are shooting up. But the Government is sitting idle even after all these happenings. It is incumbent upon the Government to answer the queries of the people of the country. I would like to know Government's view in this regard.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, discussion is going on about an important issue in the House. The House is discussing this issue with utmost seriousness. The country is taking a beating from all the corners. We are confronted with terrorism in some areas, from naxalism in some other areas, and from Maoism in other parts. Our remaining flames of spirit is snubbed out by the knock of inflation. Two days ago the UPA Government have celebrated their 2nd anniversary of assuming power in centre. I would like to ask the Government celebrating their anniversary by taking out bread from the mouths of the poor whether they still recall their tall promises made in the election manifesto like the slogan "the hand of congress is with the common man" (Congress ka haath, Aam Aadmi ke Saath) Now the left is taking cudgels on behalf of them, shielding them like armours saying that they are serving the nation and striving to protect the country from the growing concerns of inflation. In my view, both of you have unitedly given a new slogan to the people of this country which goes like this—the hand of the Congress and the left is acting as a tool for taking away the bread from the mouths of the poor (Congress are Vaampanthiyon ke haath, Garibon ke pet par laath). Everything would be tolerated, every problem would be addressed, strategy would be formulated for everything, however I will not read it out the long list pointing out the latest price of sugar, oil, flour, peas etc. there were 50 to

[Shrimati Karuna Shukla]

100% increase in the prices of all these things. I have a question for those people who like to imprecate the NDA Government whether the prices increased during the regime of Atalji? The prices remained unchanged at that time and the people of our country were leading a life with their heads held without taking blows on their self-pride. When Onion prices shot up, efforts were made to dethrone the Government. These people taunt us by saying that an interchanging of places has taken place here...*(Interruptions)* Pradhanji is saying that the Government of Delhi was overthrown. Change of guard will regularly take place in Governments, but even after 59 years of independence it is the misfortune of this agricultural based country that farmers are committing suicides during the regime of the present Government. Mothers are ending their lives with their infants as they are unable to breastfeed their children. If one is not provided with the supply of electricity, he can manage with kerosene, chimni or lamps but if he is deprived of bread or water his very existence will come under threat. Whether UPA Government have ever given it a serious thought?

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, an old saying suits them aptly the essential commodities like salt, oil and wood will remain in focus and all the splendour and pomp and show will soon fade away from the public memory. So they are going to pay a heavy price letting the prices of essential commodities like salt, oil and woods soar. Today, the people of the country are confronting them with their queries. In the front-page of the newspapers statistics of the inflation are shown as the achievements of hon'ble Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the two years of his Government. It is a matter of regret that the Prime Minister says in the meetings that they would not import wheat but within 24 hours of indulging in such rhetorics, 50 lakh tonne wheat is imported. I would like to ask why, and for what? Wheat of farmers of Punjab was bought by the corrupt foreign companies who adopt malpractices and the government kept on sleeping. Government is deaf and dumb. Government is just watching on how the poors are weeping and committing suicide. Government convenes special session for passing the bill related to the Office of Profit. Through you I allege in this House that the party and the president of that party, who is

worried to save her office, cannot bother for the poors of the country. Sky rocketing prices have pained the children, the women and the erstwhile Minister of Petroleum has said that woman should not purchase sarees. If they will not purchase sarees, then what will they wear, this should be thought about?

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I, on behalf of poors would only say that 'Youn to har aankh yehan roti hai.' Hon. Minister, Sir, you hear it attentively because when you present budget you give all the datas. You said, "Main hun na" But I don't feel your presence anywhere? Now when prices are soaring high why you don't interfere? Why don't you come on the scene? Hence, I would like to say that

"Youn to har aankh yahan roti hai, har
boond magar ashk nahin hoti hai
Dekha kar ro de jamane ka gam, Us
aankh se aansu gire wah moti hai."

NDA Government have wiped the tears of poors had been well wisher of the poors, have waived the loans of poors, poor were not subjected to this inflation. At least you should save them from the inflation and you must reply to my question. Hon. Chairman, Sir, you gave me time to speak. I am thankful to you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the Minister will reply tomorrow. Now, We will take up item No 34.

18.40 hrs.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY BILL, 2006

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate the National Institute of Fashion Technology for the promotion and development of education and research in fashion technology and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate the National Institute of Fashion Technology for the promotion and development of education and research in fashion technology and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will support the bill introduced by the Hon'ble Minister with two-three suggestions in this regard. I am happy that the draft bill prepared at the time of NDA government has been introduced today in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DAS MUNSI): Sir, hon'ble Member and hon'ble Minister, both represent Gujarat, both are good friends and both are so simple that they have no interest in the fashion.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I feel that this bill is supportive for the youths who wants to become designer, want to earn name in the country and the world. I know that there is a lot of craze in the young generation about the course of National Institute of Fashion Technology. The students who pass with good marks can make their career and future very bright on the basis of this course. Today, when hon'ble Minister says that our export is rising, though it is altogether different that export of government is not increasing and it has recorded negative growth, but export is rising in the cotton, and it is only due to designer and fashion textiles, and it is made by the students produced of NIFT. They have earned name in the country and the world through their art, creativity and imagination and consequently our export is rising. I shall also add that our target is to export garments worth 50 billion dollars by 2010. To achieve it our country wants good young designers. By passing this bill we can convert the diploma courses being run by NIFT into degree courses. It is a new institute which will become corporate body, corporation. This will give new confidence to the students joining this course. Today is the era of fashion and it is still going ahead. I am assured that with the

provisions made in the bill, our country will get better designers, they will not only be able to achieve the target of fifty billion dollars, but besides that will bring fame to the country. Therefore, I support this bill.

As I have said that initiative in this regard was taken at the time of NDA government. The plan of NDA government in respect of textile ministry is still going on with some amendment. This NIFT act will also be part of that and I feel that hon'ble Minister will implement it and we will achieve what we want.

The form of corporate body has been mentioned in this bill. I would like to warn Hon'ble Minister that bureaucracy may prevail completely in this regard. The chairperson of this corporation should be academician and the remaining seats, they may be three or five, should be filled up by the Member of Parliament—two members from Lok Sabha and one member from Rajya Sabha, it has been provided in the bill that who ever be design maker, shall be an academician shall be a bureaucrat. Government should take care that that bureaucrat does not get a dominating position. Otherwise several questions will be raised and government or Hon. Minister will not get due respect. I would like that government should go ahead cautiously.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would also like to say that looking at the craze of fashion in the younger generation all the campuses, whether they are in Kolkata, or in Bangalore or in Hyderabad, or in Chennai or in Delhi or in Gandhinagar, they should be expanded. If campuses are not expanded then I know our students irrespective of their ability and good performance, they will not get admission in the NIFT courses because there are still only seven campuses. Therefore, the number of their seats is required to be raised. Why these campuses are established in Bhopal, Jaipur, Srinagar or Noida, because in this course, it should not be so that students of only selected areas join it. This should not happen. All eligible students who want admission in this course, should be given admission with all facilities. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister that at least these 7 campuses should be increased to 14 campuses. If the need of providing fund arises as provision of fund has been made in this bill, then the Government should provide that because we want to achieve the target of export amounting to 50 billion Dollars.

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

We should try to give an opportunity to our young generation taking admission in this course and show their capability to the world. Activities related to fashion and designing have been increased so much that fashion technology of Paris is being considered the best in the world. Sir, therefore, I want to say that there are designers of India only who are capable in fashion and designing better than those. They should be encouraged more. Assistance should be given to them by the Central Government for their progress. My suggestion is that the existing campus is good. The NDA Government has made this campus latest and modern so that fashion and design course can get fame. Please think about this.

As regards degree courses, perhaps we could not made much progress. But we had launched a certificate course four or five years ago. Such certificate courses be started. It has been stated in this bill that certificate courses will be run and new courses will be added. There are so many places where youths of the area could be included in this course by starting this certificate course there. If an scope of this kind be made available to our youths then they could become well known in the country and the world by fulfilling the requirement of fashion designers. Today, we are in competition with China in garment industry. In spite of this, consumers of USA and UAE like Indian garments because our fashion designers make garments of good quality. If we want to be successful in the world market having competition with China, we will have to upgrade the standard of education. There is a need to make an amendment in the Bill and if we do that the result of the Bill will be good.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, besides this, I want to state one thing more that it is written in section 24 and provision has been made in this Bill that.

[English]

"Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Status may provide for all or any of the following matters:

[Translation]

In which it has been stated that there will be a provision for reservation. It is written in sub-clause B of section 29 that.

[English]

"reservation of posts for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and other backward categories of persons as may be..."

[Translation]

A new belief will be created if the words "shall be" are placed in place of the words "may be" which is very much needed in the country today.

[English]

"As may be determined by the Central Government".

[Translation]

I want that the word shall should be placed in place of existing word 'may'. And when this will be made a law, how will it be. It is such a provision for the Backward, Dalit or tribes as if a temptation has been given for that. It has not been written with surety that it will be implemented in the coming days. I want that this provision be made in this Bill itself so that younger generation from Backward Classes or Dalits does not feel that injustice has been done to them and there is nothing useful in the temptation given to them. We are trying to bring forward all sections and to associate with this all the capable people of young generation in all classes. I think that such a provision will have to be made in this. National Institute of Fashion Technology is going to be turned into a corporate body. The capacity of it will be beneficial only when younger generation will be helped. Implementation of provisions of the Bill be made with true spirit. Law is interpreted in so many different ways. Corporate body, Ministry and the Government interpret it in their own way. By this that becomes directly unacceptable clear cut implementation should be done regarding making 5 years or different sections as mentioned therein. And interpretation should not be done against the wishes of students.

At present, we think about our own country only but we will have to see its demand in the world also. Much has been said in different sections of the Bill. I remember that we had constituted an international federation, headquarters of which was in Delhi. All had accepted that National Institute of Fashion Technology situated in

Delhi would be made an international body. Proper utilization of it is not being done. There should be exhibitions, new courses, exchange activities but these are not being done. India had got the opportunity to do so but we could not move forward due to lack of further action, today. We can lead the world by showing new ways of fashion design because we have talented people in a large number. By this, not only the export will increase and wishes of young generation will be fulfilled but name of our country will reach a new height in the world. This should be made such an institute that it becomes an honour to mention. Government and all of us should take whatever action is needed for this. We should move ahead on these lines.

We should try that students of NIFT should go to foreign countries because by this exchange of many things is done. And Creativity of students also increase by this.

19.00 hrs.

Our students should visit other countries of the world like delegations of other countries visit India to know what is happening in the world, what is in demand and have meetings with repeated persons of this field. I think that fashion designers of our country will get encouragement and we can move further in this direction. Rohit Bal and Ritu Beri are well known designers in fashion world.

I am sure that hon. Minister will definitely think over the suggestions given by me. A good Act has been made as a result of which an good institution became a corporate body. New faith is being created from the degrees taken from the Institute. I think that this fix campus of today be spread in the whole country and young generation all over the country be associated with this. I am sure that the textile industry, trade and business of the country will get benefitted by the provision made in this Bill and it will prosper further. I thank you for giving me time and opportunity to express my views.

19.01 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If hon. Members are agree, time of proceedings of the House be increased by an hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I would request Shrimati Tejaswini Seerameshji to speak.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): I am seeking your permission to speak from here.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may speak from here.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the NIFT Bill 2005.

Sir, in this august House, I would like to say that no country can separate its culture and tradition from its fashion and lifestyle. In my view, in British India, by wearing two pieces of Khadi clothes, Bapuji ignited the freedom struggle. Thus, Khadi became the symbol of patriotism. Till today, above the party lines, Khadi dominates as a fashion and style symbol with every politician. In independent India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehruji became the fashion icon by wearing white coat with rose. Everybody likes it. Even today, it is known as 'Nehru Coat'. Shrimati Indiraji conquered the world by wearing her wonderful Indian saree. Shri Rajivji conquered millions of Indian youth by wearing a wonderful attire. Today, our Leader, Shrimati Soniaji is also conquering middle class women by wearing cotton saree.

Not only that, I would like to tell you that my brother, Shri Swain is inspiring by his Oriya *kurta and dhoti*. Our leader, Shri Munsiji is also dominating and he is looking very elegant in his Bengali *dhoti*. Of course, our Punjabi brothers, our Prime Minister and our Deputy Speaker are also looking very elegant in their Punjabi turbans. Shri Advaniji is, of course, known for his half coat. Today, Shri B. Mahtab is not wearing his dress code. But he is very elegant in his half coat and shirt. I have noticed Nandini Satpathyji's designed *kurtas* were attracting the Central Hall.

Sir, in the early Eighties, the Government of India as part of its strategy to build competitiveness of the industry, recognized the potential of Indian textiles, apparel

[Shrimati Tejaswani Seeramesh]

and lifestyle goods in the international market. Design and quality were identified as the key drivers for value addition. To meet these challenges the need for trained professionals in this sector became very pronounced. The setting up of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in the year 1986 was a benchmark effort to stimulate the export potential of the industry and to meet the emerging global challenges. As this industry was emerging as a major foreign exchange earner, the Government decided to set up six new NIFT Centres in the year 1995-97 to harness the full potential of the export business. With the opening of economy and booming of domestic market, NIFT has been instrumental in bringing about a paradigm shift in the perception of fashion in India touching the lives of everyone. Multifarious lifestyle businesses have since come to be recognised as the Fashion Industry.

A talented pool of more than 5000 NIFT graduates have been instrumental in professionalising the industry in the areas of strategy, approach, technology upgradation, design intervention, management practices; a rich contribution duly acknowledged by the industry. NIFT has distinguished itself as an institute of professional education benchmarked against international standards and is recognized as a leading global Fashion School.

The curriculum evolved by NIFT encompasses both creativity and functionality and is contextual and integrative across design technology and management, making forays into specialized areas of textiles, knitwear, leather and accessories. NIFT has undertaken research in diverse areas of fashion technology and applications thereof, contributing significantly to the productivity and quality of Indian products. Over the years, NIFT has gone beyond its traditional role of an educational institute and proactively supported a number of Government initiatives for social and human resource development creating immense employment potential in the textiles, apparel and craft sector through backward and forward integration. NIFT has introduced the craft cluster initiative as an integral part of its curriculum to develop a business model for craftsmen and weavers through design intervention, production techniques and market linkages; thus evolving a new paradigm of rural development.

NIFT has worked on collaborative projects with trade and industry organizations. NIFT has been instrumental in providing technical support to the HRD institutions for training professionals at managerial, supervisory and shop floor levels serving the fashion industry. NIFT has played a catalytic role in the growth of fashion and lifestyle related industry and businesses integrating design-technology-management, craft-industry, national-global and classroom and hands on entrepreneurial experience in a holistic manner. Over the years, NIFT has built strategies for promotion of Indian handlooms and handicrafts in the global market through Government-Non-Government, and public-private partnerships. NIFT has showcased the Indian fashion industry at various international fora.

In my view, NIFT has also played an important role in professionalizing the Indian textile and fashion industry and enriching the human resources skills and capabilities. The textile industry today contributes about 14 per cent to the industrial production and 4 per cent to the GDP. The industry also contributes handsomely to the foreign exchange earnings. The textiles sector currently employs 82 million—35 million to 47 million in textiles and allied sector respectively. Besides, India has around 400 handloom clusters and approximately 3000 handicraft clusters providing employment to 13 million people. On the domestic front, the fast growing economy has the potential to drive up the consumption level. Despite technology advances, the textiles sector is labour intensive, especially in the apparel segment, which also generates the greatest value addition.

Sir, at last, I would like to give some suggestions to the Minister. The statutory status would enable NIFT to:

- Make fashion technology education as an attractive career option for talented students and faculty.
- Enable NIFT to play a catalytic role in the growth of fashion and lifestyle related industry and business integrating design-technology-management, craft industry, national-global and classroom-hands on entrepreneurial experience in a holistic manner.
- Be responsive to the needs of the industry and crafts sector in a dynamic, ongoing, qualitative

and timely manner through flexible and evolving pedagogy and approach.

At last, Sir, I am requesting the hon. Textiles Minister and I am also requesting every MP from every party to support me. I am requesting the Ministry and demanding the Ministry to appoint 3 MPs—1 from Rajya Sabha and 2 from Lok Sabha to NIFT to take care of this fashion technology. After all, women are more fashion oriented. I do not deny even my brothers are more fashion oriented.

Fashion is nothing but our tradition, fashion is nothing but our nationalism and to reflect it in our own manner, to promote our goods and to promote our culture, we must strengthen the National Institute of Fashion Technology. With these words, I support this Bill and I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tathagata Satapathy. Please speak briefly, only for 3-4 minutes.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am probably the only one who will be opposing this Bill. If you give me fifteen minutes to speak then it will be good.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have other business also. There are two other bills pending for discussion.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: But somebody has to oppose and you have to hear the voice of the Opposition also.

First of all, why is this new Bill brought? This has been brought here to make NIFT as an institute. As of now, it is a society. Now, the Government is making it an institute, but they are not freeing it from the clutches of bureaucrats of the Ministry of Textiles. It will remain in the same hands as it was earlier. They, at their sweet will, will decide as to who will be the Director-General, who will be the Registrar etc. Everything will be decided by a group of officers. This is a creative unit. It should have been encouraged to become free, to create young people, young boys and girls of this country who will not look for job and who will not be servants, but they will

decide, on their own, as to who will design, who will create, not procreate—we have too many people in this country procreating—and will create new ideas and new designs. But we are scuttling that. We are going in the old fashion of being dictated by bureaucrats.

Sir, look at our neighbour Pakistan, a much smaller country with much less population, but they are a much bigger exporter of finished garments than us because their fashion institutes are funded by cotton companies. Here, in this Bill, if you see Chapter-II, you will find as to how the bureaucrats are manipulating this institute. This is a small example I am giving. This is to be noted. Clause 8 (2) of this Bill says:

"No bequest, donation or transfer of any property shall be accepted by the Institute, which in the opinion of the Board involves conditions or obligations opposed to the spirit and object of this section".

So, a few officers will decide what is good for the large number of young boys and girls who will be fashion designers.

Sir, the history of the National Institute of Fashion Technology has a chequered career. As I said, it does not create servants, but it creates creative young people with flair. As of now, NIFT gives diploma, but once this Bill is passed, it will probably come up with degree and doctoral courses. But when a change is happening, why does not the Minister use his political will to free it from the clutches of bureaucrats? He is a man who is known to have fought many battles in his home State against very powerful forces, but in front of bureaucrats he bows down. Why does he not fight and make NIFT a deemed university that it deserves? It can be made a deemed university and it should be compelled to become a profit-making unit of this country. Let them take funding from private organisations. Till 1996, UNDP was funding NIFT. Till that time it had some semblance of progress and development. Few researches has been done but since 1996 when UNDP stopped its funding, all their research and other kind of work had stopped. They do not even have an electronic library. Now, they are talking of creating a database to collect and maintain literature and materials available in the area of fashion technology so as to develop a modern information centre within the country.

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

Today, there is nothing within the country. There is no boundry any more. This is the age of Internet. You have to decide that you will create a database of designers, of designs, but these have to be different from the rest of the world.

Now, India is in a unique position. We have our culture, our heritage, starting from Punjab right upto Tamil Nadu, from Gurarat, from where the hon. Minister hails, to Orissa and Assam. Everywhere, there is traditional craft, there is traditional design. Are we able to develop that? No, Sir, we are not able to develop that.

What are we doing? You will be surprised to know that till now when NIFT hires a teacher, they ask stupid questions in the interview, which relate to the knowledge of English, to the knowledge of Mathematics, to the knowledge of geography of that teacher. But they do not ask the teacher about his aesthetics or her aesthetics. They do not ask the teacher what creative work that person has done in the life time so that person can impart that knowledge to the students.

In my opinion, design is an art. One cannot learn it in four or six months. You have it inside or you do not have it. When you are a teacher if you have something and that is nurtured then you inculcate it.

Today, what we see is that a lot of old faculty from NIFT is migrating. They are going away. Why are they going away? We should try to find that out. I know this Bill will be passed today and everybody will say 'Ayes' and you will also say the 'Ayes' have it, the 'Ayes' have it. But I want to put my protest on record. Why is the good faculty of NIFT moving away? It is primarily because they do not see any future in NIFT. They do not see that they have any creative potential available for them if they stick on in NIFT. What is the NIFT management doing? They are threatening those people who are going away. They are saying, if you leave us, you give us back your pay for the last two years or three years and compelling the faculty to come back to NIFT.

Sir, you please tell that if a person or teacher is forced to work, what kind of teaching he can give to the students. It will not be a teaching from the heart, it will be a perfunctory thing. This is a creative unit, but you are destroying it at the bud itself.

Sir, getting a degree is definitely a wonderful thing. But NIFT also needs to be associated with national and international universities or such institutes. I know of one person, a very young friend of mine, who was a student of Delhi NIFT, who went to the US after getting his diploma from Delhi NIFT. He got his admission in the Chicago Design Institute not on the strength of the diploma of NIFT, Delhi, but on the strength of his BA degree.

Sir, we have NIFT in Gandhinagar, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi. But they are adding more courses. They have made a three-year course into a four-year course. They are adding more students, but there is no expansion of infrastructure. They are not giving them the required machinery. These things have to be taken into consideration.

Lastly, I have three specific demands and basing on those demands, I oppose this Bill. First is, it must be made into a deemed university. Second is, make it free from bureaucratic control and put a technocrat who knows fashion designing as the head of NIFT. Third, but one of the most important part, is make it a self-reliant profit making unit of its own so that it does not become another Government owned institute, but it becomes a cauldron of talent which will evolve in this country, but will spread its wings all over the world.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, while I say that this idea of National Institute of Fashion Technology being made an institute, which can give the degrees is a good idea, I support the idea. I agree with some of the criticisms that Shri Tathagata Satapathy has made. This is to be undoubtedly democratised. This Institute is already catering to the needs of fashion technology. I had the opportunity to visit this Institute both at Delhi and Hyderabad and I found that they are doing a very good job. The students who are given diploma after completion of the course should now be given a degree in lieu of a diploma so that it will be advantageous for their future careers. Already, many of these students are employed either in India or outside but a degree will certainly help them.

I would like to submit that this Bill has gone through the Committee on Labour and Textiles. I am sorry to say that many of the recommendations of the Standing Committee have not been accepted by the Ministry. I am

really surprised to find that there are no representatives of the Members of Parliament. It is not that the MPs should be there because of some personal interest; they should be there because the Standing Committee unanimously felt that the representatives of the Parliament would have a voice to democratise it and see to it that only the bureaucrats will not run the entire Institute. Almost everybody is nominated whether it is the Senate or the Board of Governors. Of course, it is said that Rashtrapatiiji will be the Visitor, but it will be the bureaucrats of the Textiles Ministry who will nominate everybody. An Institute which is almost like a deemed university cannot run only by nominated persons. I think the teaching staff also should have a representation in the Senate and at the same time there are certain other important things which should be taken into consideration.

There are only five centres where this institution is there. The Standing Committee has recommended that there is a necessity to establish the centres in tribal areas like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh and more centres in north India. Most of the Centres are in Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.

One more important thing which I would like to submit is this. The fee of the institute is very high. It is so high that poor and middle class students cannot afford it to be able to get admission. There is necessity to reduce it. When it is becoming an Institute with the degree, there should be a possibility. It is not only the question of reservation, it is the question of affordability of ordinary students. More than 30 per cent population of our country is living below poverty line and they cannot afford to get admission in these types of institutes. This should not become an Institute for elite and rich people only. These changes should be taken into consideration by the Minister and I think there should be representation of Members of Parliament, as recommended by the Standing Committee, two Members from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha, should be included in it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I would request the hon. Minister to reply to the debate.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though this bill is being opposed by

hon'ble Kashiram Ranaji, Shrimati Tejaswani Seeramesh and Shri Tathagata Satpathy still I thank them for expressing their valuable thoughts on it. The hon'ble members who participated in the discussion on this bill have welcomed this bill on NIFT in a very appreciable manner. Opposition benches have said that this bill was framed during the NDA regime itself. If this bill had been brought in the house for passing at that time then we would have been on that side and had supported you.

Sir, this institute is such a good institute that more than 5000 students have taken diploma from there till date and got employment wherever they wanted. I mean 100 per cent passouts from there got employment. This is a very good thing. Our exports to America has increased by 26% and to European Union (EU) by 18 per cent. These students have great contribution in it. I noticed it when I was not a Minister. Students of NIFT came to me and told me that they get diploma not a degree. Satpathyji said that one of his familiar person had gone to America where degree is very essential for getting admission or a visa. I think, only degree was lacking which is now being provided by it.

Sir, whenever I attend any function of NIFT they ask me to bring the bill as early as possible. I thank you that you allowed me to introduce this bill and the house discussed on it. Question of bureaucracy has been raised in it. In spite of the fact that this institute being controlled by bureaucracy, NIFT is being praised by people from every quarters today. Its board will be constituted under the hon'ble President of India and comprising one member from Rajya Sabha and two members from Lok Sabha as members in the boards of Directors. With presence of these members in the board, it will be fully accountable to the Houses which is a great thing. I would like to urge all the parties that to nominate any female MP as a member in its board. It will be a good thing. After this bill is passed a new world will come up.

Secondly, it has been told that new centres of NIFT will be opened. I would like to inform the house that for opening any new center a budget of 25 crore rupees is required and if any state provides us the required facilities then we have no problem in opening new centres. Previously there was no hostels for girls but new efforts are being made to solve this problem. At many places new hostels are being constructed. At Mumbai also we

[Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela]

are constructing a new hostel. Besides, we run hostels in rented houses too. So, we are fully concerned for the girl students. It is a fact that due to existence of these centres in big cities the students are benefited from there because in big cities there are number of industries and factories where they get early placements. I want to inform the House that if any proposal will come from tribal area and north-east states, we will definitely consider it.

Question regarding reservation has also been raised. I would like to inform the House that we provide this facility to a student whose family income is less than one lakh rupees and if a student who belongs to a family whose income is upto two lakh rupees, we do some other arrangements for them too. There is a facility for handicapped students too. Reservation of OBC's will continue as it was existing in May. If any change takes place later on, we will look into it. There is quota for NRI students too in it.

This point has also been raised that why it has not been made a deemed university? And why it has been made a full fledged university? I want to say that after its becoming university it will be controlled by UGC.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether there is provision of reservation for SC and ST in it?

SHRI SHANKAR SINH VAGHELA: Yes, Sir, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is provision of reservation for SCs, STs and OBC in it.

I want to say that a deemed university is not flexible. If we have to march ahead with the emerging trends of fashion technology, we will have to give it status of an university so that there remains flexibility in it. Since fashion industry has its presence all over the world. We want our fashion technology should also make its presence felt in other countries. In the way AIIMS and IIT have earned fame, NIFT may also get fame. So we have introduced this bill. We have tried to include in it the recommendations made by the Standing Committee. About ten thousand people in remote rural areas live below poverty line and students of NIFT visit such areas also. Around 8-10 thousand people are being benefited from this cluster scheme. The states which are providing assistance to them in designing, training, technology

upgradation marketing and market linkages are Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala and West Bengal. If you feel that excellent clusters can be developed in your constituency too and students of NIFT must also visit your constituency then we will definitely think over, it and try to and send them in your district or state also.

I will not take much time as I have tried my best to answer the points raised by all of you. As time is also short....(Interruptions)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: What about the certificate courses going on?

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: We will definitely try to increase the number of certificate courses. If centers will be increased further then there will be no need of it. If the demand is so much that even a local candidate with a certificate course can get employment then we will definitely think on starting certificate course there so that large number of people get employment.

With these words I thank all of you. I am thankful to you also. I request you all to kindly pass this bill.

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: There is no provision for the representation of Members of Parliament in this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA: Yes, there is, two members from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha. This was the recommendation of the Standing Committee....(Interruptions) They are custodians of NIFT students....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate the National Institute of Fashion Technology for the promotion and development of education and research in fashion technology and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 34 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 34 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI SHANKAR SINH VAGHELA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

19.34 hrs.

FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 35—Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005. I request the hon. Minister to move the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to, consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import,

to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

I must say that this House was discussing.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, we will pass this Bill on another day and not today. If my request is not accepted, I will ask for quorum.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to him.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): It will create a very bad precedent and a very unprecedented experience in the House. So, I oppose the consideration and passing of the Bill today itself. So, I demand Quorum.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the Bill was introduced long, long back. It was discussed in detail in the Standing Committee. Twenty-six recommendations of the Standing Committee were incorporated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan is raising the question of Quorum. Let the bell be rung.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since there is no quorum in the House, I adjourn the House to meet tomorrow, the 23rd May, 2006 at 11 a.m.

19.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 23, 2006/Jyaistha 02, 1928 (Saka).

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