

plan and I will surely keep my promise or inviting Members from mango-growing areas. We will discuss with them and we will discuss this plan with you and whatever suggestions you give, will be taken into consideration.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: The hon. Minister has enumerated some measures that the Government is taking for the promotion of export of mangoes. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that inadequate availability of special packaging material is one of the constraints for our enhanced export of mango syrup, pulp and slices, i.e. mango-products. In view of this, will the Government take necessary steps to make the special packaging material available to several exporters who are very eager to export their mango products? This will definitely help the Government's efforts to increase our exports. This is one of the major constraints and please do the needful.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The hon. Member is very right. Packaging and storage in order to increase the shelf life of mangoes or any other agricultural product is a major constraint. We are looking into this and I will keep this in mind.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are plains as well as hilly area in our State. In plains, mango is produced and in the hills, apple and other fruits are produced. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have decided to export mango and other fruits produced in abundance in our State?

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not in a position to say just now whether there is a special scheme for Himachal mangoes. My information is, Himachal is not a major grower of mangoes. The major mango-growers are Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

SHRIMATI GEETAMUKHERJEE: I will send you Rani Basant from Bengal.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: One general rule is that if any hon. Member wishes special attention to mangoes grown in his or her constituency, he or she must send us a create of those mangoes first.

Sir, I will look into these Himachal mangoes and see whether anything can be done.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mango production in Konkan region is constantly increasing and the Hafuz mango can be exported from that region. At present the export of mango is in a very low quantity. Through you, I would like to know the steps being taken by the Government to encourage the export. Has the Government been aware that the middle men earn most of the profit where as the farmers do not get even reasonable price. If the Government knows this then what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am sorry, there is nothing that the government can do to eliminate middlemen. Government should not enter into the business of exporting mangoes. For example, if I ask STC or MMTC to export mangoes, you know what the results will be. These are not the matters in which Government should directly engage. What the Government should do is to encourage growers to form cooperative societies or export houses or trading houses an export mangoes. I am all in favour of growers coming together to form a cooperative society. I have written to every State Government to form an Export House under their own organisation; a joint venture with some private and public sector holding and export these products. These are matters best left to trade and these are matters in which State Governments must take the initiative. I am willing to help every State Government to set up an Export House,

year Education programmes have come to a standstill in Uttar Pradesh because of Paucity of funds. Because of this, the Governments facing a critical situation. Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to send the Scheme on education for all Uttar Pradesh to the World Bank for financial assistance without delay so that assistance is made available to U.P. very soon and there could be expansion of education and the curse of illiteracy would come to an end once for all. Finally, I would urge the Government to send it immediately. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

(Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, normally you do not allow any other Member to speak to endorse the views expressed by a Member, but this question is very important. As such, I would like to lay emphasis on it. The World Bank is prepared to help Uttar Pradesh, but the Central Government is coming in its way. We have sufficient reasons to suspect that it is being done because of political reasons. It is clear from the statement made by the hon. Member that it is based on facts and the information has been collected from the U.P. Government. World Bank is ready to promote literacy and provide help in a big way to make primary education compulsory by the proposal is put in cold storage by the Human Resource Development Ministry. I would like that the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister should draw Shri Arjun Singh's attention to this problem and ask him to make a statement in this House in this regard.

[*English*]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA

(Balasore): Sir, this is regarding implementation of the Rural Development Programme in Orissa. The money released by the Central Government for the implementation of the Rural Development Programme in Orissa has not been properly utilised. The norms for implementation are not properly followed up by the Orissa Government. The suggestions and the recommendations of Members of Parliament are not taken into consideration at all. The

recommendations of Village - Level Committees are completely ignored. The deserving persons are neglected. The Essential projects are left out. Things are considered only on partisan purpose. Allegations are not properly inquired into. The money is mis-utilised and mis-spent.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister in - Charge to take note of this and to take suitable steps for proper implementation of the programme.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL VERMA (Dhanduka):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the importance of education has been recognised all over the country. New academic session has started and today the children of poor people are not getting admission in the schools. Parents are in great attention for admission of their children. Even ordinary educational institution give admission after taking donation. General lists of admission of students to higher secondary schools should be published in every state as it is done in case of admission to colleges in Gujarat so that the students from poor and middle classes can get admission. If it is done the parents will not face any problem and the children will also get proper education.

[*English*]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO

VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this Government to a very serious matter in my constituency. Because of the agitation by some workers who are working in the petroleum storage facilities, now the diesel stocks have come to the lowest level in Vijayawada and surrounding areas. This is the period where maximum consumption will be there. Mangoes, agricultural products, fishery products — marine as well as inland fisheries which are caught - have to be transported to different parts of the country like Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and other places. Because of this shortage now, there will be serious transportation bottlenecks

which will result in damage of these items because they are all perishable goods, they will be damaged; they will be spoiled and the prices also will steeply fall down.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take adequate steps so that the diesel stocks are managed at the required level.

Once again, through you Sir, I urge upon the Government to do the needful.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASTABHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA (Khalilabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government had announced a loan relief scheme in 1990, according to which the Uttar Pradesh Co-operative societies and the Uttar Pradesh State Agricultural Co-operative banks and Germin Banks were supposed to receive claims worth Rs. 644 crores. But they have so far, received claims of only Rs. 390 crores whereas other States have already received more than 80 per cent their claims. Since they have not received the remaining amount, the cooperative banks of Uttar Pradesh are in financial crisis. They have already suffered loss of about Rs. 66 crores and have been suffering loss of about Rs. two and a half crores per month. The situation has deteriorated to the extent that all the Cooperative Societies and the banks related to Agricultural and Rural Development in Uttar Pradesh are on the verge of closure. I would like to urge the Government to immediately pay the remaining amount of claims as per the prevailing rate of interest. This is my only submission and demand.

[*English*]

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar): Sir, the Bangladesh Government is supporting insurgency outfits of North - East by allowing them to set up camps in Bangladesh.

As per report, the Union Home Ministry has listed in detail the various groups and the location of their camps in both Bangladesh and Myanmar and this has come after

interrogation of extremists who have surrendered. The extremists not only got their shelter but are also getting training in arms and ammunition from Bangladesh. In some cases, these extremists are being utilised to neutralise insurgent Bangladeshi groups. The Bodo Security Force, Meghalaya United Liberation Army, People Liberation Army of Manipur, All Tripura Tribal Forces of Tripura, National Socialist Council of Nagaland, United Liberation Front of Assam, Mizo National Front of Mizoram have set up their camps within the territory of Bangladesh and are counting their attacks in opportune moments to destabilise the unity and integrity of our country with the help of Bangladesh Government.

I want to know from the Government whether the Government is going to take any definite step against the Government of Bangladesh to desist from helping the insurgents.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, three weeks back the former judge of Punjab High Court Shri Ajit Singh Bains was arrested from his house. He is a heart patient but permission has not been granted even to provide him medicine. He was handcuffed. In this connection I would like to bring to your notice the ruling of Supreme Court that a High Court judge should not be arrested. Even a culprit should not be handcuffed unless there is an apprehension that he would flee. Justice Bains - whatever his activities may have been - has been a well known personality in Punjab. He is the President of the State Human Rights organisation and his arrest has hurt feelings of the people of Punjab and I think that the wounds of the people have further deepened. In this regard I would like to submit that among other eminent columnists Shri Khushwant Singh, and Shri Nikhil Chakraborty who contribute to leading Newspapers have condemned it. Through you, I would like to appeal to the Punjab Government to release him at the earliest. He is very old, and ill and should be released. He is working for the welfare of

Construction of "Circarama"

8066. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to construct 'Circarama' (360 theatre) at New Delhi as in Disney World (USA) to depict important tourist spots in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c), There is no such proposal under consideration of the Central Department of Tourism.

Advertisements to small and big Newspapers

8067. SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are releasing advertisements to small and big newspapers in the ratio of 60:40;

(b) if so, the number of advertisements released to small and big newspapers and the ratio thereof;

(c) Whether the Government have recently changed the circulation criteria for categorisation of Newspapers as small and big; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS)

: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The circulation criterion for categorisation of newspapers as small, medium and big was last revised with effect from 1. 4. 1989 as follows:

Small Up to 25,000 copies

Medium Above 25,000 and up to 75,000 copies.

Big Above 75,000 copies.

[Translation]

Solar Energy In Gujarat

8068. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUDH: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES, be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for generating solar energy in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details of the villages included in this scheme, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b). Under the demonstration and extension programmes of Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, solar energy system for various applications such as lighting, water pumping, water heating, cooking and power generation have been installed in all States/UTs including Gujarat. About 22000 such systems have been installed in several villages in various districts of Gujarat includ-

[Sh. G.M.C. Bala Yagi]

create competition and to stop exploitation.

4. The Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Union may also be given reasonable export order and the State Government should come forward to provide marginal money for the Cooperative Union.
5. The Tobacco Board should be reconstituted to increase the representation of the growers.

We request the hon. Minister to immediately intervene in the matter and call for an emergency meeting of Tobacco Board and the growers representatives along with the representatives of political parties to review the situation and to decide the future course of action.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, without repeating what my colleague, Shri Venkateswarlu Ummareddy has stated, I would like to seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister.

Is it not a fact that the Tobacco Board and the Ministry of Commerce did not have a clear perception of the likely quantum of export of tobacco from our country this year? The hon. Minister while replying to a question which he answered on 23 August, 1991 to my colleague, Shri S.M. Laljan Basha, had stated that the estimated likely quantum of tobacco that may be exported is 74 million kgs.

The hon. Minister for Commerce stated on the floor of Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 1991 that the Government is estimating that the domestic requirement will be 73 million kgs and the likely quantity of tobacco

that may be exported this season will be 85 million kgs. In the matter of four months, the Government has thought that the export quantum will be enhanced by another 10 million kgs.

You are well aware, Sir, as a *Kisan* that every other section is trying to exploit the farmers of this country and in this particular case it is the Commission and omission of the Tobacco Board that is primarily responsible for this sorry state of affairs which my colleague has narrated.

The hon. Minister when he came to Guntur, he said, 'our tobacco should not be sold at less prices than the tobacco from the other countries and we are happy that he has taken steps to enhance the minimum export price which will also have a bearing on the price that will be realised by the growers. Earlier our tobacco was being sold to the erstwhile Soviet Union at far less prices when compared to tobacco from other countries. We are happy that you have enhanced it by 50 per cent. for different grades. For example, you have increased it from Rs. 40/- to Rs. 63/- in one grade and, of course, similar increase in other grades also. In this connection, when the cost of cultivation has increased, as my friend has said, what difficulty the trade has to agree to pay the price which is not less than the last year's price, which you promised in the last week of December at Guntur.

In respect of Russia, it is 50 per cent, in respect of U.K. it is much more and in respect of Gulf countries - my information is subject to correction - it is more than Rs. 100 per kg. So, while that is the situation, there should be no problem for the Indian exporters or the cigarette manufacturers or the big companies to pay at least the price they have paid last year. Though you have given some figures that earlier it was Rs. 17 and last year they have given Rs. 33/-, which is all right. But have they given out of love? Do you

mean to say they have incurred a loss? I think, certainly not because of the readjustment of the value of the rupee in the international market because the dollar was fetching more rupees and inspite of paying the higher price to the farmers, these exporters, these big companies, these multinationals, the cigarette manufacturers were getting huge profits and very handsome profits also. This year with your benevolent decision of increasing the minimum export price, they have been benefitted. Myself and Dr. D. Venkateswar Rao met you and we discussed for a long time with you in your chamber. You talked to the Tobacco Board officials also. My submission is at present the traders have come forward to purchase at Rs. 32.50 per kg. for F-1 grade. Correspondingly, for F-2, F-3, and down grades, this will be far less - Rs. 26, Rs. 25, Rs. 24 and like that. The average price that can be realised will be far less than what the farmers had got last year. After all, it is the London Chamber of Commerce which has asked the Tobacco Board that they will be requiring so much huge quantity of tobacco this season, and believing their word, without any firm order, without any firm commitment, you have simply asked the farmers to raise more tobacco. Why should the Tobacco Board fail in bringing to task the London Chamber of Commerce and the exporters to U.K. and tell them that because they have given their requirement, the Government has asked the farmers to raise more tobacco? Why should the farmers of our country suffer? If they deceive our farmers like this, next year they will not be able to get tobacco from our country. Why not the Board say that? Why not the Government take them to task? Of course, I do not say that the Government has not done anything, but still more efforts are required to be made. You should say that Rs. 32.50 should be not for F-1 grade but it should be the average price. That means the upper grade must get higher price and the lower grade should get lower price, but the average price

should in no case be less than Rs. 33 or Rs. 32.50.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: I am just seeking some clarifications, Sir.

ITC said they want 54 million kg., the National Tobacco Company said they want 13 million kg. and the Golden Tobacco Company said they want 6 million kg. But what is that they have purchased till now? They have not purchased even twenty five per cent of their stated requirement. They want to purchase at very very throw away prices. Their profits are bulging but they want to cheat the farmers, they want to exploit the farmers. The farmers will not tolerate this kind of exploitation. I submit to the hon. Minister to use his good officers. If he still exerts some more pressure on the Traders Through Tobacco Board, they have to purchase. They have no other option.

There is an Andhra Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union, Ongole which has played a constructive role in times of some crisis which had occurred earlier also. They have entered the market, they have paid higher price for the tobacco. Just because of their entry, because of their participation, these big companies also are forced to pay higher price. In that, way, to some extent, the interests of the tobacco growers were protected by the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Cooperative Union, Ongole. The Tobacco Board has recommended to you that out of the balance ten thousand tonnes order to be placed by Russia at least two thousand tonnes should be given to the A.P. Tobacco Growers. Of course, in our presence, you also instructed the concerned officials to use their good offices to see that that Russian Federation is given two thousand tonnes. I

[Sh. Sbandareeswararao Vadde]

once again urge upon you, through the Chairman, that that should materialise.

You were also earlier somehow not convinced about establishment of tobacco trading corporation. When there is Tea Board, there is Tea Trading Corporation why you are were not so agreeable to setting up of a Tobacco Trading Corporation? Tobacco products are giving Rs. 2600 crores to your exchequer and you are getting nearly Rs. 200 crores to Rs. 300 crores in foreign exchanges. Always only at times of crisis, the farmers make a lot of noise and then, to some extent the Tobacco Board or the STC may enter the market. But there is no fool-proof arrangement to protect the interests of the tobacco growers, because of whose efforts you are getting so much income. This is the item which is giving highest revenue to the Central exchequer - Rs. 2600 crores per year. Then why do you leave it to the mercy of the traders? Why don't you either amend the Tobacco Board Act or set up a Tobacco Trading Corporation to take up commercial operations, commercial purchases? Already we are having all necessary infrastructure with our Tobacco Board. The officials are there; the scientists are there; the technicians are there. Very eminent people are there. You utilise their services. That will definitely help the tobacco growers in coming over certain crisis.

Sir, I also want to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. The recommendations of the Tobacco Board for minimum export price is approved by the Government. It is O.K. But why do you ask the C.A.C.P. people to give minimum support price? You know that this C.A.C.P. recommended the minimum support price of Rs. 16 per kilogram. As a wheat farmer, as a rice producer you know that their recommendations are not at all relevant to the factual position. They proceed on statistics which were col-

lected five years back and for that they will simply add some percentages and do some calculations and they will then recommend some price to the Government. When you think it fit that the Tobacco Board is competent to recommend minimum export price, why do you not delete the power of recommending minimum support price from the C.A.C.P. and ask the Tobacco Board to recommend the minimum support price? It should be done because they are the people who are at the root of the problem; because they are on the field and they will be in the best know of the things as to what is the cost of cultivation, what are the sufferings of the farmers, what is the average production in different areas. They are the best judges rather than the C.A.C.P. which is located in Delhi. This organisation is absolutely - this is not the forum and you do not give me the time and this is not the right occasion; but I am very confident with my little experience with this organisation - not competent nor it is doing any service to the farmers. I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to bring a change in respect of the minimum support price.

I want to bring one more point to the attention of the Government and to the notice of the hon. Minister. You have increased the minimum export price by 50 per cent. But my information is that the Russians have agreed to pay 8 per cent more than the minimum export price which the Government has recommended. In view of these facts my humble submission is that you must - and you should, because you have promised (*Interruptions*) he has kindled the hopes of the farmers, of the tobacco growers that they will get a price not less than the price they have arrived last year - do something. I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Commerce Minister to see that the average price of Rs. 33 is given to the farmers and until such time the farmers will not be satisfied. This year - unlike in the previous year - the main responsibility is on year shoulders, because it is on

your advice they have grown more tobacco. That means, the Tobacco Board, which is your body - which is our body - is responsible for this enhanced tobacco production. You must not shirk your responsibility and should see that the average price of Rs. 33 per kilogram is given. With these words I thank you for giving me the opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. Minister be pleased to reply?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the hon. Members, Dr. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, Shri Balayogi and Shri V. S. Rao for raising this subject and calling the attention of the Government to the resentment amongst tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh.

Much of what we have discussed today was discussed in my office when Shri Rao and his colleague Shri Venkateswara Rao called on me a couple of days ago. I run an open office. There is no secret in what we do. In his presence. I spoke to the Tobacco Board; I spoke to various officials; accepted some of their suggestions and gave certain instructions. Actually, among the three Members, at least Shri V.S. Rao knows what I have done in the last few days and he is fully aware of the steps we are taking.

Let me deal with some of the issues which have been raised. The first is about the crop size. Last year the size of the crop was 89 million kilogrammes. There was a sudden spurt in demand last year. Russians bought more than what they had envisaged in the Protocol and, also, international prices went up sharply as against an average price of only Rs. 14.69 in 1990 and a price which never exceeded Rs. 17 in any year in the past.

Last year the average price at the end of the season which is approximately 19 or 20 weeks was Rs. 33 per kg. The prices of tobacco in Kamataka are much higher than

the prices in Andhra Pradesh because Karnataka grows tobacco in light soils and that has a wider international market. Even in Andhra Pradesh, Sir, the problem is not about all tobacco, it is about black soil tobacco: the light soil tobacco is still being sold today, eight auction platforms are functioning and the farmers are getting an excellent price for light soil tobacco and the hon. Members are aware of that. But the problem is about black soil tobacco. So, when prices go up, we are aware, Sir, there is a natural tendency for farmers to say that 'since prices have gone up this year, let me grow tobacco next year'. The demand from farmers, they aggregate demand for registration came to 133 million kg this season. The Board initially recommended 145 million kg. crop size. We intervened and said, there are developments in the Soviet Union which are rather worrying and therefore, it may not be wise to have such a large crop size and it is at the instance of the Ministry of Commerce that the size was reduced and finally what was authorised was 124.83 million kg. Eventually, the crop turns out to be about 122 million kg.

But let me recall what happened in this hon. House on the 23rd of August 199. One hon. Minister said, and I quote him: "The traders have brought a lot of pressure on the Tobacco Board as well as on the Production Committee to increase the quantity of tobacco to be produced which is detrimental to the interests of the farmers. Will the Government re consider and take appropriate steps to see that this original target of 120 million kg is adhered to? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider etc. etc." This request that 'we should adhere to a target of 120 kg alone' was made by none other than Shri V.S. Rao.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy the hon. Minister referred to it. In the short time which was given by you I did not mention that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You come to the point.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: I am coming to the point. It is in the Tobacco Board it was resolved for 120 million kg and later the Production Committee has enhanced this to 145 million kgs whereupon during that Supplementary Question I asked your goodself to consider to reduce this production target because that 145 million kg would play havoc with the tobacco growers. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Therefore, Sir, he asked me: "Will you adhere to the original plan of 120 million kgs? I said, 'Yes, we will keep in mind the demand by the growers for registration, people who want to grow tobacco, I will keep in mind what is possible to be sold in the country and exported, and I will fix the final crop size and the final crop size has been fixed more or less at 120 million kg, we fixed it at 124 million kg and the eventual crop size is only 122 million kgs. Now, Mr. V.S. Rao cannot turn round and ask me: "Why did you fix 120 million kgs?" 120 kgs. has been fixed based upon what growers demanded, what export potential was there and what can be sold within the country and I think the decision to fix it at 120 million kg. was right and I think Mr. V.S. Rao was right in asking me to fix it at 120 million kg.

At that time what did we contemplate as export? In 1990-91 the export of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco was 47,000 tonnes. In 1991-92 the export was 50,438 tonnes. Out of 50,438 tonnes, Russia, the erstwhile Soviet Union accounted for about 16,000 or 17,000 tonnes. This year, Russians have signed a protocol for 25,000 tonnes. If we sell that 25,000 tonnes, which is approximately 40 per cent of what we intend to export, there would be no problem at all. In fact, there was no problem until the seventh week of auction. Until the seventh week of auction, the average price was Rs. 30.37 this year,

compared to only Rs. 30/- last year. So, until the seventh week, there was no problem at all. The Russians came to India in the seventh week and it was hoped that they would contract for 25,000 tonnes. Unfortunately for reasons which are rather well-known, they contracted only for 15,000 tonnes. This immediately sent a signal which has brought about a decline in prices. They have not contracted for the remaining 10,000 tonnes and what is even more disconcerting is that they have not even opened letters of credit for the 15,000 tonnes and I am working on it to see how I can get over the difficulty. I shared all this with Mr. V.S. Rao. The problem is a temporary problem. The problem is, we are export-dependent on the Soviet market and we have been so far the last several years. This is not something which I can overcome in one year. Over a period of time, we will widen our market, but it cannot be done overnight. The problem is a temporary problem. If the Russians open letters of credit for the 15,000 tonnes which they have contracted and they further contract for the remaining 10,000 tonnes, he knows. I know and everybody knows, the market will shoot up. The problem now is of trying to help the Russians to tide over their present difficulties. While I cannot give the details at the moment, we have sent messages to the Russian Government proposing certain ways of overcoming the difficulties, offering to help them to contract for the remaining 10,000 tonnes and offering to help them open letters of credit for the 15,000 tonnes they have contracted. I have just got a message that the Russians are coming. They will, perhaps, come to Delhi and proceed to Guntur and it is possible this problem will be overcome.

Sir, as far as the prices are concerned, as I said, from the seventh week onwards, there has been a decline in the price. In fact, Sir, in the last week, at my instance the Tobacco Board convened an emergency meeting of the Tobacco Board. Dr. Um-

mareddy Venkateswarlu in one breath refers to the Tobacco Board in the third person and in another breath he refers to a resolution passed in the Tobacco Board. He is Tobacco Board, he is a member of the Tobacco Board. What is Tobacco Board? Tobacco Board is not building, cement, mortar, brick and door frames. Tobacco Board is the collective body of members. He is the Member elected by this House to be a member of the Tobacco Board. It is a collective body. So, if the Tobacco Board takes a decision, he cannot distance himself from that decision if it is a bad decision and he cannot associate himself with that decision if it is a good decision. He is a member of the Tobacco Board and I am the Minister in-charge of the Tobacco Board. But, we want the Tobacco Board to function as a body, we do not want it to function as some kind of a consultative committee to the Chairman. In fact, in my first meeting I said, 'you are a collective body, you must function in a collective capacity, you must take decisions collectively.'

Now, Sir, what has happened in the last week? The Tobacco Board, has grower members, trader members and they have met together. I think, many of them are known to each other for several years. Some of them even come from the same village and they talk to each other. Finally, the traders have offered to give, for F1 grade, Rs. 32.50 per kg. I agree that the average does not work to exactly Rs. 32/-. On the basis of Rs. 32.50 per kg. and proportionate prices, my calculation shows - and I may be wrong by a few decimal points here and there - that the average will work out to something like Rs. 31.20.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATEWSWARLU: Sir, since the hon. Minister has mentioned about the Tobacco Board and its decision taken on the 23rd, I would like to make a point very clear. *Suo motu* the traders have not come forward to offer Rs. 32.50. We including all the repre-

sentatives from the grower community as well as the trader community, have worked out the costs taking MEP as the base, deducting all the losses and also the expenses and finally arrived at a figure of Rs. 32.50 as a workable price. The 8 per cent being offered over and above the MEP by the Russian country is deleted towards the profit margin to the traders. So, when a resolution has been passed that the Tobacco Board would intervene and purchase based on MEP at the rate of Rs. 32.50 duly seeking permission from the Union Government, then the ITC has come forward to purchase at Rs. 32.50 per kg. of F 1 grade but not all the other grades. Hence, it is not an average price. Then, the other trader-Members who were also present there, also came forward saying that if the ITC has come forward, then we would also purchase it at Rs. 32.50 Till such time, they did not come forward. We, therefore, request the Union Minister to see the implication in it. When it has been decided that the Tobacco Board will also be there in the market, then they came forward. If the Tobacco Board is not going to be there, I am damn sure that these prices will not prevail. Even if they are going to offer these prices and that too only for F.1 grade, for a few days later they will not stick on to these prices and the cultivators. the growers will once again be thrown at the mercy of the trading community.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: These are rather alarmist statements. I said very clearly that the offer for F.1 grade is Rs. 32.50 I also said that for the lower grades, it is proportionately less. If you take a price of Rs. 32.50 for F.1 Grade and if you work out proportionate or suitably - adjusted price for the lesser grades, I said, according to my calculation, the average price depending upon the quantities which arrive at the auction platform would be approximately Rs. 31.20. This is what I said. I do not think the hon. Member has found anything wrong with what I have said. The point is, is this Rs. 31.20 a good

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]

price? If you compare it with the Minimum Support Price worked out by the Committee on Agricultural Costs and Prices, it is much more. As I have said in my statement, the CACP price is only in the range of Rs. 16/- per kg. I am not saying that this is the last word on the subject.

Now, the point is there is a body which has worked out the cost of cultivation and has commanded a price. The price which is offered is much higher than the CACP price. I am not saying that I would support the tobacco growers selling their tobacco at CACP price. I know that these prices are depressed prices and they have no relevance really to what is happening on the ground. But you cannot ignore it as a totally irrelevant figure. It is a point to start the discussion. The minimum guaranteed price is something which the tobacco growers and the tobacco trades arrive at by way of an informal understanding before the start of the season. The range of that price is from Rs. 18.50 to Rs. Rs.21.50 per kg. That again does not quite adequately reflect the full cost of cultivation. But again you cannot dismiss it as totally irrelevant. Keeping this as a been-mark, the price of Rs. 32.50 offered for F.1 grade today leads, in my calculation, to an average of approximately Rs. 31.20...

SHRI SOBHA NADEESWARA RAO
VADDE: It will be far less.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Unless you give me a different calculation. Given the fact that the Russians have so far not been able to open the LCs or contract for the remaining 10,000 tonnes, I think it is a good starting point for auctions to resume. It is a good starting point for auctions to resume. That is why I made an appeal last Saturday to the tobacco growers that those who are willing to sell their tobacco may come to the auction platform and today the auction platform

resumed in the black-soil area and at least - in one auction platform I am told by noon or at 1 O' Clock today that 350 bales of tobacco have been brought and have been sold. Now we are not pressurising the farmers to sell their tobacco today. In fact, if you will kindly allow me to place the figures, last year by about this time 75 million kilograms were sold. This year we have sold only 53 million kilograms. Why? It is because the Tobacco Board has advised the growers to proceed with caution. We are not pressurising them to sell the tobacco. But we think that with the present offer, it is possible to resume the auctions and restore normalcy. In the next few days, it is my hope that Russians will open LCs for 15000 tonnes of tobacco and contract for the remaining ten thousand tonnes of tobacco.

One other point is about the Tobacco Board doing market intervention operations. I have allowed the Tobacco Board to do it provided it has the funds to do it. Tobacco Board is a collective body. If they have the funds, if they wish to enter into market intervention operation, they need not ask for my permission. In fact, that is not the way I function. I want the Tobacco Board to take autonomous decisions. When they ask me for Rs. 50 crores. interest free... (Interruptions) You have asked your clarifications. Please allow me to continue.

If they ask for Rs. 50 crores interest free, I would immediately turn to the Finance Minister and ask for Rs. 50 crores interest free. These are not matters which can be decided overnight. We will look into the matter. The resolution has come to us. We will look into the matter. But it will not solve the problem today, tomorrow or the day after. On the contrary, what I have done is, I anticipated the problem because of the larger crop size this year, and several weeks ago, I spoke to the Reserve Bank and we have persuaded the banks to enlarge credit. For example, the United Commercial Bank which

was not in the picture earlier, has come forward to extend a credit of Rs. 100 crores. I am told, it has already advanced approximately fifty crores of rupees.

Sir, the key really is the export markets. This is what I want to conclude with. Hon. Member referred to MEP. Why did I raise MEP by fifty per cent? I gave him the reasons. I do not think he wants me to tell him the reasons publicly. We raised the MEP for a particular reason. He acknowledged to me that it is a good reason. He congratulated me for raising the MEP. But MEP is relevant only if exports take place. MEP has no relevance if export does not take place. Only when the Russians open the LC, MEP is relevant. MEP is relevant only if they contract for the remaining ten thousand tonnes. I am ready with MEP. The moment the Russians open LC for 15000 tonnes and contract for ten thousand tonnes, you will find the wisdom of raising the MEP. MEP in a vacuum has no meaning. Today what we are trying to do is, Since we are export-dependent, we have been export-dependent on the Russian market, we are export-dependent elsewhere also, we have to persuade the Russians to come and open the LC and enter into further contracts, I am confident that this could be done in the next few days. We are straining every nerve. We are using every facility that is available to us to persuade the Russian to come into the market.

Yet another thing must be kept in mind that Indian tobacco has always received the price far lower than comparable tobacco prices of other countries in the world. In fact, at Guntur, at the Tobacco Board meeting, I raised this question. I have now asked for a study of international prices not only of tobacco but of tea, coffee and tobacco to find out why Indian primary products do not receive full value as the products of other countries. For example, our price is one-third of the US tobacco price, our price is one-half of the Zimbabwe's price. Today

world prices have collapsed and crashed and because of last year's high price every country has increased the acreage. Prices have collapsed. Zimbabwe has devalued its currency price by 35 per cent. It is offering at a cut rate price. If prices of tobacco of other countries come down, Indian prices also come down correspondingly. That is a larger question, one has to keep in mind. The fact that we are in an international environment, competitive environment. Nobody sitting in Delhi or anywhere for that matter can assure a price. In fact, hon. Member Shri Rao said that I had assured a price. I may read out from the discussion held on the 23rd August. What I said was, "this high price is indeed very good for the tobacco growers". But one cannot say in terms of intense competition in the world that the price will always remain at Rs. 33. He did not demur then. He understood the logic of this argument.

SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA RAO
VADDE: I referred to your assurance at Guntur.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I still maintain that. I cannot go to Guntur and say that I assure you, I will not maintain the price of last year. All I can say is I assure you that I will do my best to maintain the price. I give you that assurance even today. I am doing everything possible to maintain the price. I am doing everything possible to get a fair price. But I cannot guarantee a price in an intensely competitive environment and in an intensely competitive product.

He asked me to place orders upon the Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Union and instructions were issued. He told me that STC should buy and instructions were issued to STC in his presence. STC has been told to buy. Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Union has been told, they can buy and we will try to see whether we can ask the Russians to place some contract with them. Everything possible is being done. And it is

all a Government can do. But in a world of intense competition, when international prices are low and when we have a serious difficulty with the Russian contract, I would appeal to hon. Member not to politicise this matter. In fact, there is a certain amount of politicisation going on in Andhra Pradesh. And that I think is not good for the farmer. If the tobacco lies in the farm or in the barn or in the yard for too long, it becomes dry, it will lose weight and it will fetch a lower price. You are aware of this, it is the case with any other crop. I am not pressurising them to sell. But I think those who are ready to sell, they must be allowed to come and sell. We must not take into account unit value alone. Take farm return, for 89 million Kgs at an average price of Rs. 33 and 120 million Kgs this year at an assumed average price of Rs. 32. Look at the total income which the farming community gets today. You cannot look at unit value per Kilogram. You have to look at it as farm value, farm income. And I am confident that prices will stabilise, if we can get over the temporary difficulties. I assure the House, once again, that we are determined to do everything possible to stabilise prices and I appeal to hon. Members to cooperate in helping the farmers get remunerative prices.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: From what I gather, they seem to be agitated about the fact that the gap between the Auction purchase price and the export price was very big thereby the farmer was losing and the trader was gaining. You have not said anything on that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think there is a mistake here. The minimum export price includes transportation charges, buying expenses, Tobacco Board Service charges, re-drying, stripping, reading charges, handling loss, carrying cost, F.O.B. charges etc. They have calculate it. From the MEP, these expenses are deducted. Then 28 per cent is deducted as processing loss, then value

realisation on by-products is added and they have given me a calculation by which, according to them, it is possible to pay a price of Rs. 34 to Rs. 34.75, on a no loss on profit basis to the trader. Now the trader is today offering Rs. 32.50. If I understand my learned friends, their case is that the trader can go upto Rs. 34.75 and why is he offering only Rs. 32.50? The answer is two-fold.

Firstly, Rs. 34.75 is on no loss no profit basis. No trader is going to offer a price without a profit for himself, So one has to provide a profit margin. Secondly, as I said a little while earlier, this is relevant only if the Russians pick up the Tobacco and open an LC. This MEP is relevant really for the Russian contract and that accounts for 40-50 per cent of our exports. The moment the Russians open the contract for the remaining 10,000 tonnes, and open an LC for 15,000 tonnes, I cannot give an assurance, but I am confident that the prices will improve over Rs. 32.50. I am waiting for that to happen. I hope it will happen today; I hope it will happen tomorrow. But we are doing everthing possible to make sure that happens.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO
VADDE: Sir, Just only one thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, we have already spent an hour on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the Bill to be introduced.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA (JADAVPUR): SIR, I HAVE A POINT ON THE INTROUCTION OF THIS BILL. SEVEN YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE BILL WAS MADE INTO AN ACT.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you objecting to the introduction of this Bill?

[English]

Birth and Death Rates

*795. SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA RAOVADDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative details of approximate birth, death and infant mortality rates in rural and urban areas as on January 1, 1992;

(b) the reasons for the wide gap in such rates between rural and urban areas; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the situation in rural areas in physical and monetary terms?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIM.L.FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). Annual estimates of birth, death and infant mortality rates for rural and urban areas as on January 1, 1992 are not yet available. However, the latest estimates (provisional) of the birth, death and infant mortality rates for rural and urban areas as available from the Sample Registration System relate to the year 1990 and are as follows:-

	<i>Birth Rate</i> (per 1000 population)	<i>Death Rate</i> (per 1000 population)	<i>Infant Morality Rate</i> (per 1000 live births)
Rural	31.5	10.4	86
Urban	24.4	6.7	51

Although increasing emphasis is being laid on improving the quality and out-reach of health and family welfare services in the rural areas, the situation in the urban areas is better on account of relatively better socio-economic conditions greater awareness of the need to practice contraception and to avail of the family welfare and health care facilities and easier accessibility to these services.

Health and family welfare services are provided in the rural areas through a wide network of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centers and Community Health Centres. As on 31.12.1991, there are 1,31,385 Sub-Centres, 22,328 Primary Health Centres and 1955 Community Health Centres in these areas. Besides, about 6 lakh trained dais and 3.35 lakh Village Health Guides are also working in the rural areas.

It is proposed to establish 759 Primary

Health Centres and 259 Community Health Centres during the year 1992-93 under the Minimum Needs Programme. The cost of establishment of these institutions is met from the budgets of the respective States/ Union Territories.

Anti-Rabbies Vaccine

*796. SHRIMATISHEELAGAUTAM:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the Centres Institutes manufacturing anti rabbies vaccine in the country;

(b) the number of such vaccines manufactured during 1991-92, State-wise;

(c) the number of reported deaths due to the non-availability of this vaccine during 1991-92 State-wise; and

seen the Government vs. the Governors; the Elected vs. the President. And now we are witnessing - it is not happening in just one part of the country but it is happening in number of parts of country - wherein the State Legislatures or - with your permission - Chairmen of those State Legislatures are now coming into a point of conflict with various judicial pronouncements in various parts of the country. There is what I call this phenomena, this total lack of restraint, a restraint on power wherever repository of that power may be, what we are witnessing is a total lack of restraint on power and that restraint which ought to be integral to authority because these are such fundamental important questions that this Assembly can no longer ignore them. Therefore, I would like to make three or four recommendations to you and I say with great caution - I am mindful of what I am doing - I believe that the time has come wherein you as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha must now take an initiative and I will put - as proposals to you - three or four initiatives that, I think, ought to be taken. Firstly, I submit, in all humility these suggestions to you that you should convene a meeting of the leaders of this very Assembly to discuss these aspects with them. Secondly, I think, you ought to discuss with the leaders this larger question of the relationship between the Legislatures and the Judiciary also simultaneously, what we are witnessing as the Union and the State relations, not as the Constitution has laid down because the Constitution can be flouted by observing the letter of the law but flouting the spirit of the laws and I do not want to cite instances. Thirdly, I think, privileges of Legislatures - this was the submission made earlier. The time has come when we can no longer avoid a codification of the privileges of the legislatures. If we leave as vague and undefined and uncodified, then I submit that possibly such difficulties will continue to happen. If you were to convene such a conference of leaders, perhaps after that of the Speakers', and also other Speakers' Conference and discuss this matter there, that will be better. I think this matter now is so important that without encroaching on anyone's rights or duties, unless we address ourselves to this problem, we will see more and more of this. That is my submission.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, I draw your kind attention to this very important matter, and the serious danger to the freedom of the Press. Through you, Sir, I urge upon the Union Government to make a statement regarding the factual position. Mr. Ganesan has not actually died in the police custody but he was subjected to torture, and while narrating it, he collapsed and when he was taken to the hospital, he died. That is the fact. There are orders of arrest of editors and correspondents of dailies *Murasoli* and *murasu* in Tamil Nadu.

Through you, I would also like to draw the attention of the Government to a very unprecedented situation where four important organisations of Press and journalists have decided to boycott the proceedings of the Tamil Nadu Assembly today in protest against the Tamil Nadu Government's attitude towards the freedom of the Press, and the Tamil Nadu Government to muzzling of the Press.

Through you, Sir, I only warn the Government that they should not forget the experience of Emergency when the Press was muzzled and the Government that was in power could not understand the real sentiments and feelings of the people and ultimately they were the sufferers, they were the losers. Even today, the Tamil Nadu Government is denying the freedom of the Press. It is the bedrock on which the edifice of parliamentary democracy is to rest.

I join Shri Jaswant Singhji to urge upon you to take all necessary steps because you are the custodian of this highest law-making body in this country, which is the custodian for preserving and protecting the Parliamentary Democracy. Without freedom of Press, there is no Parliamentary Democracy. I hope you will also agree in this respect. So, I urge upon the Government to come out with a factual statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Acharia Ji. I think Acharia Ji is the culmination of the submissions in the House. After that Mr. Kumaramangalam should complete it and then those on other points will be called.

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

of unemployment is very acute in our country, Where there is excessive manpower, where it is not necessary, I do not at all object if you don't so for fresh employment. But there are certain areas where without additional recruitment, work is differing. But even then, we have a ban on recruitment. Because of this ban on recruitment, even the working of the new coal mines is being affected. Therefore, no ban should be imposed. All vacancies must be filled up. The creation of new posts may be resorted to after careful consideration of all the aspects. But once the posts are created, and vacancies exist, these have to be filled up. Especially when we have such long queues of unemployed people waiting to get job. Why should we not fill the existing vacancies?

I would say that there should be strict monitoring of all laws.

We all have sympathy for the labour. The father of the nation, Gandhi ji started his public life with the trade unions. You know that in Ahmedabad the textile workers were getting rather inhuman and it was Gandhi ji who identified himself with the textile workers and resorted to hunger strike, offered satyagrah and so on to fight their cause. The judgment given by the tribunal going in favour of the trade unions should be appeal against. I would say that when a favourable judgment is given then the Government should not further take up the matter in the High Court or the Supreme Court.

Now, as you know the journalists also do come under the purview of the labour laws. During Shri N.D. Tiwari's time a scheme regarding giving pension to the Press men was announced. It is yet to be materialised. I urge upon the Government to do something in this regard.

I support the demands and at the same time I expect that there would be proper implementation of our progressive labour laws. About the migrant labour laws, I would like to say that a lot of people migrated from Kalahandi in Orissa, and from Bustar in

Madhya Pradesh to Punjab and Haryana. These migrants are facing untold miseries. I would request the Labour Ministry at the Centre to open a cell to take care of the problems of these migrant labourers. A vigil should be kept on these labourers who are migrating from our country to other Middle east Countries.

With these words I support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Labour and I would request the hon. Minister to enlighten us on the points, which I have raised, while replying to the Debate.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I express my appreciation for having given me the opportunity to speak a few words on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour. I rise to oppose these demands.

With regard to employment generation, from the very beginning the policy of the Government is very faulty. Our country is the second largest populated country in the world. Unfortunately, right from the time of Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, the successive Governments have deviated from the advice given by Mahatma Gandhi. After taking deep into the developments that have taken place in various other countries, Gandhi ji advised that we must give the highest priority to the handicaps, small scale sector, medium scale sector and then only we should think about the large scale industries and so on.

But this was not adhered to as result of which today, Sir,, the hon Minister's Annual Report states that the number of unemployed on the live registers at the end of 1991 is around 362 lakhs. When this is the situation how is this Government asking us to believe that one crore jobs will be created every year or 10 million jobs will be created every year?

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jainnagar): There is a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Quorum bell be rung.....

Now, there, is a Quorum,. You may continue now.

SHRI SOBHHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr Chairman, Sir, this Government says that, it will create 10 million jobs every year. Our experience, right at the moment is that, during 1991, the total number of people who were registered with the Employment Exchanges throughout the country were 62 lakhs and the placements were only 2.53 lakhs. When this is the situation, when you are able to provide employment or placement to only around 2 lakh people, how do you make us believe that you will be able to provide employment to 10 million people every year by taking into consideration even the mandays that will be created out of these rural development programmes. Earlier, there were programmes like NREP, RLEGP and so on. Now, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is there. If you include all these things, it will not even come to one-tenth of what you had said Sir, it is a most pathetic situation.

Today, there are more than two crore educated unemployed in this country. By the end of the Eighth Plan, the total number of unemployed people will be around 65 million.

So, I seek a clarification from the hon. Minister when he gives the reply, how the Government is going to provide employment to one crore people every year. Kindly categorically clarify your ideas, your plans. In respect of women's employment the situation is still worse. Now, they constitute nearly 50 per cent of our population and out of that, a very few people are employed.

In Andhra Pradesh, when Telugu Desam Government headed by Shri N T Ramarao was there, it had brought forward a legislation reserving certain percentage of jobs for women who are more fit to undertake such jobs. I suggest to the Government to examine it and bring forward a similar legislation to provide for reservation so that more women

will be able to get employment opportunities.

I am very happy to know from the Annual Report that the number of mandays lost due to industrial disputes, lock-outs, strike, has come down; it is a good phenomenon; we have to welcome such a phenomenon. It will still go down, if the relations between the workers and the management are more cordial; I do not know why the Government is taking so much time?

When the National Front Government was very eager to being forward a Bill providing opportunities for the workers to participates in the management, we found their commitment to that decision, to that suggestion, to that policy, because in a matter of five months, they had conducted a National Seminar at New Delhi; regional seminars were conducted in different parts of the country; and State Labour Minister's Conference was held; and taking into consideration the deliberations in all these forums, the Government had come forward with a Bill; and it was introduced in Rajya Sabha on the 30th May, 1990. It is almost two years. I urge upon the Government to see that this Bill is passed. And if you want to move some amendments, certainly you can do that, but don't delay bringing of the Bill into the form of an Act. The workers must also understand the problems of the Management. Sometimes the picture will not be rosy. When the workers understand the genuine problems of the Management, they may also cooperate with them definitely; they may come down with their demands or they may scale down their demands or they may scale down their demands knowing full well the problems of the Management of the financial difficulties of the management. So, it is high time the Government should come forward with a Bill and pass it. It will go a long way in improving the industrial relations between the workers and the Management.

Regarding the Report on the National Commission on rural labour, I will not go into it at great length. Several hon. Members have already made a mention of it. But, as a Member who had the privilege to work in the Standing Advisory Committee. For agriculture during the National Front

[Sh. Sobhhanadreeswara Rao]

Government regime, I have to say that the Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Sharan Joshi, has recommended to the Government to take minimum wages into consideration as the Government to till such time the minimum wages were not taken into account in the computation of the cost of cultivation. We pleaded and felt once this statutory minimum wages or actual wages paid, whichever is higher are taken into consideration for cost calculation, the Government has a responsibility to implement payment of minimum wages to the agricultural labour. Because the minimum statutory wage for agricultural labourers is taken into consideration in the cost computation, the farmer has got a definite obligation to pay the statutory minimum wage to the agricultural labour and the Government has got a strong point to implement it and I urge upon the Government to implement it both in letter and spirit.

In several agriculturally backward areas the agricultural labourers are not being paid the minimum wages, whereas in agriculturally forward areas usually the labour are being paid much higher wages.

Regarding building and construction workers there are millions of workers throughout the length and breadth of the country who are working in the construction of buildings, dams, canals and in other several nation building activities. They are till now unorganised and some time back they had held a very massive procession and also a Conference in New Delhi and they had even submitted a memorandum to the Union Government. I urge upon the Government to bring forward suitable legislation to protect the interests of those building and construction workers. Some times it may so happen that a worker or a mason who is working on the fourth or fifth floor or even higher flats, falls down due to some accident or collapse of the centering material and loses this life. Now, right at the moment, such people or their families are not helped. So I suggest to the hon. Minister that on the lines of the scheme existing for mine workers in

case of serious accidents, the victims or their families should be helped. I am sure that the hon. Minister who has got a thorough knowledge of the subject would help them. I am sure that he would think over and come forward with a suitable legislation to protect their interests.

In Jaggayapeta in my constituency there are a large number of cement factories because there are abundant limestone reserves and there are also lime stone pulverising units in the Visakha Steel Plant. Due to these (Cement Plants and Pulverising Units) the atmosphere is getting polluted. Air pollution is very great. The workers and the people living in those areas are suffering because of that and I urge upon the hon. Minister to examine the issue and see that an ESI hospital is established in Jaggaiapat for the benefit of those workers and the people.

Right at the moment instead of payment of bonus to all there is some ceiling limit. Only employees who are drawing salaries up to a certain limit are eligible for bonus. I do not understand why it is so. In the private limited companies and in public limited companies the Chairmen and the Managing Directors and other Directors are drawing huge sums in several forms, in the name of perquisites, accommodation, and so on. They are able to draw lakhs of rupees, in addition to so many other benefits, may be in black or in white. I only want to know why the government is restricting the payment of bonus up to a particular level only. The people who are drawing more than that limit, who are also contributing to the growth of the industry, they are also adding to the profits, they are also working hard for the development of that unit or that enterprise and who should they be deprived of the benefit? I urge upon the hon. Minister to seriously think on this matter and to enhance this limit. Even I suggest to the Minister to do away with the limit in respect of eligibility for the payment of bonus to the employees. Also I suggest that bonus should be linked to productivity, to performance. And when a person produces more, when he sincerely works hard, definitely he must be rewarded with higher bonus, more bonus. The

Managers of these enterprises or these industries must be held responsible for the performance of the units. Many a time, we see some IAS Officers are posted to these public sector units. They do not apply their mind. They do not try to understand the problem. And more so, they will not try to solve the problem because they will be expecting some other assignment, their pull and pressure at New Delhi or some other place. The Manager should be there for at least three to five years. Will it not be good if you provide more opportunities to technocrats, engineers or doctors in respect of these units or enterprises which are connected with those skills.? For these you are sending IAS Officers. My suggestion is that you must give adequate time, a minimum period of three to five years, to the Managing Director or the General Manager of a unit. And you can make him held responsible for the performance of the unit. If he faces well, you give him promotion. If he does not prove his merit or capability, he must not be continued there.

Finally I would like to make one point to the hon. Minister about the New Industrial Policy. I fear that it may further worsen the unemployment problem. I do not find fault with the opening of the open door policy as such. But our opening the door should be selective. We should not leave the entire area of industry to the foreign investors. Their objective would be to earn more profits. Definitely their technology is capital intensive technology. As year passes, year after year, their technology is becoming so sophisticated and where a sum of Rs. 100 crores is invested not even two hundred people are getting the jobs. So, let us invite them to such avenues or such areas where we are short of capital and technology. Let us not allow them in such areas where we have enough capacities or near enough capacities, especially consumer goods. Otherwise I fear that instead of taking the country forward for further economic development., it may lead to further reduction of employment because many units may close down. The Government should open a very wide discussion on these very important issues not only with labour but also in all other avenues because the consequences will be far-reaching.

I urge upon the Government, the Minister for Labour in particular, to do this. I also request the Minister to clarify the points which I have mentioned.

SHRIMATI RITA VERMA (Dhanbad):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been a Member of this august House for over very close to less than a year. I have watched the proceedings and listened to the contributions of the distinguished parliamentarians. I have learnt a lot and yet I have a long way to go.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what you call normally here the first contribution from the floor from a junior Member of this august House - jobs or her maiden speech, it is polite but encouraging, at any rate for me. I have been told by my more established colleagues that this House has a tradition to give an uninterrupted occasion to a beginner to make her maiden contribution. I do hope I will benefit from this pleasant and human tradition.

I must, however, confess in all humility that as a professor, I have been a professional speaker for speaking has been my job, and yet there is a difference. Even the brightest of my students constituted a member of my captive audience. Here even the least bright, and I do not mean any disrespect to anybody, among my hon'ble colleagues has the liberty to ignore me, to heckle me or give an attitude of couldn't care less.

I have perused the Annual Report of Ministry of Labour with great interest, but it is a marvel of non-communication. High on self praise, shameless in not admitting non-performance; in other words, there is nothing to enthuse but there is a lot to depress. If they learn to perform better they would have data to report even marginally encouraging things in the next round.

Sir, on the subject matter of the agenda, I must, at the outset go on record that our country must learn to develop an appreciation and respect for working men and women,

As a working women myself in my capacity as a professor. I know the value of dignity of labour. Rather than opting for the

[English]

Winding up of Iffco in Assam

8394. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Farmers Fertilizers Corporation Limited (EFFCO), Assam has made a fairly good sale of its product;

(b) whether the IFFCO has decided to wind up its operation and establishment in Assam; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS(DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to wind up the IFFCO establishment in Assam for the present.

(d) Does not arise.

Prices of Tractors and Power Tillers

8395. SHRI SOBHANA DREESWARARAOVADDE:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of tractors and power tillers being utilised in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring down the prices of 35 H.P. and lesser capacity tractors and power tillers so that they are in the reach of middle class farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF.P.J. KURIEN): (a) No such information is being centrally maintained.

(b) There is no statutory control over the prices of Tractors and power tillers.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Welfare Schemes For Tea Garden Workers

8396. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of tea garden workers in the country;

(b) whether the Government have introduced any welfare schemes for the tea garden woukers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the fund earmarked for 1992-93 for the wilfare schemes for tea garden workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Apprenticeship in Technical Degrees

8397. SHRI SURESHAN AND SWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government

enterprises during the last financial year is Rs. 3038 crores. The amount was meant for raising resources.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Scheme of Public Engineering In
Uttar Pradesh**

8496. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of Public Health Engineering Department of Uttar Pradesh is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

**Utilisation of Bagasse of Paper
Production**

8497. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies were made regarding utilisation of bagasse to produce bio-gas which can be utilised as feed stock into the boilers in sugar factories, after which the fibre inslude can be further utilised for production of paper;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to encourage utilisation of bagasse in paper manufacturing to reduce cutting of trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF.P.J. KURIEN): (a) The Government is not aware whether any studies have been made in this respect.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government have taken following steps to encourage the use of bagasse in paper making:—

- (i) manufacture of writing and printing paper and uncoated kraft paper containing not less than 75% by weight up pulp made from bagasse is exempted from excise duty.
- (ii) paper units, based on use of minimum 75% pulp from bagasse have been exempted from Industrial Licensing provisions.

[*Translation*]

Land Acquired by Coal Companies

8498. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land acquired in Bihar, particularly in Chhotanagpur and Santhal Pargana, by the Central Coalfields Ltd., Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., Eastern Coalfields Ltd. for their projects during the last three years:

(b) the total number of persons displaced by these units during the above period;

would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to what will be the implication, what will be the impact, of the present transaction and the selling down the shares for payment of hundres of crores of rupees, which he had taken from the State Bank of India., Also I want to know its likely impact on the investment made by the small and medium level people who have purchased the shares. Also it is learnt that two subsidiaries of State Bank of India one nationalised bank, and a foreign Bank also involved in such shady transactions. How is that the officers of these selling banks issued bank receipts and pledged to deliver securities to the stock broker? How the stock brokers could collect such an unprecedented and a huge amount of money for speculative purpose? Is it not fact that apart from some officials in the State Bank of India Branch, near that Bombay Stock Exchange, the counterparts in other banks also helped this big bull? What action has been taken by the Government against that person?.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is big bull?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: That is the terminology given to "... .. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not refer the name.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: I did not have any pleasure in mentioning his name. That is why I said, 'big bull'

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name may be deleted from the record.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): This name has been mentioned many times today. You are too late.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can refer a big bull or a big cow or anything but not the name.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: What action has been taken against this person as well as other persons who have subverted the law of the land and succeeded in getting hundreds of crores of rupees for speculative purpose?

A farmer or an ordinary businessman has to fill up many things and even after giving some securities, he is not getting a loan. But here is a man who had taken Rs. 600 crores. How? I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to what is the latest status of the nine Mutual Funds, who are holding part of the equity of some of the public sector undertakings; and also whether forward trading has already taken place even before the shares of these public sector undertakings are yet to be listed. Also how much profit the Mutual Funds are going to make? Who are the people going to benefit from this? Will it be ordinary people of this country or some big people, who are doing such type of Operations? What steps the Government is going to take to see that this type of incident do not re-occur in future.

Only some months back, our Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission inaugurated one Share Brokers' Welfare Association at Vijayawada. Sir, whether you believe it or not, foru Stock Brokers' Association are now functioning in Vijayawada city alone. That is how a large number of people are coming forward now to invest in the industrial enterprises. And this is a very critical time when the investors hope should not be dashed. The Government should have come down with an iron hand against these people, however big they may be, and against the bank officials or whomever are the officers who have colluded with these type of people mercilessly. We would like to know what stringent steps he is taking and clarify regarding the questions which we have raised. Thank you, sir.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): We can only submit to the Chair and if the Chair permits, we can put the questions.