

also received complaints to this effect. These complaints are not baseless, they are true to a large extent. The Central Government have drawn the attention of the State Governments towards it several times. In regard to the submission made by the hon. Member, the Government would again draw the attention of the State Governments towards it so that the underground water may be utilized properly and the farmers may be benefited.

[English]

MR SPEAKER The question is on utilisation of rain water, not on anything else. Please bear this in mind.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE From the reply of the hon. Minister it is evident that only 50 per cent of the utilisable water is being utilised, even less than that. Also, it is a fact that because we could not control and harness this water every year we are losing Rs. 100 crores worth of crops due to floods and droughts. In view of these facts, will the Government take necessary steps to implement the scheme that was suggested very long back by the late Dr. K. L. Rao for linking the Ganga and the Cauvery rivers where the available water could be put to the best use so that it will lead to the prosperity of this country? And as a part of it, will the Government clear the Polavaram project proposal from Andhra Pradesh linking the rivers Godavari and Krishna to utilise the rain water? What is the role of the Central Government in helping the State Government to take up such schemes?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA Sir, the linking of rivers had been suggested in various forms by various people. One of our very distinguished scientists and our former Minister, Dr. K. L. Rao, had made a suggestion, which was examined in detail. And then it was found impracticable in view of the very high cost involved and also because of various geographical features. But none the less the linking of rivers becomes the only answer to water shortages in various river basins. Therefore, the National Water De-

velopment Agency has started the work of linking the river basin, firstly in the Peninsular India and secondly of the Himalayan rivers. The Himalayan rivers cannot be linked, technically because of geographical reasons with the southern rivers. Therefore, these two separate projects have been undertaken. And I am sure that in course of time we will be able to link these river basins so that the water from the water surplus areas can be transferred to the water shortage areas.

As far as Polavaram project is concerned, this is a project which is useful and which is being implemented. And we are paying full attention to that.

SHRI PALAK M. MATHEW Sir, in each State there is very big variation in the availability of rain water. For example from District to District. In Kerala, especially in the hilly and terrain district of Idukki, there is no water at all now in most areas. Will the Government consider a scheme for linking the areas of surplus water supply and the areas of heavy drought? There should be a scheme for the storage of rain water in the areas where there is surplus and then linking those areas with the areas where there is drought.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA It is true that in Kerala there are areas which have excess rainfall and in the watershed areas there is shortage of water. Therefore, a study was undertaken to divert the waters of the west flowing rivers to the east. There are certain problems, which are being sorted out and the areas that the hon. Member have mentioned are receiving special attention from us.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question in regard to the matter about which the hon. Minister has considerable information. A large part of land in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. (Interruptions)

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (d). Production of feature films is predominantly in the Private Sector. All films intended for public exhibition in India are required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification. The films are examined by the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the Guidelines issued thereunder. According to these guidelines issued thereunder. According to these Guidelines, while examining films for certification, the Board ensures *inter-alia* that visuals or words contemptuous of racial, *religious* or other groups are not presented.

(e) Does not arise.

Development of Pilgrim Sites in Haryana

6152. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Haryana Government for: development of various pilgrim sites and to complete the renovation and beautification of Jyotisar, Brahma Sarovar, Sannihit Sarovar, setting up of Geeta Centra, development of Sri Krishna museum and to provide facilities for pilgrims and tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government to clear the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCIN-

DIA): (a) and (b) Development of tourism including places of pilgrimage is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Governments on specific proposals on their merit, availability of funds and interse priorities. Based on this criteria, during the year 1991-92, budget accommodation at nine places, one fast food restaurant, publicity support and two tourist complexes have been sanctioned in the State of Haryana. However, no proposals for renovation/beautification of Jyotisar, Brahma Sarovar, Sannihit Sarovar, and development of Sri Krishna museum were received from the State Government.

New Tourism Route in Southern Region

6153 SHRI SOBHANAD REESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop Vijayawada, Kondapalli, Amaravathi, Nagarjunasagar and Hyderabad as a tounsm route; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Development of tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of the Stat Governments. However, Central Department of Tounsm have identified the Hyderabad-Nagarjunasagr-Tirupati circuit for development of tourism in this area.

[Translation]

Aluminium from Ashes of Thermal Power Plants

6154 SHRI DEVENDRA F. ASAD YADAV:
SHRI RAM BADAN:

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU (Narsapur): Sir, let the Minister make a statement..... (*Interruptions*) I want to say that many accidents are going occur. The Railway Minister is not here..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Railway Minister has sent me a letter asking for the permission to make a statement on this. I have allowed him to make a statement. The time will be communicated to you.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): I would like to speak on the previous issue raised by Shri Rao.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rao, is it necessary? It has been beautifully put to me.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: I would only like to supplement what my colleague Shri Rao has said. It is the Tobacco Board which has encouraged the farmers.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It becomes diluted unnecessarily when it has already been put in a very good shape.

SHRI SHOBANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, it is not rice or paddy or wheat. The Tobacco Board itself encouraged the farmers to go in for higher production. Nearly sixty per cent higher production, they had advised the farmers. What I would like to impress upon you is this. Please ask the Commerce Minister to make a statement on this and he should also see that the balance of 15 million kgs. of tobacco is purchased. Sir, the traders and the Ruling Party have joined hands together and they are trying to exploit the farmers by giving lesser prices. They are going to give Rs. 10 crores to the AICC Plenary Session. That is the income of the farmers. It is really very shameful on the part of this Government. They have promised that the price will not be less than the

last year's price. What is that they are doing? Shri Chidambaram came here and promised that the price will in no time be lesser than the last year. Now, 35 per cent lesser price is being given to the farmers. They are exploiting the tobacco growers. Why should this be allowed? Please ask the Minister to make a statement on this and take necessary steps to purchase the tobacco. Please see that the orders are given. You are coming in the way of erstwhile Russian State in not putting the entire order for your own mean ends.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice about the matter of bonded labourers in Maharashtra.

Though the Government seems to be encouraging for the release and rehabilitation of the bonded labourers yet you will be shocked to learn that in one of the nationalised banks – Bank of Maharashtra – this practice is followed there since long. In spite of the repeated requests from the authorised union of the bank employees and local MP, the bank management is dilly-dallying with the subject. More than hundred men and women are employed in this bank since 1973 and they are just getting a meagre fixed pay upto Rs. 150/- per month for the last twenty years. Even the income of the beggars on the street is also more than Rs. 15/- per month. These people of fixed pay are working there for the last twenty years.

I urge upon the Finance Minister to look into the matter very seriously and end this injustice immediately and continue the services of those unfortunate, exploited employees in full-fledged and regular scale and provide all other facilities as given to all other regular employees.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to

uled Tribes and who are the hilly people. He should come forward voluntarily and do the needful for Orissa people.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words on this important Demands pertaining to the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

We all have to feel very sorry because we have to bear with the fact that nearly fifty per cent of the illiterates in the entire world are in our country itself. It is very unfortunate. The latest census figure says that only 52 per cent population is literate. But in this connection, I would like to say one thing. The experience of Kerala has given us lot of hope. When people are involved, defiantly we can achieve certain national goals much more efficiently and in lesser time. Kerala people have shown us the path of full literacy. Certainly, if more funds are provided by the hon. Minister, definitely we can go ahead in the matter towards achieving full literacy. Not only literacy but this Kerala experience has given us hope in regard to tree plantation also. If you involve people, if you involve youth, if you involve voluntary organisations, definitely we can make lot of progress in that direction also. This is one programme where, after we lost our Father of the Nation, the concrete example has been shown to us saying that if we have the people's participation, if we have the involvement of the people, definitely we can achieve larger goals.

Regarding the adult education, I would like to say that CAPART has given lot of funds to various organisations. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether an enquiry has been made as to how best these grants have been used. I would only request the hon. Minister to kindly take necessary steps and see that a sturdy is made and an

enquiry is made and the funds which are provided by you are put to the best use.

Regarding universalisation of elementary education, just now, my hon. friend has said about it and I will not repeat it. But still I would say that though the National Education Policy has said that we will achieve total literacy by 1995, yet I have my own doubt about it. We will be very happy to hear about it from the hon. Minister. What is the Government's assessment in this regard? By what year are we going to achieve this?

Also, the standard in Central Schools is not up to the mark because the students- teachers ratio is very high. And more number of teachers are to be deployed. The ratio should be small so that the students get the maximum of best education.

The objective of the Operation Black Board are good and we certainly agree with them, whether it is providing pucca accommodation or minimum two teachers norm. They are all good. But to what I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is to the fact that we and many Members on the other side are all members of the Zilla Parishads in our own respective districts it has come to our knowledge that these teaching and games equipment that were supplied under this Operation Black Programme, they do not tally to any standard. They are all sub-standard. Unfortunately, these crores of rupees that we are spending on this Operation Black Board, they are going into the drain.

A Committee was appointed and the Committee had revealed very startling findings in our district. So from our experience, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister to kindly make necessary detailed enquiries into this. There may be some people who have some rate contract but the quality of the equipment that are being supplied is very bad. I hope that the Government will

[Sh. Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde]

take suitable steps to improve these conditions.

Regarding the Secondary Education, it is very essential that the standards should be good, the foundation should be strong. Then only the students will have an aptitude to go for higher education or other higher avenues. In this connection, I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that the curriculum should undergo lot of changes. As present, the students are prepared for only non-manual jobs. And the practical training that is being imparted either in polytechnics or in IITs is very very less. Even in the science laboratories, the practical training is not being properly imparted. Somehow, the student is satisfied if he gets a certificate or a degree or a diploma and the teacher is satisfied if he does not make any noise in the class. This is leading to a situation where, even after passing B. E. or L. M. E., or some other course, when the student goes into the wide world, he is not having any confidence that he can stand on his own legs.

My suggestion is that the Government should take more and more measures to impart practical training. Many of us, we go through this graduation whether it is B. Sc., B. A., or B. Com., and many a time, it so happens that those studies that we make in the colleges after spending a lot of money - we are spending a lot of money and the parents are spending lot of money - and those things that we have learnt in the prime of our youth, they have no relevance to our practical needs. And instead of that if you introduce agriculture, if you introduce accounting, if you introduce health some of these things which really matter, sometimes for our daily purposes, daily needs - though I may not get a Government job, being the son of a kisan, I can stand on my own, doing cultivation with more advanced techniques which I had learnt while studying in the

school itself either in the secondary education or in the higher education. So it is high time that the Government should seriously think of these things and bring in sufficient changes in the curriculum.

Among the items to be included in the curriculum, definitely, an element should be introduced that is motivation to self-service and service to the nation. That should be included. Unfortunately, right at the moment, it is lacking. And right from the secondary level, the Government must definitely take necessary steps to inculcate that and also encourage dignity of labour and also the work culture. Unfortunately, right at the moment, we find in several of the factories, barring a few places, that people do not work. They are satisfied by getting their wages and they do not think as to what is their contribution to the factory and through the factory to the nation? This work culture must find a place in the curriculum.

About the Navodaya Vidyalayas, my friend has already mentioned and I will not go at length because the time is very short. The objective of the Navodaya Vidyalayas are very high. But my feeling is, from the experience that we have for the last few years, that this is not sufficient and also you do not have your own examination system. Still, in the Navodaya Vidyalayas, you are following CBSE examination pattern. My suggestion is that the Government must take necessary steps to see that the teachers are recruited into Navodaya Vidyalayas, who have got a motivation, who have got a definite commitment to impart a better education to the students.

In regard to higher education my suggestion to the Government is to kindly introduce the consultancy feature in the engineering colleges, in the agricultural colleges, in the research laboratories, where the research scholars, the students taking up higher education can contribute something for solving some of the problems which the people

of various sections are facing in this country. At the same time some revenue is also derived by these institution towards research service that they they have rendered for solving the problems posed by the customers.

In regard to unemployment through we stand as third biggest country with the science and technology skill and personnel and expertise, unfortunately it is very sad to know that 84000 engineering graduates are unemployed. 45 lakh educated people are unemployed in this country. Of course, I do not mean to say that the Government has got a responsibility to give jobs to all the 45 lakh people. But you must take such measures where you give self confidence to the people who come out of the institutions that they can stand on their own legs. If that is done, you will be doing a great service.

My suggestion is, you kindly introduce the curriculum the sex education and the importance of hygiene. We feel so bad when we hear from certain hospitals about the lack of basic fundamental knowledge among the people of this country even after 45 years of independence. We are going to the twenty first century instead. I certainly recommend to the Government to seriously ponder over this and take necessary steps.

You kindly allot more funds to Sports. Our sister Manata Banerjee is not here in the House now. There are five in distrait tournaments. In that our national events such as Kho Kho and Kabaddi are not included. You give Rs. 10000 each to the best school which comes as the winner. Only five events are covered. In Kabaddi we got the gold medal in the previous Asiad Games. So you kindly include Kabaddi and Kho Kho in these introit events.

Definitely preference should be given to the sports-persons, boys or girls, in the matter

of giving seat in the schools and also higher scholarships.

I appeal to you to kindly give a preferential treatment to the children of single-child family or two-children families. You kindly give preference to such people by means of giving higher scholarship. You kindly that it to the notice of uneducated poor persons in the villages in remote corners that if they confine their families with one or two children, the future of their children will be better and the Government will definitely take care of the educational and health needs of their children. That will act as a very good incentive.

The Anganwadi workers' fate is very very miserable. I appeal to you to kindly increase their honorarium.

I conclude by appealing to the hon. Minister Arjun Singhji to sanction the Science Centre at Vijayawada, my constituency. The Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Municipal Corporation of Vijayawada have agreed to provide the land and some funds as desired by your Government.

SHRIMATIMALINIBHATTACHARAYA (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants. I may say at the very outset that by opposing the Demands, I am not really opposing this particular Demand or wanting the allocations in that particular area to be increased. But my opposition to the Demands means a total opposition to the entire outlook, the entire philosophy that is at work behind these Demands for Grants.

What is this outlook? I do not think it differs very much from the outlook expressed in the General Budget. I recall Shri Manmoham Singh's reply in this House on the 26th March. In his reply, when Members of his own party had urged upon him to say some-

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|-----|---|-------|--|
| 19. | Rashid Market Extn. | 42. | Shastri Nagar 'E' block |
| 20. | Ganesh Park | 43. | Shastri Nagar 'F' block |
| 21. | Brijpuri (Extn.) | | CIVIL LINES ZONE (ADARSH NAGAR GROUP OF COLONIES) |
| 22. | Shashi Masjid | 44. | Kewal Park Extn. |
| 23. | Chawla Park | 45. | Majlid Park Extn. |
| 24. | Brijpuri (old & new) | 46. | Adarsh Nagar Extn. |
| 25. | Baldev Park | | Dehoarding Operations |
| 26. | Baldev Park East | 6525. | SHRI BOLLA BOLLI RAMAIAH: |
| 27. | Shyam Nagar | | SHRI V. SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO VADDE: |
| 28. | Jittar Nagar block A,B,C. | | SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: |
| 29. | Anarkali Part I | | SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: |
| 30. | Anarkali South (Part Block D & E) | | SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: |
| 31. | Anarkali South Extn. | | |
| 32. | Anarkali Garden | | |
| 33. | Radhe Shyam Park | | Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: |
| 34. | Radhe Shyam Park Extn. | | |
| 35. | Gobind Park | | (a) whether the Union Government have directed the State Governments to further intensify the dehoarding operations to bring down the prices of Essential Commodities; |
| 36. | Old Gobindpura & Extn. | | (b) if so, the details of the action taken by the state Governments and the extent to which the prices of Essential Commodities have come down; |
| 37. | Jagatpuri (block A,B,F,G,M) | | (c) the number of persons arrested under the Essential Commodities Act during the past six months in the country; and |
| | ROHINI ZONE (SHASTRI NAGAR GROUP OF COLONIES) | | (d) further steps taken to bring down the prices of Essential Commodities? |
| 38. | Shastri Nagar near Sarai Rohila | | |
| 39. | Shastri Nagar 'C' block | | |
| 40. | Shastri Nagar 'M' block | | |
| 41. | Shastri Nagar 'D' block | | |

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From 1.1.92 to 31.3.92, 17033 raids have been conducted, 521 persons arrested, 955 persons prosecuted, 24 persons convicted and goods worth Rs. 142.82 lakhs confiscated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The rate of inflation during the period 28.12.91 to 21.3.92 has been estimated at 1.1% above the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) As per reports received 1659 persons were arrested.

(d) In addition to the monetary and fiscal steps taken by the Govt., edible oils were imported to increase their availability and steps taken to revamp the P.D.S. The retail prices of cotton sarees/ dhoties have been reduced to the level of July, 1990. The prices of electric bulbs have been reduced. The sale of economy pack quality tea, Janta soap has been commenced. The essential commodities have been spared from additional levies both in the Central Budget as well as in Railway Budget. A Cabinet Committee under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister has been regularly monitoring the prices of essential commodities and taking the necessary steps for keeping the prices under control.

Hiring of HEMM by Coalmines

6526. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hiring of Heavy Earth-moving machinery has been stopped in a phased manner in the coalmines of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. as recommended by the Expert Group appointed by the Government;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether factors responsible for under utilization of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. owned Heavy-earth moving machinery have been eliminated; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Hiring of privately owned HEMM in Eastern Coalfields Limited has been stopped w.e.f. 1.4.1991.

(c) and (d). The factors attributable to low utilisation of HEMM in ECL have been identified and steps have been initiated to improve the utilisation.

Non-payment of Minimum wages to labourers

6527. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of non-payment of minimum wages to labourers under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana have been brought to the notice of the Union Government by some of the State Governments and by Government of Madhya Pradesh in particular;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in the matter;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the rates of wages to the labourers under J.R.Y.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Increased allocation of Public Distribution System commodities, market intervention operations and imports of essential commodities such as edible oil are resorted to, as measures to combat rise in prices, subject to a number of factors such as availability of stock in the Central Pool, foreign-exchange position and international prices of these commodities.

[English]

Housing Scarcity in Vijayawada

6596. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute scarcity of housing units in Vijayawada City;

(b) whether HUDCO has any plan for construction of LIG, MIG and HIG dwelling units there in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Housing is a State subject and State and Union Territory Governments are free to formulate housing schemes in urban areas for various target groups in accordance with the need, their priority and financial resources and through State Plan provisions. Union Government is not aware of reports of acute scarcity of housing units in Vijayawada City.

(b) and (c). HUDCO is not constituted to construct houses, but provides financial assistance to various Housing Board/Local Bodies etc. for the construction of houses as per HUDCO guidelines HUDCO since inception and as on 31.1.92 has sanctioned 15 projects in Vijayawada City in the State of Andhra Pradesh for different schemes. The project cost of these schemes is Rs. 19.30

crores, Out of which HUDCO loan component is Rs. 12.37 crores. These project envisage construction of 10922 residential units and 19643 basic sanitation units.

[Translation]

Dealership of Maruti Cars

6597. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons allotted sale dealership and service centres of Maruti Cars by the Maruti Udyog Limited upto December, 1991;

(b) whether persons of the same family have been allotted more than one agency/ dealership in different names;

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

(d) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to whom dealership and service centres have been allotted out of the total allotment made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNBON): (a) Maruti Udyog Ltd. had 56 dealer companies and 1359 Maruti Authorised Service Stations (MASSs) as on 31.12.1991. Out of these 1359 MASSs, 636 are in operation.

(b) and (c): Assuming that 'family' means immediate family i.e. father, mother, sons and daughters, no two persons of the same family had been allocated more than one dealership in different names, as reported by the Company.

(d) The proprietor of one dealership Company belongs to Scheduled Tribe. This information regarding MASSs is not maintained by the Company.

JACOB): (a) to (d). Information on theft of particular idols is not compiled and monitored by Central agencies. It is for the concerned State police to register cases and take-up investigation and also take necessary steps to prevent the theft/smuggling of idols.

Officials Involved in 1984- Riots

6710. SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRI ANAND RATNA
MAURYA:
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI RABI RAY:
DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI RAM BAHADAN:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD
YADAV:
DR. A. K. PATEL:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PAN-
DEY:
SHRI BOLLABULLIRAMIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the officials against whom disciplinary action and other appropriate action have been recommended by Ms. Kusumlata Mittal;

(b) the details of the charges levelled against such officials;

(c) whether the Government propose to initiate action against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d). On the basis of the recommendations of Ms. Mittal, it has been decided to proceed against police officials indicted in her report. In all, Ms. Mittal had indicted 72 police officials. Of these, 13 have retired and 2 died. The charges against the officials mainly relate to dereliction of duty, lack of supervision and failure to maintain absolute devotion to duty. Of the 57 officials being proceeded against 6 are IPS officers 1 Addl. DCP; 10 Assistant Commissioners of Police; 19 Inspectors; 12 Sub-Inspectors; 2 Asst. Sub-Inspectors & 7 Head Constables.

[Translation]

Allotment of Dealership on Production of Bogus SC/ST Certificate

6711. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI ROSHAN LAL:
SHRI PROBIN DEKA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases have come to the notice of the Government where petrol/diesel retails outlets and LPG dealerships have been allotted on the production of bogus SC/ST certificates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of dealership cancelled on this account?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The retails outlets at (i) Babhnan in Basti District (UP) (ii) Deesa in Banaskantha (Gujarat) and the LPG dealerships at (i) Karvi/Chitrakootdham in Banda District (UP) (ii) Patna in Patna District (Bihar) (iii) Hojai in Nowgong district (Assam) & (iv)

**Bottling Plants in Purulia District of
West Bengal**

6737. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received and proposal for settling up new bottling plants in Purulia District, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). No decision has been taken to set up a bottling plant at Purulia in West Bengal.

[*Translation*]

Import of Agricultural Appliances

6738. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import agricultural appliances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). In view of reply to part (a), the questions do not arise.

[*English*]

**Project for Running Vehicles with
Compressed Natural Gas**

6739. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madras Refineries Limited had formulated a pilot project for running vehicles with compressed natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Madras Refineries Limited has taken up a pilot project in cooperation with the Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA) and Cholan Roadways Corporation to convert and run 10 buses on an experimental basis, using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and diesel on a dual-fuel mode. The first passenger bus thus converted has been in operation since 22nd March, 1992.

Ban on Import of Seeds

6740. SHRI V. DHANANJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a total ban on import of seeds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

Production Capacity of Off-Shore West-Coast Field

6779. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production capacity of off-shore west coast field,

(b) the cost incurred for establishing the potential and cost of development of each field including trans-potation etc. upto land fall point; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) to (c). Production from the western offshore fields during the last 3 years has been as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Oil Production (Million Tonnes)</i>
1989-90	22.32
1990-91	21.21
1991-92	18.96
(provisional)	

Total investment in these fields has been Rs. 12085.5 crores upto 31.3.1991.

Development of Cashew Plantation

6780. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank team visited Andhra Pradesh to assess the potential available in the State for further development of cashew plantations;

(b) if so, the details of areas identified; and

(c) the response of the World Bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

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

Wastage of Petroleum Products

6782. SHRI SMRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25 percent of the petroleum products are being wasted;

(b) if so, the whether any strategy to harness the petroleum resources to the optimum and to give a thrust to the entire field of oil conservation has been or is being worked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) Some Working Groups have estimated the potential of conservation of energy including petroleum products to be 20% to 30% in the major sectors.

(b) and (c). Various measures under implementation to promote conservation of petroleum products include mass awareness campaigns, imparting of education and training to the target group of oil users, promoting use of fuel-efficient devices/equipment and upgraded lubricants, initiating action in the newly identified areas, encouraging use of alternative fuels and reducing wastages as well as wasteful use of petro-

whether a function is of a political nature is to be decided by the Government.

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

[*Translation*]

Production of Pulses

6806. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND
TOMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the largest pulses growing States in the country;

(b) the percentage of pulses being grown in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether any assistance is being provided to these States to further increase the production of pulses; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The largest pulses growing States in the country are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa followed by Andhra Pradesh, Kamataka and Bihar.

(b) Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh contribute 12.3 and 19.6 percent respectively to pulses production.

(c) and (d). For increasing production of pulses, the Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) and the Central Sector Special Foodgrain Production Programme (SFPP)- Pulses are being implemented to provide input support to the farmers. Under these programmes,

financial assistance is given to States on various inputs like seed production, plant protection measures, distribution of seed minikits, sprinklersets, rhizobial cultures and farm implements and organisation of demonstrations to induce the farmers to take up cultivation of pulses with improved technology on large scale. Pulses have also been brought under the ambit of the Technology Mission in the Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation.

[*English*]

Export of Agricultural Products

6807. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural commodities along with their quantity likely to be exported during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period;

(b) the present level of production of these commodities;

(c) whether the production areas for specific crops are identified for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to increase their production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Rice, wheat, coarse grains, spices, cashewnuts, HPSgroundnuts, fruits & vegetables, and cotton are likely to be exported during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period. No specific targets have been fixed for export of these items during the Eighth Plan Period. The export of rice, wheat coarse grains and cotton will however, depend on the surplus being made available after making adequate provision for meeting domestic requirements.

(b) The present level of production of these commodities during 1990-91 is as under:-

(Million Tonnes)	
<i>Name of the Commodities</i>	<i>Production</i>
1	2
Rice	74.58
Wheat	54.52
Coarse Grains	33.05
Spices	2.08
Cashewnuts	0.29
Groundnut	7.62
Fruits	28.00
Vegetables	57.80
Cotton	97.59

(lakh bale of 170 kgs. each)

(c) and (d). The following thrust programmes which concentrate on specific crops and areas for increasing production and productivity are being implemented:

- i) Integrated Programme for Rice Development (IPRD).
- ii) Special Foodgrains Production Programme-Wheat (SFPP-Wheat).
- iii) Special Foodgrains Production Programme-Maize and Milletes (SFPP-Maize and Millets).
- iv) Intensive Cotton Development Programme- (ICDP)

v) Elite Progeny Orchards-cum-Nursery Scheme.

vi) Schemes of Re-planting and supply of Quality Planting Material in respect of Small and Large Cardamom.

[Translation]

Starvation due to Shortage of Foodgrains

6808. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the starvation of the people in certain parts of the country due to shortage of foodgrains;

(b) the areas affected by starvation;

(c) whether there is acute shortage of foodgrains in the country due to which these are being imported; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Starvation due to shortage of foodgrains in any part of country has not been reported to any State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The stock of Wheat and Rice in the Central pool as on 1.3.92 were of the order of 124.00 lakh tonnes, which is considered adequate to meet the reasonable requirements of the Public Distribution System. However, the Governments have decided to import 1.00 million tonnes of Wheat with a view to increasing its availability and containing the market prices.

Mahila Banks in Karnataka

6854. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where Mahila Banks are functioning at present in Karnataka;

(b) the number of application to open Mahila Banks in Karnataka received by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) the number of licences proposed to be sanctioned during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) At present, three Mahila Urban Cooperative Banks are functioning at Bangalore, Belgaum and Tumkur in Karnataka.

(b) In the recent past no proposal for setting up new Mahila Banks in Karnataka has been received by Reserve Bank of India.

(c) The licences for new Urban Bank are not issued according to the plan periods or on a yearly basis. As such, it is not possible to project the number of new Mahila Banks that will be established in Karnataka State during 1992-93.

Deposits of Resident Indians in Banks in Switzerland

6855. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some resident Indians have huge deposits in banks in Switzerland without the approval of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether the Government propose to demand the Government of Switzerland to

pass on the funds to them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have no information to this effect.

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

Enquiry Against Bank Officers

6856. SHRI B. N. REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of Bank officers pending enquiry for more than six month with the Central Vigilance Commission and the Enquiry Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): Central Vigilance Commission has informed that as on 31.1.92, these were 41 enquiries (involving 68 bank officials) pending for more than six months with different Commissioners for Departmental Inquiries of the Commission.

[Translation]

Report of Raunak Singh Committee on Free Port.

6857. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI S. B. SINAL:
SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA:
SHRI RAMESH CHANNI THALA:
SHRI RAM BADAN:
SHRI P. P. KALIAPERUMAL:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI RAM KAPSE:
SHRI GOVENDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Air India has started an additional weekly service between Trivandrum and Abu Dhabi with effect from Summer 1992. India Airlines propose to increase the frequencies of its thrice weekly service Calicut-Sharjah-Calicut to Five times weekly with effect from 3rd May 1992.

**ITDC Hotels and Travel Agencies
for private Sector**

7066. SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:
SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage private sector to run hotels and travel agencies of the India Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) whether the Government also propose to recall staff posted abroad for promotion of tourism;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Government have formulated a scheme whereby small agrops of ITDC

hotels would be formed for the purpose of developing them as joint ventures with leading foreign hotel chains.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Pumpsets Energised

7067. SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pumpsets to be energised during 1992-93, and the funds earmarked in each State;

(b) the number of applications pending as on 1 January, 1992 for sanction of electric connections to the pumpsets of farmers, state-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPNATHRAI): (a) the statewide details of allocation made by the Planning Commission for Rural Electrification Programme and the physical targets fixed for pumpsets energisation for the year 1992-93 are given in the attached Statement.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Statewise details of RE Programme during 1992-93(outlay and physical targets)

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>States</i>	<i>Target of pumpsets energisation (excluding SPA Programmes)</i>	<i>Outlay (Rs. in lakhs) for pumpsets energisation including village electrification and load intensification works.</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11500	2100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1265
3.	Assam	-	1350
4.	Bihar	4250	2355
5.	Goa	-	20
6.	Gujarat	7000	2440
7.	Haryana	14000	3650
8.	Himachal Pradesh	100	500
9.	Jammu & kashmir	100	650
10.	Karnataka	15000	2525
11.	Kerala	3000	650
12.	Madhya Pradesh	25150	8045
13.	Maharashtra	20000	10000
14.	Manipur	-	1400
15.	Maghgalaya	-	475
16.	Mizoram	-	720
17.	Nagaland	50	175
18.	Orissa	4000	3302

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>States</i>	<i>Target of pumpsets energisation (excluding SPA Programmes)</i>	<i>Outlay (Rs. in lakhs) for pumpsets energisation including village electrification and load intermsification works.</i>
19.	Punjab	10000	3800
20.	Rajasthan	20150	6915
21.	Sikkim	-	460
22.	Tamil Nadu	5000	1875
23.	Tripura	100	805
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11350	7400
25.	West Bengal	2000	2795
	Total (STATES)	152750	65672

[*Translation*]

Postal Stamps

7068. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:
SHRIASHTBHUJAPRASAD
SHUKLA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN
PANDEYA:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA
MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA
PRABHA URS:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL
PATHAK:
SHRI RAM NAIK:
SHRI KODIKKUNIL
SURESH:

(a) whether there is a demand for issue of commemorative postal stamps on the Sanskrit Day' (Raksha Bandhan), Singhashta Mela in Madhya Pradesh, Bharati Bhavan Library in Allahabad, freedom fighters and the birth centenary of eminent persons etc; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed commemorative postal stamps likely to be released by the government during 1992?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) List of proposed commemorative/special postage stamps likely to be released during 1992 is given in the attached statement.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

Commemorative/Special Postage Stamps proposed for the year 1992

Year	No. of vehicles exported	Foreign exchange earnings* (US\$ Millions)
1987-88	713	6.67
1988-89	1408	9.59
1989-90	5223	24.32
1990-91	4908	41.08
1991-92	22901	94.00

(Prov)

* includes domestic sale against foreign exchange.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Decontrol of Molasses

7485. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of sugar of molasses is being wasted due to non-lifting of the allotted quotes by the States;

(b) the quantity of sugar molasses allotted to each State and Union-territory during the last two years; year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to decontrol the molasses; and

(d) if so, the date by which it is proposed to be decontrolled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Government is not aware of any large quantity of molasses being wasted due to non-lifting of the allotted quantity by the states Government.

(b) A Statement indicating the inter-state allocations of molasses made in favour of deficit States and U.Ts. during the last 2 years is Annexed.

(c) and (d). No such decision has been taken so far.

STATEMENT

(Figures in Tonnes)

Name of State/UT	Inter-State allocated of Molasses made	
	(Alcohol Year) 1989-90	(Alcohol Year) 1990-91
1. Andhra Pradesh	1,70,000	70,000
2. Assam	100	100
3. Chandigarh	500	860
4. Dadra & NH	500	230
5. Daman	17,300	13,000
6. Delhi	2,000	1,750

(Figures in Tonnes)

<i>Name of State/UT</i>	<i>Inter-State allocated of Molasses made</i>	
	<i>(Alcohol Year)</i> 1989-90	<i>(Alcohol Year)</i> 1990-91
7. Gujarat	40,000	-
8. Himachal Pradesh	5,000	9,800
9. Jammu & Kashmir	14,700	12,300
10. Kerala	83,000	34,000
11. Madhya Pradesh	2,42,500	2,32,500
12. Meghalaya	25	1,025
13. Nagaland	7,000	-
14. Orissa	20,900	20,000
15. Punjab	59,000	45,500
16. Rajasthan	35,200	33,500
17. Sikkim	2,400	-
18. Tripura	75	75
19. West Bengal	1,02,300	65,000

Repair of Houses in Mori Gate Area

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

7486. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given on December 18, 1991 to Unstarred Question No.4355 and state:

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

(a) whether the information with regard to the repair of houses in Mori Gate and Kashmir Gate areas have since been collected;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The assurance given to Unstarred Question No. 4355 for 18th December, 1991 has since been fulfilled as per statement attached.

(c) In view of above, the question does not arise.

today after an elaborate discussion the other day, the most prudent course for us would have been to make a representation to the Speaker; to wait for the response of the Government and then take up the matter again. Sir, it is unfortunate that when there are so many items on the List of Business for the day, we are not at all caring for it and we are just trying to pass judgment against the Government without even waiting for the Government to respond.

Sir, we know that the Secretary General of the United Nations is in the country today. The Prime Minister did not know that this news items would appear in the papers today. His programme was already made. Now, it has been told by the hon. Minister for parliamentary Affairs that the Prime Minister is coming to the House at 5.00 pm. Sir, more than two.....

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): No.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, in any case, we should have not taken up the item today. We should have waited for the Government to respond....(Interruptions)

Sir, I hope, the hon. Members would give me time to make my point.

Sir, this matter has been taken up a number of times here. It is one thing to sound rhetoric while referring to some shadows of doubt as to what the Prime Minister had said, but the impassioned speech that he made, the promise that he held out that he would look into the matter himself, left no scope of doubt to raise even a finger against the intention of the Government. And if one news items appears today, I repeat with all humility, that we should not have rushed to take the time of the House in this manner.....

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Let the Prime Minister rush. Why is he not rushing into the House to make a statement?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Does

he know that this news item would come up in the papers today?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Does he not read the newspapers?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): MR. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to repeat what my colleagues have already brought to your kind notice. But I would like to say, with all humility, and I may be excused for saying so, that the revelations today give an impression that this Government has deliberately tried to fool on 1st April this august House which is the supreme body in our Parliamentary democracy.

Sir, it gives such an impression and in all fairness, the Government must categorically come forward to deny the news, if it is false.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to bring to the notice of this Government, through you, and want a clear clarification regarding this point. My information is that on April 8, the Switzerland Government, had sought further clarification from this Government regarding Mr. Win Chadha's petition in the Delhi High Court. You are aware that no information need to have been passed about that petition at all. It is only with the sole objective to delay and stop the final judgment there that a copy of that petition and information regarding that petition was sent there. In spite of this House discussing about this issue on April 1, will now, the Government of India has not yet replied regarding that petition. I want this Government to categorically come forward with the facts.

Sir, as long as the Prime Minister does not clarify these things on that day I told that the needle of suspicion will be pointed towards him- this Government will have no moral right to continue in power. That is my humble submission.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): ,Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be very brief and I shall not repeat the plea that

farmers on investments in Agriculture and allied activities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Pak's Forging of Defence Ties with UK

7675. SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI ANKUSHRAD
RADSAHEB TOPE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news—item regarding Pakistan's seeking to forge new defence ties with the UK appearing in 'The Economic Times' dated December 12, 1991; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take adequate measures to safeguard it.

Increase in Price of Fertilizers

7676. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to

increase the price of fertilizers in view of increasing allocation for subsidy on fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the small and marginal farmers are not further affected by the price revision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A Joint Parliamentary Committee has been constituted to go into the question of revision of fertilizer prices.

Pending receipt of recommendations of that Committee, there is no proposal, at present, for any increase in price of fertilizers.

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

Information and Mass Education Cell

7677. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any "Information and Mass Education Cell" functioning for educating the masses and creating awareness among the weaker sections of the society in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details of its activities during 1990-91 and 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). The information is being collected.

World Bank Aided Horticulture Project

7678. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI:

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

Conference on Hindi

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank aided horticulture project in the country is yet to be cleared;

(b) whether Union Government has decided to drop Himachal Pradesh, one of the three projects sites, from the project, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the remedial steps the Government propose to take to receive the projects; and

(d) the schemes under the project to promote and develop horticulture in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). A Horticulture Development Project for North West Hill Region comprising the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh which was under consideration of the World Bank, was later deleted from their lending programme by the World Bank over the issue of price support for cull grade and 'A' grade apples in Himachal Pradesh.

The Union Government have requested the Government of Himachal Pradesh to reconsider their policy, but there has been no response from them. Later the World Bank was also requested to consider the project for Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, but they have expressed their inability to reconsider the project for Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, but they have expressed their inability to reconsider the project for Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh only.

(d) In view of above, the question does not arise.

7679. SHRI V.N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any conference on Hindi was held abroad recently;

(b) if so, where it was held and the names of Indian participants;

(c) the expenditure incurred on these participants by the Government or by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations; and

(d) the outcome of the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). An International Conference on Hindi was organised in Port of Spain by Hindi Nidhi and the Hindi Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago from April 16–20, 1992.

The following Indian participants were nominated by Indian Council for Cultural Relations for participation in this conference.

1. Shri Shanker Dayal Singh, M.P.
2. Shri B.P. Sinha, former Ambassador to Suriname.
3. Shri Yash Pal Jain, Secretary, Sasta Sahitya Mandal.
4. Dr. Rajendra Awasthi, Editor, Kadambari.
5. Dr. Majeda Asad, Head of the Department of Hindi, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

(c) and (d). Expenditure incurred by Indian Council for Cultural Relations is Rs. 4.5 Lakhs, which covered visit by the dele-

before all our friends here. The note referred to the status of the cases pending here. It did not say and Mr. Solanki did not ask anybody there that the Government of India was interested in delaying the matter. After that, had our friends been honest, had our friends been true to their duties.....

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary. Please understand.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: All that has been said. All innuendos had been unleashed by Mr. George Fernandes. I am constrained to say this.

All that I would like to say is that I learn that many questions have been submitted to you and to the Prime Minister by Mr. George Fernandes. I know that it is not within the hands of the Government to ensure that any case in a court takes a particular course.

They want me to pose questions which they did not do. I would like to know: what was the last communication and the date of the communication between the Government of India and the Swiss authorities?

SHRI VIJAY PATIL (Erandol): Sir, my one line question is this. The Bofors case is pending since long. In the interval, there was another Government.

I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister what special efforts were made by that Government to expedite the case. Here one External Affairs Minister has gone because of handing over a note to some authority. There was a Government which came to power by making political capital out of Bofors starting from 1988 - by - election of Allahabad. After that, the Bofors issue was there all over the country. They came to power with a promise to the people of this country that they would expedite the case and they would find out who were the culprits.

MR. SPEAKER: Good question. Please conclude.

SHRI VIJAYA NAVAL PATIL: I want to know: what special efforts were made during that period to expedite the case?

14.00 hrs.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Prime Minister. His statement contained a clear contradiction. On page 1, paragraph 3, it is stated:

"Since, in fact, I had neither authorised the giving of the note nor had any knowledge of the note, the question of Shri Solanki mentioning my name or authority to his counterpart simply could not arise."

Sir, it is further stated:

"Shri Solanki has confirmed this and has emphatically denied having made any reference to me in any manner."

While on page 2 of the statement, the CBI's lawyer in Switzerland, Mr. Marc Bonnant stated:

".....that he was told that the memorandum handed over by Shri Solanki at the request of the Prime Minister."

So, at some level, somebody should be hiding the fact. This lawyer, a responsible person who is acting on behalf of the CBI, has written a letter seeking some clarification from the Government. It is not so simple. We cannot take it so lightly. Let the Prime Minister say whether this contradiction has been examined as to how that lawyer of the CBI was given that 'impression'. He cannot mention the name of the hon. Prime Minister so lightly or so irresponsibly. How did that lawyer get this impression? From what source at what level? If he is correct, then Shri Solanki must be wrong; if Shri Solanki is correct, the lawyer or the person who has informed his so, must be wrong. The hon.

Prime Minister may kindly clarify this contradiction.

I seek yet another clarification from the hon. Prime Minister. Is it a fact that the lawyers in the Geneva Court who are arguing on behalf of the beneficiaries of the pay-offs have told the court that their papers are not yet ready and that they are expecting a note from the Government of India, shortly? Have they said so? Kindly let me have the clarification from the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am grateful to the hon. Members for putting pointed questions. These questions do require reference to some of the files and at the earliest opportunity, I will see them answers. I have no problem at all. I have nothing more to add at this stage. Then, about placing the papers on the Table, we have certain rules, we have certain regulations and we have certain conventions. As regards the question whether I can place on the Table of the House a part of the correspondence between two Governments, we will have to go into that. I will go into each of the documents asked for by Shri George Fernandes and give him the reasons — whether I am going to place it or if I am not, I will tell why.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, just one clarification. This does not require any reference to files. On 25th, he received a communication in which a reference has been made to the Prime Minister. All that I wanted to know was, "Did the CBI bring this communication to your notice?" Did you, thereafter, speak to the hon. the then Minister of External Affairs? These two do not require a reference to files..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: They do require a reference to the files. I will have to talk to the Director once again.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Mr. Prime Minister, are we to take it that you also have no knowledge or information about the identity of that person who handed over the paper?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Yours is the first clue! Very valuable! Pinaki Varma / Mishra / Gupta / anything! (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Prime Minister that this Pinaki Mishra..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I am not allowing it to go on like this. Why should all the Members speak again?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, this is very relevant.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is relevant, you should have asked before please sit done.

This House stands adjourned for Lunch to reassemble at 3.05 p.m.

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Five minutes past Fifteen of the clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eight minutes past Fifteen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be Laid.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Sir, I have a point of order. Item no. 3 on the List of Business refers to laying on the Table an order which says, "Supply of fertilisers to be made during the period from the 1st October 1991 to the 31st March, 1992." My objection is that that period is already over and there is no explanatory note along with this paper for the delay in placing it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it when it comes.

which Government they wanted to have in their State.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the way the provisions of the Constitution are misused and the way the emergency provisions are used off and on, has given birth to a feeling among the people that this Government is not likely to stay any longer and it wants to topple the Opposition Governments in States through the power it is enjoying at the Centre and wants to form its own Governments there which is next to impossible.

I oppose it and make a demand to lift the president's Rule from there immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, why do you deny an opportunity for us?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time. All right. No repetition but new points should be there. I will remind you when you repeat the points.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, I rise to oppose the Proclamation of imposing president's rule in Nagaland. And the subsequent dismissal of the Governor of Nagaland. This is most unfortunate that you are adopting double standards. When a Congress Government or a Government supported by your party loses majority, you immediately dissolve the Assembly and when the opposition party in power and when they are likely to lose their majority or actually reduced to minority you want to suspend the Assembly and you want to manipulate the MLAs and again instill the Congress government. That is how you are doing all these years.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: This is not a fact

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: In the instant case, the Governor has perfectly acted well within his right and when there is a political break down, he has dissolved the Assembly and has asked for fresh polls. And the caretaker Government is continuing.

18.00 hrs

The center has not only introduced the President's Rule but it has even dismissed the Governor. You are giving a warning to all the Governors of the States that they have to act as your rubber stamp. Is this the principle enshrined in our Constitution? Is this the spirit of our Constitution? Have you forgotten what Babasaheb Ambedkar had said? He stated that the Governor of a State is just like the President of the Union. Then, what business have you got to impose the president's rule and then to dismiss the Governor? This will be sending a very wrong signal and this will completely go against the federal principles that have been enunciated in our Constitution. It is more especially so, when it is a sensitive border State. For your own narrow and partisan Political Purposes, you have already engulfed sensitive border States such as Punjab, Kashmir and Assam in flames. Now you are doing the same in Nagaland too. I want you not to play with the people of this country. Do not play with democratic principles. That is why I oppose the proclamation of President's Rule and the removal of the Governors. It is most unfortunate and most condemnable. I urge upon the Government not to repeat such things in future if you really have any faith in democracy and in federal polity.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI (Amreli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. According to sub clause 4 of rule 349- when a Member speaks and if any other Member crosses the floor between Mr. speaker and the Member, it is a violation of the rule. It is not good. Just now when an

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 woman 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 (Dum Dum): 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 whorover 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.