

the country's freedom, democratic rights and for the causes of the downtrodden people.

I have to express my sympathies to the thousands of the victims of the earthquake in different places of Maharashtra. And I think the Government will take appropriate action for the weak with speed and complete rehabilitation of these victims.

There is no doubt about the fact that JRD had been a pioneer for the industrialisation of our country. For the continuous industrialisation of the country and its further progress, we will ever remember him. And I think the entire House has already paid its tribute to the memory of J.R.D. Tata.

**SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN** (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tata, popularly known as J.R.D., is no more with us. His death has spread sadness throughout the Indian industry. As an industrial leader and as one of the builders of modern India, Mr. Tata stood for the highest standard of values and ethics in business. He is the first man in India to hold a private pilot licence. His contribution to India's progress and his pioneering efforts in the field of Civil Aviation will be remembered for ever. He served as the most respected industrial leader over the past several decades. That is why, he was awarded the Bharat Ratna for his outstanding personality. Such a great person passed away at a time of transition and transformation of Indian industry. His memory will live for ever.

I also pay my tribute and homage to the sitting Member Shri Nani Bhattacharya and other Members who passed away. Their services and contributions in various fields are valuable.

The tragic incident which took place in Maharashtra in several areas is unprecedented. It took more than 10,000 lives. Our Chief Minister also conveys her condolence and sympathy and had sent a substantial amount of relief to the bereaved families.

I, on behalf of the AIADMK party and on my own behalf, convey my condolence and sympathy to the bereaved families.

**SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE** (Vijyawada) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I, on behalf of our Telugu Desam Party, convey our heartfelt condolence over the death of our Comrade Shri Nani Bhattacharya and other distinguished parliamentarians who have served this country. I am particularly at a great loss because he was very next to me and was so warm and affectionate to me.

We also express our condolences over the death of thousands of people in Marathwada Region, which is the biggest tragedy in the living memory.

Sir, we also express our condolences over the death of Shri J.R.D. Tata. In spite of the fact that he was presiding over a mighty industrial empire, his attitude towards the welfare of the labour and his concern for the labour was exemplary to the other industrial houses. Even people who were having different opinions about big industrial houses, were all having great respect to the House of Tatas who are known for certain business ethics. Sir, his concern for the self-achievement in science and technology of our country was very very laudable. His loss is irreparable to our country.

We join you, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing our condolences to the members of the bereaved family. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER** : The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.55 hrs.

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

**MR. SPEAKER** : The House now stands adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock on Friday, the 3rd December, 1993.

**SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE :** The hon. Minister has not given full answer to the question. While answering the question about the expansion of telecommunication network, the answer in part (a) of his reply was 'No.' But the fact of the matter is the multinationals are being involved-through the supply of telephone lines, switching equipment-with our Department of Telecommunications. As things stand today, the installed infrastructure, as it is encouraged by the DOT in respect of several entrepreneurs, is around 2.5 million lines per year. Today, the persons who are in the waiting list for the entire country total around 3 millions. So, under the circumstances, to the fullest extent, we must make use of the indigenous installed capacity and over and above that, we can give it to the other multinational companies. But you have already given order to our indigenous companies only to the extent of one million lines and order to the extent of .85 million lines has been given to the multinational companies which, in no way, serves the interests of the domestic manufacturers. So, in this connection, I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister that to the fullest possible extent, our indigenous capacity would be utilized which will definitely meet our requirements during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. Will the hon. Minister assure this House in this regard?

**SHRI SUKH RAM :** The target for this year is about 17 lakh lines out of which one million lines have to be purchased from our domestic manufacturers. Only in the case of big cities with more than five lakh population, we are trying to install large digital systems and the latest technology we have inducted into this country. For that, we have to purchase only from them. We have to purchase only from those who have got this technology. They are setting up industries in the country. We have made it clear to them.

**SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE :** It has become obsolete. The analogous cellular technology has become outdated technology.

**SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :** By the time we want the spare parts, there will not be any spare parts available *(Interruptions)*.

**SHRI SUKH RAM :** If you try to understand the things, as I said earlier in this House, it may be one-time or two-times import. But all these large digital systems, large equipment and the switching systems have to be manufactured within the country.

And we are not making any distinction among our own indigenous manufacturers. Their interests are well protected *(Interruptions)*

**Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde :** Not at all. *(Interruptions)*.

**SHRI SUKH RAM :** Anyway, you may be knowing more than what I know. *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE :** You are favouring multinationals at the cost of our own domestic manufacturers. *(Interruptions)*.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** You are only protecting the interests of multinational companies and not of indigenous industry. *(Interruptions)*.

**SHRI SUKH RAM :** No, no. As I made it clear, we are asking multinational companies for the latest technology only and not otherwise. And all those 23 or 27 manufacturers are being given orders and they are supplying. My target is to instal two million lines in the current financial year subject to availability of funds, of course. Out of that, minimum of one million lines have been reserved for the indigenous manufacturers. And their total capacity is, if I am not wrong, 15 to 17 lakh lines. Out of that total capacity, if we are purchasing one million lines, where is the question of saying that their industry is being kept idle ?

*(Interruptions)*.

to examine the service conditions of the ED staff and all these committees and commissions constituted by the Government of India have recommended that their nomenclature should be changed, that they should be called as rural postal employees, that their remuneration should be revised and increased and that they should get it in proportion to the service rendered by the Extra Departmental employees. The Minister and the Government of India has declared that the strike is illegal although the strike notice was given much earlier. I demand that the Government should withdraw forthwith that the strike is illegal and should sit with the representatives of all the federations to settle their pending issues immediately and to end the slavish treatment given to the Extra Departmental staff. (*Interuptio* ).

**SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (VIJAYAWADA):** Sir, while I support the views expressed by my friends from this side, I urge upon the hon. Minister to immediately consider the pathetic plight of the Extra Departmental employees. Very low honorarium is being given to them though they are already spending more than eight hours in the rural areas to go from one village to another to deliver the post. It is almost a full-time job. I also bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that when some postal employees die when they are in service, one of their family members will be selected on compassionate ground under a specific rule. But they are

not given jobs immediately. It takes years and years. Sometimes, they have to wait for more than five years also. In fact, the job is given on compassionate ground but they are not given the job immediately. When these people are already waiting, it is the responsibility of the Department to give jobs to these people. Instead of this, they select others afresh. When the matter of giving jobs to these people come, they say that there is no vacancy and that they have to wait. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter immediately.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAM SAGAR (BARABANKI):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw your attention towards the irresponsible and discriminatory attitude of the Government and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. On 28 November when special Bulletins were being broadcasts. . . . (*Interruption*).

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Speak on the issue of Postal Employees alone.

**SHRI A. CHARLES (TRIVANDRUM):** Sir, the whole House is unanimous in feeling that the conditions of the postal employees, especially the ED staff, are very pathetic.

Two years back, on the eve of a strikethreat by the postal employees, I raised the matter in the House. The then hon. Minister for Communications gave a categorical assurance that the conditions of the ED employees would be looked into.

to evolve a bloc of countries, trading bloc of which India should attempt for this.

The next course of action which should be taken is to evolve national consensus on all these issues so that India takes a stand based on national consensus on which all leaders of political parties can be associated.

The third thing is, it is not that always what we sign, we will do. This also we must consider. I quote one example. About the Texas instrument, it has been applied for patent in Japan. Japan has signed Texas instrument for patenting intellectual property right. Japan took 17 years to give patent right on a computer chip. This is the first chip developed in the world. In those 17 years, all industries as far as computer chips in the United States were concerned were wiped out because in that period, Japan utilised that. I would request you to consider that it is not that we are going to sign and we are going to throw our sovereignty away. The thing is, this Parliament will exist; this Government will exist. This country is going to exist and all the institutions in the country are there to safeguard our national interests. Therefore, just because of some apprehension, some dogmatic ideologies guiding us to take some decision, we should not get out of GATT. GATT is an institution which we have made. Just because United Nations is dominated by the U.S.A. you do not get out of this. It is not the answer. Like this, we have to see, we have to mobilise the world opinion; we have to form our own blocs. This country has to grow strong. That is how, we can survive in this very unstable world of today.

That is why, I again call upon this House to take stock of the situation and take a pragmatic approach and assist the

Government in taking a correct approach which would ensure very safe future for this country.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO, VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important item. Because of the fact that ours is a small Party and I, being the only Member from my Party, I will confine only to agriculture.

I was hearing the speeches of Shri P. Chidambaram and Shri Pranab Mukherjee while initiating the discussion. Still, several doubts have been left which I would request the hon. Minister to clarify in his reply.

You are aware that he has stated that the farmers need not be afraid that they will lose their traditional right to save seeds from his produce and exchange or sell to his neighbour farmers. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that a very responsible officer who has negotiated on our behalf in the GATT has stated before a Committee that the industrialised countries are not willing to agree to the exchange of seeds between the farmers in black and white because this is the life-line of our agriculture. Even after 4 1/2 decades of our independence, still the National Seeds Corporations or the various private sector trade companies were able to supply only 38% of the seed required, whereas 62% of the seed requirement is met by supply of the farmers mutually in the village or by the neighbouring villages.

My apprehension is if this right is not protected, out of 10 crores of farmers holdings in this country, 75 per cent belong to small and marginal farmers and

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in a particular situation where 2 lakhs of villages do not have an all-weather road to go, how these marginal farmers can go to the tehsil headquarters or district headquarters or nearby big town to purchase seeds? That is the grave concern and I appeal to the hon. Minister to clarify this point.

He was saying that we have scope in this Dunkel draft to evolve *sui generis* system, a completely alternative one, which will take of our interests. True. But in the note that was circulated by your Ministry for the convenience of the Members, you have said on page 12:—

"Although the Dunkel text does not refer to any particular international convention in the context of the *sui generis* protection of plant varieties, an international convention which is known as UPOV and covers the protection of plant varieties can be referred to for guidance."

The 1978 text goes on to describe the text of that.

My query to the hon. Minister is whether our *sui generis* system which we want to evolve, of course, by bringing it before this Parliament House, will it have to conform to the 1978 UPOV convention decision?

I would also like to know whether in that 1978 UPOV convention, there are farmers' exemptions and breeders exemptions which, to some extent, take care of special circumstances of countries like ours. But after 1995, what is the fate? Will the 1978 UPOV decision be applicable even after 1995 or after 1995,

will the latest UPOV 1991 decisions will come into effect where this farmers' exemption and the breeders' exemption and researchers' exemptions have been completely taken away? In that context, we will be put to serious inconvenience and it will cause tremendous damage to our agricultural interests.

In spite of what the Government says, for the last so many years, we are importing nearly, on an average, 12 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. This very year also, we have contracted for 30 lakh tonnes of foodgrains though it may not be completely imported. But we have already contracted it. In these circumstances, this traditional right should be preserved under any circumstances. This is my humble submission to the Government. During his reply, let the hon. Minister clarify categorically that this right would be protected. That also involves the right of the farmers to modify the seed to suit the local condition, our geographical, climatic conditions, to suit our diseases etc. Hitherto, we were having that. The hon. Minister must tell whether that right would be protected or not. If our breeders' exemption is not protected, what will happen?

Sir, you know, in India most of the research in agriculture is going on in the Indian Agricultural Universities, research stations and the coordinated projects throughout the country which we have. That will be almost given a go-by because we will have to pay very hefty royalties to the plant breeders. I want to have a clear clarification from the hon. Minister in this regard also.

There is a FAO resolution adopted sometime ago that when you have to protect the plant breeders' right, also the farmers right should be protected. Why I

am raising this point is in this country, we have got abundant neem trees. Everywhere in our country neem trees are there. Out of this neem tree, now a U.S. Company named Grace Company is producing Morgosono Bio-pesticide. Hitherto, our farmers are also doing that in a crude form. The neem seeds are crushed and an emulsion is prepared out of it. We spray that emulsion on some crops to repel some insects. Now, the Grace Company is doing it. It has already patented that insecticide. In such circumstances, as per the FAO decision, this country which has got neem trees in abundance and neem seeds, must get the share. We cannot simply be taken for a ride by that Grace Company just by patenting a particular product there and making billions and billions of rupees out of it. Let the hon. Minister clarify this point.

Regarding the subsidies issue, the hon. Minister as well as the hon. Member Shri P. Chidambaram — who was also the Minister of State for Commerce for some time — were telling that because of the subsidies provision, a boon will come to our Indian agriculture. I am really so pained to hear when Shri P. Chidambaram said that all these years the Indian farmers have been getting very low prices when compared to the international prices and because of the GATT the Indian farmers will get a higher price; we will be able to export so much to the foreign countries. Is there anything more damaging than this statement? The point is you have deprived the farmers of this country to get a fair price. Is the GATT necessary to make you give the farmers a reasonable price? In this context, I will tell you one thing. *(Interruptions)*

Please hear me. In our own Constitution, in the Directive Principles,

we have made a commitment before the public saying: "The State shall, in particular, strive to minimise the inequalities in income and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations." *(Interruptions)*

Please hear me. Shri Charles, I have not objected when your Members were speaking. Please do not disturb me because my time is very limited. Please have the patience to hear me. I think you are a friend of the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are coming from the agricultural community. You know that when compared with 1970-71, the ratio of income of the people living in the agricultural sector and non-agricultural sector has increased from 1:2 to 1:4.

In Japan, just now my friend said, the Japanese farmer is getting five times the price which is given in the international market. Why? It is because there is a basic agriculture law of 1961 which promises the farmers of Japan that the Government will help in increasing their productivity and also they will ensure that the income of the farmers is also kept on par with the income of the people who are living in non-agriculture sector. That is why, when the Government is giving help, Japanese people do not feel bad if they have to pay a higher price because they also want the farmers to live with all dignity, decorum and status. All these years, this Government has not done that. He has just now said that only twenty per cent is to be reduced whereas in our country the subsidy that is given is a pittance. In 1980, the USA gave seventy billion dollars as subsidy to the agriculture

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sector and the European Economic Community gave 134 billion dollars as subsidy. And the per capita support in USA is 150 dollars though only two per cent of the people are living on agriculture and in the European Economic Community, the per capita support is 240 dollars. But in Japan, the per capita support is 260 dollars. What about our country? It is hardly nine dollars. If I remember well, the Minister some time back said on the floor of this very House that if the Government gives up to Rs. 30,000 crores as subsidy, then we will not be attracted by the Dunkel's provisions. All right. Then why have you reduced the subsidy on fertilizers? Fertilizer subsidy was decreased and the price of the phosphatic fertilizer and potashic fertilizers was enhanced by hundred per cent. In potash, it is more than hundred per cent. What is the result? The consumption of fertilizers has gone down by 24 per cent. The Agriculture Minister has accepted that. Will this 24 per cent reduction in the consumption of fertilizers not going to have any bearing on our productivity and production? I am not satisfied with that.

Now the Government is very very keen to increase the electricity tariff on agriculture to fifty per cent per unit. Some time back a Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri Vaidyanathan. They had calculated that on an average in India, Rs. 68 is the water charges per acre of land. And the Committee recommended that it must be enhanced to Rs. 340. In spite of the fact that we do not have commitment to reduce non-product specific support because of the pressure from the IMF and the World Bank, you are reducing the consumption by giving it a go-bye. I have

heard many a time our Finance Minister very loudly saying in different forums that this Government is very very keen to do away with the subsidy business. In that context, will we be in a position to export our agricultural products? Today the price advantage which we have, we may not have that in future when the cost of production will go up. When the cost of our rice, wheat and cotton will go up, we may not be able to compete in the world market because then the subsidy level will be reduced by only twenty per cent leaving 80 per cent support in those countries. Still 64 per cent export subsidy will continue; 64 per cent trade barriers will also continue. In these circumstances, I fear that instead of giving our agriculture a boon, it may be a curse. That is what I humbly submit to this Government, not out of any political compulsion, or to find fault with the Government. But this is the genuine concern of the farmers of this country. So, let the hon. Minister while replying say about the present level of support, in figures, that is given in those countries and to what extent it is here.

I will tell you regarding the non-product specific support. The hon. Minister and Shri Chidambaram were telling that except in the case of three commodities, for all other commodities, the non-product specific support is less than ten per cent. We definitely agree. But, regarding the sugarcane, when you calculate it with the statutory minimum price decided by the Government of India, it may be less than ten per cent. As you know, because it is not a remunerative price, almost all the State Governments are giving State advised prices.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): It is being implemented in your State.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA  
RAO VADDE: Everywhere.

SHRI A. CHARLES: You are speaking for rich farmers.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA  
RAO VADDE: If somebody speaks regarding agriculture, do you mean that he is a rich farmer? I can tell you that I am much smaller than many of those members sitting on your side. Please do not misunderstand like that. Just because somebody speaks for farmers, do not think that we are big or rich farmers. You try to ignore the interests of the farmers and that is the whole pity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA  
RAO VADDE: This is a very important point. It takes away the right of the Government to encourage the farmer to raise a particular crop, to meet our particular circumstances. When State advised prices are taken into consideration, I specifically ask the hon. Minister to say in his reply — 1986, 1987 and 1988 are the years which are taken for our calculation purposes — what are the product specific support on sugarcane in the States of U.P. Bihar and Haryana and also on DHB groundnut. My information is that it is more than ten per cent because all these years, we are importing edible oils from abroad, spending thousand of crores of rupees in foreign exchange. The Government has introduced a Technology Mission on Oilseeds; there is a price ban and Government was doing a good thing. Of course, I do not find any fault with that, though something more could be done. Today, though that, India has become nearly self-sufficient. But now, because of the Dunkel Draft provisions, they will

curtail and take away the right of this Government to help, to encourage a particular crop in our national interest. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is correct or not.

My information is that already, the European Economic Community, knowing that they have to reduce to some extent this support, to circumvent, to overcome that, they have evolved compensatory payments system. They have already formulated this, during these negotiations itself. My information is that the compensatory payment in the European Community countries is to the tune of Rs. 8,000 per hectare. I want to know whether it is correct or not, whether those Governments have already taken some measures to overcome this reduction commitment by taking some other steps. I get so much laughter really when one of our negotiators told me the objective of these developed countries, that is : "You developing countries, if you have money, you pay money, you pay income to your small farmers; but, do not ask them to produce more". This is what was said. They know that our country, in the present circumstances, where we owe Rs. 2,66,000 crore as foreign debt, is not in a position to give even Rs. 100 to one family. That is the sorry state of affairs, whereas those countries, in the name of decoupled production, income support, income insurance, backward areas, and on various other names, are giving exemptions; these are all exempted.

My demand to the Government is, if you are really serious that the Indian agriculture should prosper and the Indian farmers should get the benefit, you see that those subsidies given in those countries are given a go-bye completely; then, we will have the advantage. Sir, France, even though the reduction

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commitment is very small, is making all out efforts to resist that, to protect their farmers' interests, their nation's interest, where only six per cent of the people are farmers. In this country, where sixty six per cent of the population depends on agriculture, you do not have any concern for these farmers. You are just writing them off; you are taking them for granted.

The other day our revered leader Shri Indrajit Gupta raised a very important point. Agriculture comes under the State subject. My friend said that the National Government can enter into any treaty. After giving birth to the children the father and the mother will have definitely a right to choose the boy or the girl when they perform the marriage of their son or daughter. But the children are given a choice; they will be asked 'whether you like this match or not, what is your wish'. They will ask their children like that. But here without asking the State Governments you want to take a decision and you want to enter into a treaty. That is what is happening. I would like to tell on this very crucial State Subject matter like agriculture and health care that you have not sought the opinion of the State Governments.

17.56 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In fact I was baffled when my friends said that the West Bengal Chief Minister has written a letter to the Prime Minister requesting him to please ascertain the views of the States and give them an opportunity to express their views.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me make it very clear. We have been discussing this

Dunkel proposal for three days now. You cannot continue the discussion for three days and four days continuously. The only point which you have to bear in mind is not to repeat the point. This point was very forcefully made by Shri Indrajitji and you do not have to repeat this. Please conclude.

SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA RAO VADDE: The views of the State Governments and the legislators have to be taken. I remember very well that Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly has passed a unanimous resolution not agreeing to the Dunkel Draft and asking the Central Government to reject it. My request to the Government is to consider the views of the State Governments also.

Regarding the market access, we can have exemptions from the minimum market access when our income is less than 1000 dollars per capital or the BOP position. I will bring to the notice of the Government a very interesting news.

MR. SPEAKER: You have spoken for half-an-hour; I was listening from my Chamber.

SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA RAO VADDE: I am not repeating what is said by other Members. I will take only four-five minutes.

I am bringing to your notice one important matter. On 5.6.1993 I have come across a news where the IMF has evaluated the per capita income in our country as 1255 dollars, whereas our official figure is only 330 dollars. But they have calculated it on the basis of the purchasing capacity—how many times coffee is taken, meals are taken, medicines are taken etc. On that basis

they have evaluated it as 1255 dollars. Now the important pertinent question is, whether it is the IMF which is going to decide whether our per capita income is below 1000 dollars or not, whether we are facing a BOP problem or not.

Our Finance Minister many times said that this Government has inherited a very difficult economic situation and today the foreign exchange reserve position is quite comfortable. He goes on stating this not only within the country, but abroad also. In these circumstances what will be the IMF's stand — that this country is facing a BOP position or our per capita income is less than 1000 dollars. Kindly clarify this important point whether the Government has sought any clarification from the IMF as to how they have evaluated and how they have come to this conclusion. Please let us know.

Regarding the current access, in the years 1986, 1987, 1988 we have imported a lot of edible oil and sugar. We have maintained that level, I am sure. What will be the level in terms of quantum and value of these imports that we have to make?

Finally I would like to touch the health care in one sentence. Some time back Justice Hidayutallah, Justice Chandrachud and Justice Shaw were telling that the decisions of the Paris Convention were not in consonance with the provisions of our Indian Constitution. Now these Dunkel proposals go beyond the Paris Convention. Are you going to sign that? Hitherto the Government of India has taken a stand that we will not be a signatory to Paris Convention because in our national interest we have to protect the interest of the ordinary people of this country and the common man of this country. Please let us know now what will be your stand.

Finally I would conclude by saying that many Members were asking that if you get out of the GATT what will be our position.

**18.00 hrs**

We do not want the Government to get out of the GATT. But, it is our national interest which is very important; and we should be in the forefront.

I will tell you one thing. Only on Saturday, there was a news item saying that the Third World is getting a raw deal in GATT talks. I will quote only one sentence. The Indian envoy said on 4th December that the developing countries were frustrated at poor market access offered by the major industrialised States in the Uruguay Round of negotiations. This is the situation. Out of an amount of 217 billion dollars which the countries are estimated to benefit from this Round of negotiations, the share of India will be only 4.6 billion dollars. (*Interruptions*) The industrialised countries will get the lion's share of 140 billion dollars. So, this is going for whose benefit? Please do not mortgage the interests of the farmers of this country or the common people of this country.

For health care, you are spending only 1.7 per cent of the Plan outlay. He was telling that only 45 per cent will be the increase on the drug prices. But, my fear is that the prices will increase by 300 to 500 per cent. So, the lower middle class and the middle class people will have to die because of their inability to purchase the medicines. Please keep the national interest in mind. (*Interruptions*) If GATT agrees to our suggestions to bring about amendments, to make changes in the Draft, to protect our interests, please sign it. Otherwise, please do not sign it.

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Prior to that, please ascertain the views of and the consent of more than half of the States. Otherwise, though your envoy may sign there, the people of this country will not tolerate that, will not accept that and when the police officials or the implementation authorities come to the farmers, they will kick them and they will throw them out; they will not tolerate this wretched agreement that will be forced on the farmers of this country.

With these words I would conclude; I thank you very much for having given me the opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, may I bring to the notice of the hon. Members that the time allotted for the discussion of this topic was three hours? Now, we have discussed it for nine hours. I am requesting Shri George Fernandes to make a speech. He makes very good speeches and generally, there will not be any restriction; but please bear this point in mind.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA  
(Madhubani): Sir, I have sent my name.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will not get the time, please. Shri George Fernandes.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot just give the list at the fag end of the discussion and ask for the time. You should have done it at the beginning; we would have planned for you and given you the time.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA  
(Madhubani): Please listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not ready to hear anything.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: The day before yesterday, you had said that those who had given their names can speak today. The reply will be given tomorrow. Those who had given their names for speaking. *(Interruptions)*

Please listen to me. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please look, you always give it at the fag end of the day and insist. We cannot make the plan. If you want to speak on any topic, give it in the beginning and we will give you time to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: It is a matter of the day before yesterday.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please give it in writing.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I have already given it to you in writing.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I will see this later. Please do not take the time now. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

to India on the basis of the GATT? It is happening in every area.

[Translation]

I would like to ask the hon. Minister one more question. Although there are so many queries, but you have been ringing the bell frequently. My question is regarding the statement made by the hon. Minister on the Multi-Fibre Agreement in which he stated that textile is the only area in which our export is increasing. Regarding the multi-fibre agreement he stated that he would not like to name the country which is causing disturbance here. The main reasons for which we are not getting quota under the multi-fibre agreement is that the countries like Britain, America and France the largest cloth manufacturers have their factories in Hongkong, Singapore and Taiwan and they make contracts with these factories only. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a sort of recycling process. The factories, companies of the white bigwings from the countries like France, Britain, America set up their small factories in Hongkong, Singapore and Taiwan and preserve their quotas for themselves.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Let me clarify the matter, I want that the hon. Minister should reply to my these questions.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I want to ask two specific questions.

Firstly, as indicated by Mr. Nitish Kumar, is it not the right of the farmers to use and produce grains for seed purposes, subject to a formal concurrence from the original bidder? Is not the proposed arrangement precludes sale of even token quantities to once neighbours thus affecting propagation of improved seed varieties?

Secondly, is it not a fact that as soon as we sign the Dunkel's final Draft-even before other provisions apply for each farm product-we have to allow import of 40 per cent of the stipulated 3.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product output viz. around 1.3 per cent? In a situation of glut, will not this cause havoc to our own agriculture?

MR. SPEAKER: Other Members are also waiting for their turn to ask questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Because I want an explanation from the hon. Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fernandes, you can ask questions but you don't have to comment on the question also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, I would like to specifically know from the hon. Minister whether in view of the divergent news, the Minister of Agriculture has no objection to patenting of micro-organisms and micro-biological processes stand of the Commerce Ministry. I want a clear clarification from the hon. Commerce Minister on that particular aspect. I would also like to know whether our Government is going to oppose patenting of micro-organisms and micro-biological processes.

Secondly, the hon. Minister has not clarified as to how this average per capita income of our country has been evaluated

by the IMF as Rs 1255. What is the position of the Government in that respect?

And thirdly, he was mentioning about China. China is not there in GATT. How could it sustain itself and develop into a very big and mighty economic force? Today, it might be taking a stand to join GATT. Why not our country, with so much middle class population, think of doing so? We have not only to enter their market but they are also very keen to enter our market to tap this consumer's market. Why not we stick to our stand very stubbornly in order to protect our national interest?

**KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE** (Calcutta South) Sir, ours is a vast country and seventy per cent of our people live in rural areas.

I want to ask the hon. Minister as to what protection the Government is giving for the farmers, specially, the farmers who come from the agricultural belt. What steps are the Government taking to protect the rights of the farmers as far as fertilizer subsidy is concerned?

Secondly, what steps are the Government going to take to make available life-saving drugs at reasonable prices to our poor people?

**SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI** (Deogarh): Sir, I have a very simple question to ask viz. about the period of patent. As of today, it is 14 years and it is going to be raised to 20 years as per the Dunkel Draft. I think, it will be to our disadvantage further if it is increased to 20 years from 14 years.

I want to know whether the Government considers desirable to get it reduced even from 20 years to a lesser period. I want

to know whether the Government had negotiated in that regard or not.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY** (Katwa): Sir, the hon. Minister has said that as far as banking system is concerned, our position will be "standstill".

Mr. George Fernandes has referred to that. But the question remains that if that is good even today, will that "standstill position" be retained? I want to know whether there will be a Clause in the GATT agreement that in this particular area, your own laws will operate.

If we can have this advantage for banking industry, we can have the same advantage for other areas also. So, this has to be very clearly and categorically stated by the Minister that in a particular area we can ignore their agreemental clauses and have our own laws. Otherwise, there is no meaning of this.

**SHRI RUPCHAND PAL** (Hooghly): In view of the fact that most of the provisions of the DDT straightway affect the Constitution of India and they are having far-reaching consequences for the State Legislatures, their rights, may I know whether the Government is prepared to assure this House that, before having the concurrence of the Parliament and also the WState Legislatures, that they will not sign any such documents which may jeopardise self-reliance and the economic sovereignty of the country.

There are more than 500 seed companies in our country which are providing seeds across the country. Will the licence of right be available to them as per any convention-1978 Convention or 1991 Convention so that automatically they can multiply and sell seeds to the farmers who require them?

of the Art Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) technology for construction of large diameter long tunnels for future hydroelectric projects.

[*Translation*]

**Satellite T.V.**

1525. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA:  
SHRI PARASRAM  
BHARDWAJ :  
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :  
SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA  
GOWIT:  
SHRI SURENDRA PAL  
PATHAK :  
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

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

(a) whether the cultural heritage of India based on unity in diversity is under peril on account of Satellite T. V. transmission

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce any scheme in order to combat the effect of satellite T.V. transmission;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and (d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO):

(a) Apprehensions Voiced in different quarters on this account have to Government's notice .

(b) to (d). While the contents of the programme of foreign television networks do not come within the ambit of the regulations of the Government of India, a number of changes in the programme of Doordarshan's satellite channels have been carried out to provide a wholesome fare of programming that is predominantly Indian including the introduction of a regional language service in ten regional languages, any increase in the number of fiction based programmes etc.

[*English*]

**T.V. Studio at Vijayawada**

1526. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: (a) whether the land has been acquired for construction of T.V. Studio at Vijayawada ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether machinery also has been ordered for the said T.V. Studio and if so, the details thereof ;

(d) the reasons for the delay in starting construction of T.V. Studio work at Vijayawada ; and

(e) by when the construction work is likely to state ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The site for the proposed TV Studio Centre at Vijayawada has been taken over and orders for the supply of equipment of long delivery schedule, have been placed on the manufacturers and part of it has also been received .

(d) and (e) . The civil works at site is expected to start after the scheme is formally approved by the competent authority .

**Upgradation of Post Offices in Kerala**

1527. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose for upgradation of Post Offices in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the details of post offices proposed to be upgraded during 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir .

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether no financial grants have been made available to the State Government during 1991-92 for these courses; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at +2 level, following was sanctioned to the State of Orissa for implementation of Vocational Education Programme:

| Year    | Funds released | No. of vocational sections sanctioned | No. of schools sanctioned |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1987-88 | 156.19         | 124                                   | 31                        |
| 1988-89 | 600.00         | 600                                   | 150                       |
| 1989-90 | 83.72          | --                                    | --                        |
| 1990-91 | 510.40         | --                                    | --                        |
| 1991-92 | --             | --                                    | --                        |
| 1992-93 | 1.22           | --                                    | --                        |

Fresh vocational courses were not sanctioned as the State Government had not confirmed utilisation of grants already released to them.

#### **Inter-City Express**

1767. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Inter-City Express Trains between Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam and Guntur-Hyderabad via Nadikudi; and

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b) Introduction of an express train between Guntur and Hyderabad via Nadikudi is under consideration. However, there is no proposal to introduce an inter-city train between Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam.

#### **Consumers Protection Act**

1768. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON-

(d) the time schedule set for its completion ?

Railway stations is a continuous process which is undertaken as and when warranted by traffic requirements subject to availability of funds. Accordingly, works have been taken up at all these stations.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI  
K.C. LENKA): (a) Modernisation of

(b) to (d) Details are as under.—

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Station                   | Particulars of work   | Cost  | Allocation<br>1993-94 | Target   |
|---------------------------|---|-------|-----------------------|----------|
| Balasore                  | Modernisation of station.                                   | 14.85 | 3.50                  | 31.03.95 |
|                           | Retiring rooms, refreshment room, dorm, reroofing, etc.     | 12.34 | 1.00                  | 31.03.95 |
|                           | Raising of Platform No.1&2                                  | 14.77 | 10.00                 | 31.03.94 |
| Bhadrak                   | Improve to circulating area                                 | 7.41  | 5.00                  | 31.12.94 |
|                           | Improvement to pass amenities                               | 5.15  | 3.00                  | 31.03.95 |
|                           | Raising of platform No.1&2                                  | 14.77 | 10.00                 | 31.03.94 |
|                           | Improvements to station bldg.                               | 16.71 | 5.00                  | 31.03.95 |
| Jajpur<br>Keonjhar<br>Rd. | Additional passenger amenities and raising of platform No.2 | 14.79 | 8.00                  | 31.03.95 |
|                           | Platform shelter on PF No. 2&3                              | 13.03 | 1.43                  | 31.03.94 |
|                           | Improvements to station bldg.                               | 32.36 | 13.00                 | 31.03.95 |
|                           | Extension of FOB  | 8.14  | 0.05                  | 31.03.95 |
| Jaleswar                  | Development of station.                                     | 5.00  | 1.00                  | 31.03.95 |
|                           | Raising of PF to high level.                                | 3.85  | 2.00                  | 31.03.94 |
| Rupsa                     | Raising of PF to high level                                 | 12.00 | 1.00                  | 31.03.95 |

#### Berth for Conductor/T.T.Es

1869. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conductor Travelling Ticket Examiners are not provided Berth/Seat facility in trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide a seat to Conductor/Ticket Checking staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) to (c) In most of the sleeper class coaches, there is a provision of a seat for ticket checking staff. Instructions have been given that Ticket Checking Staff/Conductor may be authorised to use

(a) the number of pending applications for freedom fighters pension received from Orissa as on October 31, 1993;

(b) the number of cases which are pending for more than three years;

(c) the number of cases which were recommended by the Government of Orissa;

(d) the reasons for delay in granting freedom fighter pension to them;

(e) whether the Government are aware that majority to these freedom fighters are on the fag end of their lives; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to decide these applications.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (f) No application for freedom fighters pension from Orissa, received within the prescribed last date, i.e., 31.3.1982 whether recommended by the Government or otherwise, is pending. However, many review petitions and some delayed applications are being received. While every effort is being made to take early decisions on these claims, receipts and disposal of such claims being a continuous process, it would be difficult to prescribe any definite time schedule for their disposal.

#### Health for All

2191. SHRI SOBHANA-DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government

propose to provide Health care to the entire population by 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, the number of doctors required to provide this health care; and

(c) the steps taken to recruit required number of Doctors in the Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir. India is committed to attaining this goal through the provision of comprehensive Primary Health Care Services relevant to the actual needs and priorities of the Community.

(b) This is no optimum Doctor population ratio but the country is improving upon the pool of Medical professional available each year.

(c) The recruitment of Doctors in State Government hospitals is done by the respective States Govts. The Central Govt. recruits doctors as per needs which are periodically reviewed.

#### Southern Water Grid

2192. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to form Southern Water Grid by linking the rivers in South India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE