

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). The lease arrangements have already been terminated by Indian Airlines.

[*English*]

Flood Control in Gujarat

*93. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme received from the Government of Gujarat for flood control with foreign assistance is pending with the Union Government for approval;

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

(c) whether there is any demand for sanction of flood control scheme of Narmada, Tapi, Sethi rivers in Gujarat under foreign aid scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMETARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Minor Irrigation Sources During Eighth Plan

*94. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total land under Minor Irrigation at the end of March, 1992 Statewise;

(b) the irrigation potential as per latest surveys;

(c) the details of targets fixed to create additional irrigation potential under Minor irrigation during the Eighth Plan period Statewise; and

(d) the amount allocated during the plan period; Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMETARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) A. Minor Irrigation DCensus with reference to year 1986-87 has been conducted in all the States except Rajasthan. The final figures of potential created in Minor Irrigation are yet to be firmed up by States.

(c) and (d). A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT.	Approximate potential created by the end of March 1992 (thousand ha.)	3	4	5
		VIII Plan (thousand ha.)		VIII Plan outlay (Rs. in crores)	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2871.51	500.00	234.68	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	63.00	20.00	53.69	
3.	Assam	621.46	180.00	183.45	
4.	Bihar	4769.95	1832.00	1021.30	
5.	Goa	18.33	4.00	13.10	
6.	Gujarat	1910.30	180.00	240.00	
7.	Haryana	1515.17	100.00	134.45	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	136.44	25.00	95.25	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	361.85	40.00	84.20	
10.	Karnataka	1449.80	220.00	306.91	
11.	Kerala	515.87	100.00	130.00	

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	Approximate potential created by the end of March, 1992 (thousand ha.)	Target for VIII Plan (thousand ha.)	VIII Plan outlay (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2574.32	532.00	726.37
13.	Maharashtra	2461.65	460.00	612.17
14.	Manipur	43.57	15.00	25.00
15.	Meghalaya	44.14	12.00	29.03
16.	Mizoram	10.55	6.00	11.75
17.	Nagaland	65.15	13.00	21.00
18.	Orissa	1258.62	150.00	389.40
19.	Punjab	3267.66	76.00	113.20
20.	Rajasthan	2388.48	300.00	171.92
21.	Sikkim	22.32	5.00	11.50
22.	Tamil Nadu	2125.23	110.00	250.00
23.	Tripura	88.35	27.00	31.50

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT.	Approximate potential created by the end of March 1992 (thousand ha.)	Target for VIII Plan (thousand ha.)	VIII Plan outlay (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	18827.00	5439.00	400.60
25.	West Bengal	2793.55	450.00	370.00
Total States		50210.17	10704.00	5862.47
Total Union Territories		82.88	7.00	21.79
General Sector				293.00
All India		50293.05	1071.00	5977.26

Indo-US Relations

963. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken/proposed to take any specific steps to strengthen further bilateral relations with the US after the assumption of office by the new president of that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the various spheres which are to be given proper stress to strengthen the bilateral relations with that country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). Government attach very high priority to the continued improvement in Indo-US relations, contacts have been established with the new US Administration. Government propose to enhance interaction with the new US Administration in order to further strengthen bilateral ties, particularly in areas of mutual interest.

(c) Indo-US relations are multi-dimensional. While our ongoing dialogue with the US covers a large number of sectors, Government attach particular importance to the realisation of the potential which exists in

economic Technological and commercial spheres.

NABARD'S Assistance to REC

964. SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA
RAO VADDE:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sought by the Rural Electrification Corporation from NABARD for its various projects in each State during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of such projects; and

(c) the amount allocated and released for each project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). After assessing the scheme-wise requirement of funds and availability of resources, NABARD makes a State-wise allocation of funds for pumpset energisation under the Special Project Agriculture Scheme of the Rural Electrification Corporation. The State-wise allocations and disbursements made by NABARD in each of the preceding three years is indicated in the Statement.

STATEMENT

NABARD'S Refinance Assistance for REC-SPA Scheme.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1989-90		1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
		Alloc.	Ach.	Alloc.	Ach.	Alloc.	Ach.	Alloc.	Ach. as on 19.2.91
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Haryana	256	259	250	237	566	130	190	114
2.	Punjab	402	189	175	175	46	36	185	22
3.	Rajasthan	328	325	500	462	482	376	353	3
4.	Orissa	100	81	270	264	-	99	210	10
5.	West Bengal	478	439	450	365	499	196	425	26
6.	Madhya Pradesh	3328	1891	3123	3123	2500	1414	962	203
7.	Uttar Pradesh	485	367	300	186	130	91	100	14
8.	Gujarat	578	381	800	820	1132	1122	100	295
9.	Maharashtra	3325	3022	4100	3832	3752	3209	3500	1040
10.	Andhra Pradesh	3100	2705	1900	1981	3581	1985	2950*	1167

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1989-90		1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
		Alloc.	Ach.	Alloc.	Ach.	Alloc.	Ach.	Alloc.	Ach.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11.	Karnataka	149	241	57	36	-	-	700	-
12.	Kerala	371	372	410	407	632	455	325	132
13.	Tamil Nadu	1600	1623	1500	1568	1680	1546	1600	685
	Total	14500	11895	13835	13456	15000	10659	12500	3711

* An additional allocation of Rs. 822 lakhs was made to A.P.

Note: NAVARD has not sanctioned any new schemes in States which have defaulted in repayments due to the Bank.

Alloc. = Allocation

Ach. = Achievement

Irrigation Projects in Punjab

4385 SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state

- (a) the particulars various ongoing irrigation projects in major and medium irrigation sectors in Punjab with the latest estimated cost, the amount spent as on March 31, 1992

and ultimate potential of each of the projects and

- (b) the likely period of their completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P K
THUNGON) (a) and (b) A Statement is
enclosed

Name of Project	1	2	3	4	5
		Latest Estimated cost (Rs Cr)	Cumulative Expenditure to end of 3/92 (Rs Cr)	Ultimate Potential thousand hectare	Likely date of completion
A MAJOR PROJECTS					
1 Sulej Yamuna Link Canal					
(a) Carner channel		529 00	464 54		would depend upon
(b) Providing irrigation facilities to Punjab areas		152 29	44 32	130	the ature and capacity of the new agency/ Government of Punjab
B EXTENSION, RENOVATION AND MODERNISATION PRODUCTS MAJOR PROJECTS					
1. Punjab irrigation & Drainage Project under World Bank's Assistance					Project closing date is scheduled for 31st March 1983 as per world bank
(a) Extension of Improvement of Shah Nahar Canal System (Kandi Canal)		95 25	64 16	25 36	

Name of Project	Latest Estimated cost (Rs Cr)	Cumulative Expenditure to end of 3'92 (Rs Cr)	Ultimate Potential thousand hectare	Likely date of completion
1	2	3	4	5
(b) Lining of Channels PH II	20 00	1.3 36	53 50	
(c) Rehabilitation & Improvement of Canal regulation system in canal system	24 62	2 03	25 20	
(d) Communication system on canals	8 00	-	-	
(e) Computer Aided Design & Training	2 50	2 496	-	
(f) Setting up of Punjab Irrigation Management Training Institute	4 00	0 03	-	
2 Extension of Non-perennial Irrigation of UEDC tract	11 23	8 89	233 00	Beyond VIII Plan
3 Remodelling of Channels for utilisation of surplus Ravi-Beas waters	19 05	10 61	413	VIII Plan
4 Raising lining of BL for providing freeboard (Punjab share is Rs 0 82 cr)	8 27	0 19	-	VIII Plan

Name of Project	Latest Estimated cost (Rs Cr)	Cumulative Expenditure to end of 3/92 (Rs Cr)	Ultimate Potential thousand hectare	Likely date of completely	
	1	2	3	4	5
5 construction of New Lined Combined channel of Bijaner Canal & Main Branch of Eastern Canal	18.49	-	-	VII Plan	
MEDIUM PROJECTS					
1 Construction of super Passage at RD 202380 Jalandhar Br 797000 Bisidooab (Nasrala Cheo)	5.00	1.00	-	VIII Plan	
2 Construction of Kahan singh wala Reclamation Channel RD 0058000 off-taking RD 11780 Main Br	0.52	0.40	-	VIII Plan	
3 Construction of Ehanjam Shakoor Reclamation Channel RD 10500 Kasubegu Disty	1.13	0.77	-	VIII Plan	

P & T and Telephone Exchanges

4386 SHRI HARADHAN ROY Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the details of post and telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in the country at present, State-wise

(b) whether the number of existing post and telegraph offices is not in commensurate with the population, and

(c) if so the steps taken by the Government during the last three years to increase their number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) The details of the Post and Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges in the country at present state-wise are given in the attached Statements I II and III respectively

(b) Post Offices

No sir The All-India average of popula-

tion served by a post office is 5827 as per the 1991 census which is reasonably adequate

Telegraph Offices

Yes, Sir The number of existing Telegraph Offices is inadequate to provide facility for all the population

(c) Post Offices

Post Offices are opened under Annual Plans In the last 3 years 3926 new post offices have been opened

Telegraph Offices

Department has taken steps to provide Telegraph facility as far as possible in all Post Offices where Telephone facility has been extended, through Long Distance Public Telephones/Public Call Offices

STATEMENT - I

The details of the total number of Post Offices functioning in the country Circle-wise as on date 20 3 93

<i>Sl No</i>	<i>Name of Circle</i>	<i>Total No of Post Offices</i>
1	Andhra Pradesh	16214
2	Assam	3759
3	Bihar	11616
4	Delhi	543
5	Gujarat	8900
6	Haryana	2562
7	Himachal Pradesh	2625
8	Jammu & Kashmir	1578

Support Price for Chillies and Turmeric

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

(a) whether the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends the minimum support prices for chillies and turmeric;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to include chillies and turmeric in the list of agricultural commodities in view of their large domestic consumption?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The question of bringing various crops under the purview of Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme is continuously reviewed by the Government in consultation with Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP). While deciding upon the crops to be brought under the purview of MSP Scheme, a distinction ought to be made between crops having localised production vis-a-vis crops grown extensively in the country, between perishable and non-perishable in the country, between perishable and non-perishable agricultural commodities and between crops important in terms of their contribution to total crop. After taking into account these considerations, the coverage of Minimum Support Price is not extended to chillies and turmeric.

Storage Facilities in Maharashtra

*468. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate facilities for storage of foodgrains are available in Maharashtra; and

(b) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI). (a) and (b). On a macro level basis, the existing capacity for storage of foodgrains in Maharashtra is considered to be adequate. However, in order to remove regional imbalances etc., Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation have tentatively proposed to construct additional storage capacity to the extent of 53,400 tonnes in Maharashtra during the Eighth Plan period.

[Translation]

Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme

*469. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to cover all the districts in each State under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme indicating the names of crops likely to be covered under it; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to intensify Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme for the betterment of the farming community?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

UGC/CSIR for junior research fellowship and lecturership in science subjects;

(b) the break-up of candidates by Universities;

(c) the number of successful candidates with their break-up by universities;

(d) whether the UGC has taken notice of the uneven performance of various universities; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to upgrade the standard of science education in the low performing universities

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Committees on Youth Programmes and Sports

4707. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up National/State level committees on youth programmes and sports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) and (b). The Government has constituted a Committee for National Youth

Programmes. The nominations of members of this Committee are under finalisation. On the sports side regional advisory committees have been constituted by Sports Authority of India to aid and advise on implementation of their schemes and programmes.

[*Translation*]

Women Everest Team

4708. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first-ever Indo-Nepal Women Everest Team recently left for expedition to Everest; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to introduce National Adventure Awards to encourage women climbers in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is considering the introduction of National Adventure Awards but a decision in this regard is yet to be taken.

[*English*]

Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme

4709. SHRI. SOBHANADREESWARA : -O VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cash crops which are

included in the Comprehensive crop insurance Scheme; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to include those cash crops which are not covered under the new pilot scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b). The crops presently covered under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) are wheat, paddy millets, oilseeds and pulses. However, in the proposed Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme (PCIS) it is proposed to include all crops provided the required number of crop cutting experiments can be conducted any yield data are available.

Base Godowns in West Bengal

4710. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India is maintaining the base godowns in West Bengal and stocks are being delivered from those godowns;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Food Corporation of India is maintaining 38 base depots in West Bengal and stocks are being delivered to the State Government from those depots.

(b) and (c). Do not arise

[*Translation*]

Sleeper Factory in Sitholi (Gwalior)

4711. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by sleeper factory at Sitholi (Gwalior);

(b) whether full capacity of this factory is being utilised;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to utilise the full capacity of this factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) There is no sleeper factory at Sitholi (Gwalior).

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

[*English*]

Travel Facilities to Gallantry Award Winners

4712. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide free rail travel facilities to the personnel of Gallantry Award winners of the Armed Forces; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (A) NO, SIR.

(b) Does not arise.

Accident on Ernakulam Thiruvananthapuram Section

4719. SHRI ASTBUHA PRASAD SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the causes of the accident of the Island Express at the bridge over the Astamudi Lake on the Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram section of the Southern Railway on July 8, 1988 have been finally ascertained;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the findings of the Expert Committee that had gone into the report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of Expert Committee.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, after inquiring into the accident had concluded that the accident to 26 Down Bangalore City-Trivandrum Central "Island Express" took place as a result of tornado having struck at the bridge, just as the train was passing over it and classified the accident under the category of "sudden conclusions of nature".

The Experts' Committee, consisting of eminent scientists and engineers, examined and evaluated the report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety. The Committee, however, did not agree with the finding of the Commissioner of Railway Safety that the accident was caused due to a tornado hitting the train while passing over the bridge. At the same time, the Committee expressed its inability to determine any precise single

cause being responsible for the accident.

(d) Indian Railways through the Research, Designs and Standards Organisation, Lucknow, are trying to build up expertise in the study of vehicle dynamics and rail-wheel interaction.

Gomoh-Burdwan Passenger Train

4720. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy rush of passengers in Gomoh-Burdwan passenger train;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to add more coaches with the train to meet the demand of passengers there;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Proposal for augmentation of accommodation in 89-90 Bardhaman - Gomoh Passenger is under active consideration of the Railways.

Farmers Club

4721. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD is organising farmers clubs in the country;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of these clubs;

(c) whether any budgetary allocation has been earmarked for such clubs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

tions of credit;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. NABARD is organising Farmers Clubs at village level for a group of 15-20 Farmers/ Artisanas of he village who have benefited from the Bank Credit and have also repaid the loans in time. The main aims and objectives of such Clubs are to ensure:-

(iii) Increase of productivity and income through work and skill;

(iv) Saving of additional income; and

(v) Payment of loan instalments in time and regularly so as to recycle credit.

(i) Use of credit in accordance with the most suitable methods of Science and Technology;

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. As per the information furnished by NABARD, a budget allocation of Rs 42 lakhs (approximately) has been made for the year 1992-93 for the following activities of the Farmers Clubs:-

(ii) Respect for the terms and condi-

<i>Sl.No</i>	<i>Name of the Activity</i>	<i>Budget prov. (Rs in lakhs)</i>
1.	Maintenance of Farmers Clubs	13.081
2.	Launching Expenditure	0.375
3.	Training and Borrowers Education Programme Expenditure.	12.950
4.	Publication and Literature Material and Mass Media Expenditure.	8.000
5.	Incentive to Best Managed Clubs/ Club Villagers on Selective basis	1.000
6.	Development of Model Clubs.	2.500
7.	Contingency and Misc. Provision	4.000
(Say Rs. 42 lakhs)		41.906

Milk Production

4722. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop some districts in the country on

the pattern of Anand district in Gujarat for augmenting Operation flood;

(b) if so, the number of districts identified so far, State-wise;

(c) the total outlay provide for increasing milk production and its collection in these

districts, State-wise; and

(d) the details of amount spent so far and result-achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Kota Open University

4273. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the average period after which the Degree of passing the examination is issued to successful candidates by the Kota Open University, Kota (Rajasthan);

(b) whether the Kota Open University has issued the Degree of passing the examination to all the students who passed M.A examination in 1989 particularly to those who passed in the subject of Economics through correspondence;

(c) if not, the number of students to whom the degrees have not been issued so far and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps take/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the Degrees of passing the examination are issued by the University within a reasonable time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): According to the information furnished by Kota Open University; (a) there is no specific time schedule for award of degrees. Provisional Certificates are issued on demand soon after declaration of result;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The number of M.A. students of 1989 who have not been awarded degrees is 1990 as due to unavoidable circumstances the degrees could not be printed.

(d) According to information furnished by the Government of Rajasthan the Vice-Chancellor has been advised to use his emergency powers, if necessary, to cut down procedural delays and award degrees quickly.

Research on Preservation of Milk and Milk Products

4724. DR. R MALLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) the recent researches made to improve the shelf life of milk and milk products by the national Dairy Research Institute, Karnal;

(b) whether the feasibility of such research works in rural sector has been taken into cognizance by Dairy Technologists;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the propagation and promotion of such research works so as to protect the milk and milk products from wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNAKUMAR): (a) Sir, NDRI is engaged in developing techniques to improve the shelf life of milk and milk products. This processing conditions, use of permitted preservatives and suitable packing materials.

these, nine proposals are for setting up 100% export-oriented units

The proposals which have been cleared are in the fields of barley malt and malt extracts packed/canned mushrooms, processed potato/grain food, tomato paste, mango paste, sprouting grade moong, beans spices, soya products, vegetable oil extracts

Ban on Irrigation Projects of Bihar

4759 SHRI SHIVA SHARAN SINHA Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Planning Commission has imposed a ban on the implementation of remaining portion of work on Gandak irrigation project during the Eighth Five Year Plan,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and

(c) if not the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) (a) to (c) The remaining portion of work of Gandak project under Gandak Phase-II is being implemented by the Government of Bihar as an on-going project. An outlay of Rs 35 crores has been approved for this project during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Supply of Power from Sugar Mills to Electricity Grids

4760 SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether a number of sugar factories have surplus power during the crushing season which can be fetched to the State Electricity Grids to overcome power shortage,

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to supply power from sugar factories to the Electricity Grids,

(c) if so the details thereof and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S KRISHNA KUMAR) (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A number of sugar factories have got potential to generate surplus power during the crushing season. It has been estimated that an additional 3 200 MW is feasible through co-generation in sugar factories. A programme for promoting the use of bagasse from sugar factories for co-generation is under consideration.

Two Pilot Plants each of about 4 MW capacity surplus power have been taken up in Tamil Nadu under partial grant assistance from the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. First Pilot Plant has been completed and about 65 000 units of electricity have been generated and fed into the grid for the crushing season ending July, 1992. The second plant is under advance stage of completion.

[Translation]

Desert Area

4761 SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHILIA
SHRIMATI SHEELAGAUTAM
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR

Increase in input cost of DAP

4768. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the producers of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) have been badly affected by the steep increase in the input cost?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of representation received in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of action taken/proposed in this regard to normalise the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (d). Consequent on removal of price and movement control on phosphatic fertilizers w.e.f 25.8.1992, there was a spurt in the price of DAP in the open market. With a view to reducing the cost of production of the indigenous producers of DAP, Government abolished customs duty on import of phosphoric acid and also allowed foreign exchange at official rate for import of raw materials. Simultaneously, the import of DAP was decanalised with foreign exchange to be arranged at market rates. However, with the announcement of unified exchange rate in the Budget proposals for 1993-94, the import of raw materials for manufacture of DAP has become costlier in Rupee terms

The fertilizer industry has asked for a package of relief so that the indigenous DAP industry could compete with the imported DAP. Government has taken note of the representations from the industry, with a view to extending appropriate relief.

4769. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the price at which molasses are to be supplied to the allottees by the sugar factories;

(b) the price of molasses in the open market;

(c) whether the Government propose to de-control molasses and increase its price to sustain viability of sugar factories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The prices of sugarcane molasses are regulated under the Molasses Control Order 1961. The present prices of sugar mill Molasses under this Order are as follows:-

<i>Grade of Molasses</i>	<i>Prices of Molasses (Rs per Quintal)</i>
Grade I	14 40
Grade II	11 50
Grade III	8 60
Below Grade III	8.60 for every 40 kilogramme reducing sugar content therein

(c) and (d). A decision on decontrol of molasses is yet to be taken.

Production and Export of Coir

4770. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

the failure of the railway?

[*Translation*]

Sir, the hon Minister has said in reply that there are a number of other reasons for which Railways do not take responsibility, but in those cases where the Railway is responsible; was there any system in vogue in Railways in 1986 for awarding punishment and the second part of my question is Why cannot the railways have some method of saying sorry to the passengers? Even if a token system is introduced whereby the passengers are conveyed regrets when the trains are unduly late, I am sure it will bring about credibility of the railways.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: This suggestion, of course, can be observed, but how is it possible to say regrets from morning till evening to every passenger? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU: The Railway Minister admits that the trains are late.

MR. SPEAKER: If the trains are late from morning to evening, do not say that. If that trains are late once in a while, you say that!

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: I welcome your suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. You replied. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE (Vilaspur): In his reply to the question the hon. Minister has provided the data upto April. Will the Minister give the data for the whole year? The trains always run late during rainy season. All the Mail/Express trains are running late. The chain pulling also causes late running of trains. I would like to know from, the hon. Minister as to

what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: The punctuality is certainly affected. I have already given the main reasons in the statement. There are certain reasons which are beyond the control of the railways and there are also certain reasons which are within the control of the railways. The reasons beyond the control of the railways have gone up to 47 per cent. However, we will take note of this and we have a regular monitoring cell in our Railway Board for 24 hours and every day at zonal level, General Manager has to take a meeting on punctuality of the previous day's trains running along with the Heads of the Department and to see how best the trains can reach the destination on time.

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that almost all trains coming from Eisakapatnam side are running late because of the poor condition of the track between Rajahmundry and Vijayawada. Will the Ministry take necessary steps to strengthen the track conditions so that this late running of trains is eliminated. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since the electrification has already been completed from New Delhi to Madras, will the cushion time be reduced and will the running time of the Tamil Nadu Express and G.T. Express reduced to help the passengers.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: After having taken various facts into consideration, the time-table has been framed. So, I feel it will be difficult to reduce the running times of the prestigious trains in spite of electrification.

So far as the late running of trains between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada is concerned, the track condition, wherever it needs rehabilitation, we are doing and certainly in some of these areas from

Balharshah to Vijayawada or from that end.

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: So many accidents have taken place. Because of certain engineering works also, sometimes the speed to be reduced. That is how it affects the punctuality.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chhatisgarh Express running between Bilaspur and Amritsar generally reaches Delhi late by one and a half hour on 5-6 days in a week. Similarly the return train also reaches there late. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the criteria fixed for determining the trains running late whether it is one and a half hours or more than this? This train is generally late by 15-20 minutes. Earlier the late even after electrification of the track and hauling by lactic engines. This train taken 28 hours to reach Bilaspur while other train just takes 21 hours. So, there is the time difference of 7 hours. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take special interest in saving time of running of this train? It is my observation that in the Chhatisgarh region people are generally poor and they do not raise hue and cry. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Chhatisgarh region will continue to be neglected or will he take some steps in this direction?

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: I appreciate the feelings of the hon. Member. I take note of it. We will see how best we can improve the punctuality of the trains.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the relationship between the railways and the passengers is one-sided. Perhaps, there may be hardly a business concern in

the world in which relation between buyer and seller is not two-sided. The Railways is the only concern in India which is least accountable, no matter however the passenger is worried. He has said that trains run late due to pulling of alarm chain. But, in my constituency I have seen that alarm chains are not fitted in the trains. As a result, when Shri George Fernandes was the Minister in charge, during the Ninth Lok Sabha, a train in my constituency caught fire and 50-60 passengers burnt to death. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this system of alarm chain will be introduced. He says that trains run late because of the pulling of alarm chains. I would like to submit that the trains reaching Patn are also generally late.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a fact normally noticed by us at the platforms, that announcements are made that the trains are arriving in time even after the schedule time of arrival is well past the clock. It is our experience.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am pulling the chain.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This we have noticed at Patna, Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Delhi, where announcements continue to be made that trains are arriving in time even after the schedule time of arrival is well past the clock. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether steps will be taken for ensuring the punctuality of the trains and maintenance of performance record and the enquiry system strengthened, and whether alarm chain will be fitted in the trains running within the periphery of 100 kms. of Patna?

These are some of the points that I wanted to mention about the President's Address; but these are only a tip of the iceberg; and the iceberg is still to be seen. And I think the fact that the points that I have mentioned have not been mentioned in the President's Address is entirely in tune with the total hole and corner manner in which the Government has been acting, the way they have been promoting certain policies, implementing certain policies without even discussing it in the Parliament.

So, I strongly protest against the content of the President's Address while expressing my respect for the President's Address. Thank you.

SHRI SOBHANADRESSWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with due respect to the President of India, I rise to oppose this Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

I have gone through the President's Address and I found it most disappointing, more so concerning to the agricultural sector. I am happy that hon. Minister for Agriculture is here. In this, on page 5 paragraph 16, I find that our plans for agriculture go beyond mere self-sufficiency. We see it as an area of great potential capable of yielding much higher incomes to farmers rural level. The Government may be having this intention but it has not been put into practice.

Sir, you will recollect, during the last Budget Session we were told that small Farmer's Business Agri Consortium will be set up to encourage the exports of agricultural products to earn more foreign exchange and at the same time to help the farmers directly, more so the small and marginal farmers of this country. But till now we have not heard anything. We do not

know where it is. In what cold storage it is kept, we do not know.

I am very sorry to say that the hon. Prime Minister after Tenth Lok Sabha elections after assuming the responsibility as the Prime Minister of this country said at Hyderabad that necessary changes will be brought in the comprehensive crop insurance scheme and it will remodel to take care of the deficiencies that have been observed to rally help the farmers in times of distress and really give relief. But till now no such scheme is being implemented.

We are really surprised that the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer has given a report and immediately without losing any time, in a matter of week this Government has increased the price of fertilizers. But it does not care to implement the promises made by the Prime Minister of this country. That shows the interest of this Government towards the farmers.

I would like to ask this Government that you have come up with new industrial policy and economic reforms, but do you really want the reforms in agricultural sector. Are you not thinking that reforms in agricultural sector also very much necessary, where 66 per cent of the population is dependent on agricultural, both as farmers and agricultural labourers?

Only during the last day of the last Session, our friend Shri Balram Jakhar praised the agricultural policy draft. I have gone through that in detail but I am very sorry to say that it is nothing but a rhetoric. It has only contents and sentences which we find in the previous statements of the Ministers of Agriculture. It is far different from the initial draft prepared by the Standing Advisory Committee headed by Shri Sharad Joshi and in which Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

[Sh. Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde]

and myself were Members, which has given the draft.

In this we found out why our agriculture has not made rapid strides. We are not going to really take the country forward in the matter of agricultural, while China with only 100 million hectares is able to produce 400 million tonnes of foodgrains.

But in our country, with 140 million hectares of cropped land we are not able to produce even 170 million tonnes of foodgrains. Unless we basically address ourselves to remove these deficiencies, the Draft Agriculture Policy itself is not going to solve the problem.

In the Address, on page 5 in paragraph 15, it is said -

"Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian economy and its people. As it is still essentially dependent upon rainfall, there was a drop in foodgrains production in 1991-92 by about nine million tonnes."

But what in the Government doing to change the situation? Now, 70 per cent of our cropped land is dependent upon the rain gods. What is it that the Government is doing?

It may be your experience also in Maharashtra, Mr. Chairman, that several irrigation projects that have been inaugurated along ago have not yet been completed. We have a bitter experience in our State, Andhra Pradesh. The late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation stone of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project. He said, "These are the temples of this century." After 25 years, that great project, the

Nagarjuna Sagar Project is not yet completed, for your information. The reason is, in these 40 years only an amount of Rs. 25,000 crore has been spent on major and medium irrigation. How non-sensible it is. But a sum Rs. 12,000 crore has been spent on a single steel plant Rs. 12,000 crore; For the whole country the Government has spent only Rs. 25,000 crore on irrigation projects.

Only day - before - yesterday the Minister for Water Resource, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla was giving an answer to my question. He said that during the Eighth Plan a sum of Rs. 5900 crores was being allotted to bring one million hectares of land under minor irrigation projects. Our irrigation potential in minor irrigation sector is 80 million hectares and till now we are able to harness only less than 50 per cent of it.

On the same day there was answer to a question, in which the Minister of Power was telling that Rs. 7,800 crore was going to be spent on a thermal power project in the State of Maharashtra.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have only two minutes at your disposal

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Please give me a few more minutes. Several Members have already spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have more time at their disposal.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Rs. 7800 crore on a single power project and for the whole country only Rs. 5900 crores on minor irrigation sector. If this situation continues in future also, the levels of the farmers and the agricultural labourers are not going to improve. Unless the living conditions improve, unless the per capita

income of those people increases, all the efforts of the Government to industrialise this country, or to bring industrial development in the country are not going to bear fruit. Already the disparity of income between the average income of a person in the farm sector and one in the confirm sector, has grown. It was 1:2 earlier but has now increased to 1:4, very recently.

So, I request this Government to take all these factors into account and to give a go by to the policy which has been in practice all these years, giving a higher priority to industrial sector and a step motherly treatment to the agriculture sector.

I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has asked the Finance Minister of this country for permission to issue irrigation bonds to enable the Government of Maharashtra to collect funds from the farmers to complete the irrigation projects that are already taken on hand so that they can be completed before the year 2000 AD. But the Finance Minister refused. He said that they would not be given permission, that could not collect funds from the farmers for completion of irrigation projects. This Government wants all the savings of the farmers to go to the industries of Tatta and British of this country. The same Finance Minister who said that no permission could be given, and that the Government could not stand security for the funds collected by the Maharashtra Government, what did he do?

The same Government asked the States Governments to stand surety towards loan taken by the private individuals from foreign countries.

I request the Government to kindly think over on all these issues not only in the interest of the farmers but also in the interest

of the country. Unless the mistake is rectified, the Government is not going help this country and take it forward.

I would like to say one word on small scale sector. I am very happy that a delayed payments Bill has been brought in the interest of the small scale sector which is paying a very vital role. The small scale industrial sector is contributing 38 per cent of the total employment; 23 per cent of the gross cut put and 18 per cent valued added with only a fixed capital of 6 per cent in the industrial sector and its share in the export sector in 28 per cent. But, unfortunately, the excise duty limit which was enhanced from 20 lakhs to 30 lakhs is not at all sufficient because of the steep increase in prices of steel, iron, non-ferro alloys and ferro alloys during the last few years which are the important raw materials of small scale industry. This limit should be enhanced from 20 lakhs to 30 lakhs.

The economic policies and reforms which you have introduced here have not percolated to the State level. An entrepreneur is facing difficulties with urban land ceiling clearance regarding the land required for setting up an industry. Files are not cleared in time and because of which the entrepreneur continues to suffer.

Before concluding, I would like to say two points. Firstly, the Government should not act in a haste and appoint a Joint Parliamentary Committee to examine the implications of the Dunkel draft text which is going to adversely affect the agricultural and other spheres of our economy. Secondly, the Government must reconsider its stand regarding reference to the Supreme Court on Ayodhya issue under Article 143. I only urge upon the Government to reconsider and refer the matter under Article 138 sub-section 2 to give the confidence to the

[Sh. Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde]

minorities of this country. The Government shall act as per the findings/decision of the Supreme Court after examining the whole are having discontentment and do not have belief on this Government cannot be convinced about the sincerity of the Government to resolve the issue.

With these words, I oppose it. I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, I have something very important to bring to your kind notice. In the morning when the House was adjourned by the Speaker, we went to the Central Hall to have a cup of tea. Unfortunately, we have been threatened by one of the Central Ministers. The free and fair expression in the House has been threatened by one of the Central Ministers in the Central Hall.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore): The Minister has used the most abusive language. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What time has it happened?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Basudb Acharia, let him complete what he wants today.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU: We ordered for a cup of tea. Shri Santosh Mohan Dev the Union Minister went there. We offered a cup of tea. At that time, Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, a senior Member of this House, came there. He took his seat. The conversation was a friendly conversation. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request you not to raise this matter in the House. It is not proper.

(*Interruptions*)

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik): You do not allow them.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will decide it, you may not. Whatever the members do outside the House.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDERSAN RAY CHAUDHURI (Sereampore): Sir, it is not outside the House. It is in the Central Hall, in Parliament. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down first. When I am standing, you should sit down. You should not argue. This is not the way of behaving in the House. I am ruling that whatever happens outside the House....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is outside the House. But they are the premises or precincts of Parliament. Whatever happens outside the House is not to be raised here. There are ways of raising it. You can even give a notice of breach of privilege. You can raise it tomorrow. When two Members do something, it is not a question for this House to discuss it.

SHRI ANIL BASU: It is not that. One Minister of threatened Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, a senior Member of this House. He used filthy language. (*Interruptions*)

motivated for the purpose About 1,62,398 tribal have availed the benefit Legal aid is meant for tribals and people belonging to Scheduled Castes and none else

SHRI ANNA JOSHI In part (c) of the question it has been asked

[English]

"The steps taken to create awareness among the poor people to avail themselves of free legal assistance under the aforesaid scheme"

[Translation]

The reply given to it is that seminars are held in Universities and law colleges to disseminate information in this regard I think at the time of 42nd Amendment I had made a demand for "Courts at your door steps" Some other hon Member has also desired to know whether the services of Gram Panchayats and electronic media would be utilised for disseminating information Or is there any need to chalk out some other programme for the purpose? If so, how will it be done?

[English]

SHRI H R BHARDWAJ I have mentioned that the judges not only of the District Courts, but also the judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court have visited the remotest tribal areas in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, etc and held camps We have done so much work in tribal areas for the benefit of the people

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE Sir, whatever be the intention of the Government and the efforts made by the Government, it is a fact that primarily because of the inadequacy of funds and secondly because of the ignorance of the people especially the poor people regarding the legal aid scheme, they are not able to utilise the benefits of the scheme I would like to know from the hon Minister as to whether the Ministry of laws has taken into consideration the fact that the legal procedure code

which was evolved very long time back has become more time consuming and very expensive, due to which justice is denied - justice delayed is justice denied - in respect of the poor people; and that is why, the naxalites are getting sympathy in certain areas

Will the Government come forward with suitable amendments in the Civil Procedure Code so that justice is rendered to the needy people at the earliest possible time?

SHRI H R BHARDWAJ: I quite see the point of the hon Member, that illiteracy in the country does not permit a lot of people to know their rights But, as I submitted earlier, the legal literacy programme is meant to educate them So far as the paucity of funds is concerned, there is paucity of funds; I would request the Central Government and the State Governments to give maximum funds for these programmes; we are doing that campaign.

So far as amendment to various laws are concerned, we must drastically amend these laws so that simple procedures come. For that, we have already circulated the Law Commission's Report on *Gram Nyayalayas* to see that poorer people get justice at their doorsteps The State Governments have given their views I must tell the hon. member that without the consultation of the State Governments, administration of justice cannot be dealt with by us because it is a State Subject, but some of the State Governments have come forward and said, "Yes, we must drastically amend the laws relating to the rural litigation" These are very complicated questions and our total attention is on this side, we must see that the poorer people are defended as best as possible.

Electronic Hardwork Technology Parks

*125 SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state

(a) whether the scheme for establishing Electronic Hardware Technology Parks

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA):**

(a) coal supplies to all power utilities are effected against quarterly linkages decided by the Standing Linkage Committee on the basis of generation targets accepted by power stations.

As against the agreed target for supply of 137 Million Tonnes (including middling) for the power sector during the year 1991-92, the despatches have been of the order of 136.90 Million Tonnes. Similarly, during the year 1992-93 coal companies have committed to supply 150 Million Tonnes to power utilities. During the period April, 1992 - January, 1993 coal companies (CIL & SCCL) supply a total of 121.25 Million Tonnes which works out to 99.2% of the target for this period and 80.83% of the annual target of coal supplies. Coal Companies are confident of meeting the requirement in full of the power utilities as per the target.

The stocks of coal at most power houses has improved significantly except for the power houses which have problems of unloading of coal.

(b) Most of the cesses which were being levied by State Governments on coal have been stock down by courts. Since these cesses were being levied by State Governments, the question of Union Government enhancing them does not arise.

(c) Coal supplies to power stations are require. It monitored in the Weekly Coordination Committee Meeting in which the representatives of Ministries of Coal, Railways & Power participate. There exists close coordination between these organisations for ensuring better availability of Coal to the power houses.

Open Cast Mines in Andhra Pradesh

1499; SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken necessary steps to develop open cast mines at Manuguru in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose during the current plan period and the output expected therefrom?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR
PANJA):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from 3 open cast projects already developed in Manuguru area, two more open cast projects viz. Manuguru OCP-III and Manuguru OCP-IV are envisaged for development during the current Plan Period. However investment approvals on coal projects are dependent on various factors like availability of land, environmental & forestry clearances, techno-economic feasibility and availability of adequate funds etc.

(c) For the 5 open cast mines/projects (including the two contemplated) the present Plan allocation for the period 1992-93 to 1996-97 is Rs. 188.75 crores. During the terminal year of the Plan the coal production from open cast mines in Manuguru area has been projected as 4.47 million tonnes.

**Pipeline from Visakhapattanam to
Vijayawada**

1500. SHRI DHARAMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

depositor during the currency of an account, full maturity value is payable to the legal heir or nominee under certain conditions. Withdrawal and nomination facilities are available.

(ii) Interest on deposit in Post Office Monthly Account is 14% per annum payable monthly. Premature withdrawal of the deposit after three years is allowed without loss of interest. Bonus equal to 10% of the deposit is payable on maturity of six years. In case of death of a depositor before maturity, account may be closed and deposit refunded along with interest upto the month preceding the month in which refund is made.

(iii) Investment in Indira Vikas Patra and Kisan Vikas Patra doubles in five years. These certificates are available in lower denomination also. No application form necessary for purchase of Indira Vikas Patra. Premature encashment after two and half years is allowed in the case of Kisan Vikas Patra.

(b) Deposit Scheme for Retiring Employees of Public Sector Companies was introduced from 1.1.91. This scheme is operated through banks. Retirement benefits invested in an account opened under the scheme yield an interest income is exempt from Income Tax.

National Savings Scheme, 1992 was introduced from 1.10.92. No account shall be opened under the new scheme with deposit of less than one hundred rupees and all deposits shall be made in multiples of hundred rupees. Interest at the rate of 11% p.a. shall be allowed on deposits under the scheme. The account may be closed after the expiry of four years from the end of the year in which the account was opened. Tax concessions under sections 88 and 80 L of the Income Tax Act are available.

(c) The return on small savings schemes is now considerably higher than the return on bank deposits of correspond-

ing maturity due to the reduction of rate of interest payable on bank deposits.

Setting up of New Branches of Banks

1661. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government do not fix target for setting up new branches ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the criteria being followed by the Government for setting up new branches of nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not fixed year-wise target for setting up of new branches of banks for the current branch Licensing Policy. It is not so possible because the opening of new branches depends on various factors such as availability of infrastructural facilities as also the business potential of the centre. Under the branch licensing policy of RBI, the banks which attain the revised capital adequacy norms and prudential accounting standards have been given freedom to set up new branch offices without the prior approval of RBI. The banks should, however, take into account such parameters as business potential, service area approach and their overall viability of the proposed branches.

Export of Chillies, Turmeric And Other Spices

1662. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of chillies, turmeric and other species exported during each of the last three years item-wise ; and

(b) the steps taken to encourage farm-

ers to produce these crops and export more quantity of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES/CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRI-

BUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The quantity and value of chillies, turmeric and other spices exported during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 (upto Jan., 1993) are given below :-

	(QTY : MT)		VAL : Rs. crore)			
	QTY.	VAL.	QTY.	VAL.	QTY.	VAL.
i) Chillies	24534	27.56	33398	97.91	11550	49.31
II) Turmeric	13624	15.48	16565	31.58	12450	30.56
iii) Other Spices	71478	199.10	80604	232.55	60040	183.26
Total	109636	242.14	130567	362.04	84040	263.13

Source : Speces Board.

(b) For increasing the production and productivity of spices a Central Sector Integrated Programme for the Development of Spices is being implemented. Various measures include (i) Production of planting material/foundation seed of turmeric, chillies sprayers (iii) Establishment of demonstration-cum-progeny gardens for spices in North Estem region (iv) Training of armors of farm processing of spices . Union Ministry of Agriculture has an outlay of Rs.150.00 crores for Integrated Development of Spices during VIII Plan. Spices Board also takes various measures to export more quantity of chillies and other various measures to export more quantity of chillies and other spices to earn more foreign exchange. These nclude :

- i) imparting training on quality evaluation and upgradation to meet international quality standards.
- ii) development of export of value added products especially oleoresins of specises including chillies.
- iii) string thinning market base in existing markets and identifying new markets.

Development of National Waterway

1663. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work relating to the development of the National Waterway from Kwttapuram to Quilon in Kerala has been started:

(b) if so, the present stage of the project ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to declare the National Waterway ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The Quilon-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal has been declared as a National Waterway w.e.f. 1.2.1993. The development of the Waterways would be undertaken in a phased manner. A field office, headed presently by an Asstt. Director has been set up at Cochin and 19 posts have been sanctioned by Govt. to meet the immediate needs. As a first phase, a scheme for improvement of Champakara and