

Central Government is the highest in the history of last 46 years.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISRA: The price of sugar has been raised.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point it out to him that the increase in the price of sugarcane last year is the highest in 46 years as a result of which sugar production is likely to increase very much next year and it will be the record production in our country.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the consumption of sugar is increasing at a compound rate of 5 per cent - and as mentioned by the Minister just now that there is a reduction in sugar production - I would like to know whether the Government will take necessary steps to increase the statutory minimum price which has been fixed at Rs. 34.50.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied that it has already been done.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Last year, the increase was Rs. 5. This year, it is only Rs. 3.50. In view of the comparative prices for other agricultural produce like paddy, wheat and other products - the price of paddy comes to Rs. 37.50 - I would like to know whether the Government would encourage the cane growers to see that the benefit of de-control of molasses goes to them. In order to encourage cane cultivation, will you give instructions to the factories specifically to share 50 per cent of the additional profits earned by them which will subsequently lead to increase in sugar production?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Statutory Minimum Price is linked with the Levy price. Here, the hon. Member is asking why the price of sugar has gone up. As you have rightly said, 50 per cent profit on the molasses will go to the farmers.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: You have not given the instructions. Contrary to your promise, you have not given the instructions.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: After de-control of the molasses, 50 per cent of the profit has gone to sugarcane growers.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: No. Not a single factory has given. You take the example of the biggest sugar factory in Andhra Pradesh. They are getting profits worth crores of rupees but they are not giving them to the cane growers. Do not try to mislead.... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you will not reply to any of the interjections. You will only reply to the main supplementary..... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. KALP NATH RAI: Sir, because of de - control of molasses, 50 per cent of the profit will go to the sugarcane growers... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: So, you are expecting it to go to the growers.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: In cooperative sector, 100 per cent will go. As far as private millowners are concerned, 50 per cent will go for their modernisation, for rehabilitation and for the growth of the industries.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO

VADDE: But the orders have not been issued.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: These have been done.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO  
VADDE: Not a single rupee has been given to the farmers.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: So, I would like to say that the highest price for sugarcane is being given to the farmers of India because of de-control of molasses....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO  
VADDE: No. I am very sorry to say that.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: The hon. Minister has just now said that the Minimum Support price is Rs. 34.50 per quintal which is not sufficient. That is why, the farmers in Maharashtra had to take recourse to courts of law. One High Court had decided and given orders that the Minimum Support Price to be given to the farmers should be Rs. 730 per tonne which is double the price fixed as Support Price by the Government of India. This is because of increase in the cost of production, reduction of subsidy on fertilizers and the cost of inputs which have gone up. That is the reason why the sugarcane farming has become very costly.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in view of the court's order, he is going to increase the Support price of sugar.

MR. SPEAKER: That was exactly the question which was asked by Mr. Rao.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO  
VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to bring these facts to the knowledge of the Minister. The farmers in Maharashtra had gone to the

court and the court had fixed the Minimum Support Price which is double the price fixed by the Government of India.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Government of India decides the price of the sugarcane, they keep in mind the interests of the sugarcane growers, sugar mills and the consumers. As the hon. member was saying that the price of sugar is increasing. I want to tell him that sugar in India is the cheapest in the whole world. Let him tell me the name of any one country where the price of sugar is lower compared to India.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, this is a question relating to sugar. Let it be asked in a sweet manner. The reply can also be forceful, but it should be speeded up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with just now the hon. Minister condemned the previous Government, with your kind permission. I would like to know from him as to why payment has not been made to the sugar mills of U.P. the last two months, payment would be made to farmers only when sugarmills get their dues. No payment has been made to farmers by sugarmills so far since December. In the circumstances I would like to know the reasons for not making payment.

MR. SPEAKER: Payment to the sugar mills has not been made. Nobody makes payment to sugar mills.

[*English*]

Nobody pays to the sugar mills.

(*Interruptions*)

**Wagon Procurement Programme**

902. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the steps taken by the Railways for planning and finalising wagon procurement programme for the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): Advance preparation has already started for formulating the programme for procurement of wagons during 1994-95. This is expected to be finalised after approval of the Railway Budget by the Parliament.

[*Translation*]

**Public Distribution System**

903. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:  
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA  
KAUR (DEEPA)  
SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK:

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

(a) whether the number of consumers under the Public Distribution System has declined sharply due to increase in the prices of food items being sold at fair price shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to review the PDS for the benefit of the poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With a view to evolve a National Policy on Public Distribution System which should focus on the allocation of larger and more meaningful quantities to the really, needy and deserving sections of the society, the Central Government had set up a Committee of Ministers comprising Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies of Tamil Nadu, Haryana and West Bengal. The report of this Committee was considered at the 16th Meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS in September, 1993. The Advisory Council on PDS decided to refer the issue to the National Development Council for further discussion with the State Governments. The Central Government has not taken any final decision in the matter.

[*English*]

**Quality of Feed**

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

(a) whether the Government are taking steps to maintain the quality of feed supplied to brackish water prawn culture units sold by the manufacturers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) and (b): Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce has prescribed prawn feed quality standard as indicated below:-

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1.	Moisture	Less than 10%
2.	Protein	More than 30%
3.	Fat	Between 4% - 10%
4.	Fibre	Less than 6%
5.	Ash	Less than 12%
6.	Water stability	Minimum 6 hrs.

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The prawn feed manufacturing units which do not conform to the standards prescribed by MPEDA as above, are not considered for registration. The Ministry of Agriculture also gives technical approval for proposal for establishment of prawn feed manufacturing units only when it is satisfied that the feed to be manufactured will have efficient feed to flesh conversion ratio.

#### **India-Israel Agreement**

906. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Israel has signed any agreement during December, 1993;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the areas identified for the joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. India and Israel have signed an Agreement for cooperation in the field of Agriculture on 24th December, 1993.

(b) The agreement provides for cooperation in agricultural science and technology including research, education, extension and training, development projects and joint ventures between companies or institutions of the two countries in the areas of water and soil management, arid and semi-arid crop production, plant and animal sciences, veterinary science, farm mechanisation and technology, agro-forestry, etc. Cooperation under the agreement is to be carried out through biennial work plans prepared by mutual agreement.

(c) Specific areas/proposals for joint ventures are yet to be finalised.

#### **Railway Projects in West Bengal**

907. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing Railway projects in West Bengal are running behind schedule in comparison to other Railway projects in various States;

(b) whether the funds allotted for those projects were withdrawn;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

posts; reduction in duty hours; promotion of some categories of staff; medical facilities; construction of staff quarters, etc.

(c) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is always prepared for discussion with the Employees' Associations on all genuine grievances to arrive at reasonable solutions. In fact the Commissioner Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has been holding discussions with the recognised Employees' Associations from time to time on the demands/grievances of the employees. Many of the present demands have also earlier been the subject of discussion with the Employees' Associations.

#### **Maintenance of Electric Locomotives**

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

(a) whether the demand of maintenance of Electric locomotives has increased with the completion of several important railway lines with electrical power;

(b) whether the demand for maintenance of more Electric Locomotives has arisen at Vijayawada which is located at a very central position;

(c) if so, the existing capacity of Electric Loco Shed at Vijayawada;

(d) whether the Railways has plans to expand the Electric Loco Shed in the near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Additional Electric Locomotives requires due to completion of Electrification Works are being maintained at Vijayawada temporarily, pending completion of electric loco shed at Lallaguda.

(c) 100 Locos.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. The construction of Electric Loco Shed at Lallaguda is in progress and on completion of the same, the locomotives in excess of the capacity at Vijayawada will be transferred to Lallaguda.

[*Translation*]

#### **Expansion of Railway Station in U.P.**

991. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for the expansion of Railway Station of Dehradun and other stations in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the action proposed to be undertaken in this regard?

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

(b) Facilities at stations are provided as per norms depending on the volume of passenger traffic handled. Periodically, surveys are conducted to ascertain the deficiencies which might have accrued due to increase in the volume of traffic and proposals are formulated to eliminate the deficiencies in a phased manner subject to the availability of funds. Suggestions received from the various bodies are given due consideration while formulating the

The Project is planned to be completed during the eighth five year plan.

(d) The project will be implemented under the over all coordination and supervision of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

### **Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology Institute**

1063. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology Institute in the country during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) As against the allocation of Rs. 102 lakhs during the 7th Plan, a total outlay of Rs. 883.50 lakhs have been sanctioned for the Central Instt. of Post Harvest Technology, Ludhiana during the VIIIth Plan which includes Rs. 100/- lakhs for equipments and Rs. 290 lakhs for works. Establishment of Sub-Station at Abohar has also been approved.

### **Over-Bridges between Moradabad and Rampur**

1064. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct over bridges at two places on National Highway No.24 between Moradabad and Rampur where the railway line cuts the road; and

(b) if so, the likely time by which the bridges are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA) (a) and (b): State Govt. has proposed construction of road over bridges in replacement of level crossing No. 413-A at km. 1392/9-10; and level crossing No. 404-A at km. 1376/1-2 between Moradabad and Rampur. These proposals will be considered for inclusion in the Railway's Works Programme after the requisite formalities are finalised by the State Govt. Construction of the bridge proper will be completed alongwith the completion of approaches by State Govt after the sanction of work.

### **Farm Universities**

1065. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the existing Farm Universities imparting agricultural education;

(b) the percentage of the annual expenditure of these universities being met by the Union Government;

(c) the name off the Authority/ Committee, which evaluate their performance;

(d) the salient features of the findings of the evaluation committee;

(e) whether performance of Farm Universities continues to be unsatisfactory and the standard of education has been falling; and

(f) if so, the remedial measures contemplated by the Government to improve the situation?

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) Presently, there are 27 State agricultural universities and one Central Agricultural University for NEH region in the

country. Their names are given in the statement attached.

(b) The Annual Expenditure of these Universities are met mainly by the respective State Govts. Indian Council of Agricultural Research provides only limited funds for the development and strengthening of their educational programmes. Similarly, assistance for strengthening the Regional research infra/structure of the State Agricultural Universities is provided under National Agricultural Research Project (NARP). The total 8th Plan/Phase-I & II allocations to the 27 State Agricultural Universities under these two heads are as under:-

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1. Development and Strengthening of 27 SAUs	7500.00 Lakhs
2. Establishment and Development of Central Agricultural University for NEH Region.	4100.00 Lakhs
3. Assistance under National Research Project Phase I & II (1979-86 & 1986-95).	18928.00 Lakhs

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(c) The performance of the State Agricultural Universities was evaluated by a Review Committee (generally referred to as Randhawa Committee) appointed in the year 1977, which submitted its report in the year 1978.

(d) The salient features of the findings of the Randhawa Committee may be summarised as under:-

1. Educational functions of Agricultural Universities in cases of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra differed from rest of the country in having affiliated colleges functioning outside the agricultural university system.

2. Research functions are yet to be completely transferred to the agricultural universities in the States like West Bengal, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.

3. Extension Education functions of the State Agricultural Universities were found to be limited in States like Kerala, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, where field extension and training components are yet to be fully transferred to Agricultural University System.

4. Integration of teaching, research and Extension concept has been accepted in all the Agricultural Universities, but the extent of integration achieved differed from State to State.
5. General assessment indicated that although the individual achievements of State Agricultural Universities differed widely, they have made significant impact on agricultural development as well as quality of education, research and training.

(e) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has not received any report indicating either unsatisfactory performance or falling educational standard of State Agricultural Universities.

(f) Question does not arise.

#### STATEMENT

##### *List of Agricultural Universities in the Country*

1. Andhra Pradesh Agril. University, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad.
2. Assam Agril. University, Jorhat.
3. Rajendra Agril. University, Veterinary College Campus, Patna. (Bihar)
4. Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi.
5. Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar.
6. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Palampur.
7. Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan.
8. University of Agriculture Sciences, Post Bag No. 2477, Bangalore.
9. University of Agril. Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka).
10. Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardar Krishi Nagar-385 506, Distt. Baraskantha(Gujarat).
11. Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.
12. Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Krishi Nagar, Raipur.
13. Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Trichur.
14. Konkan Krishi Vidyalapeeth, Dapoli.
15. Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri.
16. Marathwada Agri. University, Parbhani.
17. Punjabrao krishi Vidyapeeth, Krishinagar, Akola.
18. Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar.
19. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.
20. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner.
21. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
22. Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur.
23. G.B. Pant University of Agriculture



& Technology, Pantnagar.

24. N.D. University of Agril. & Technology, Faizabad.

25. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, P.O. Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mohanpur Distt. Nadia.

26. Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agri. & Sciences & Technology, 45-B, Gandhinagar, Post Box 87, Jammu Tavi.

Sher-E-Kashmir University of Agri. & Sciences & Technology, Shalimar, Post Box 262, Srinagar.

27. Tamil Nadu Veterinary & A.S. University, Madras.

Central Agricultural University for N.E.H. Region Imphal Manipur.

### **Sugar Policy**

1066. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to discuss the sugar policy with the States producing sugarcane; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) A conference of the State Sugar Ministers was called on 5.2.1994 to discuss various issues connected with the sugar industry.

(b) The following main items were discussed in the Conference:-

(i) Pricing policy for sugarcane.

(ii) Position regarding cane price arrears;

(iii) Fund availability from financial Institutions for unimplemented letters of intent for new sugar factories and expansion projects.

(iv) Measures to promote cane development.

(v) Installation of pollution control equipments by sugar factories.

(vi) Outstanding dues to the Sugar Development Fund.

The following main decisions were taken in the Conference:-

1. A Committee of 5 Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra was constituted to make recommendations regarding pricing policy for State advised prices on sugarcane.
2. Financial Institutions were requested not to link the defaults of textile co-operative units while processing loan applications of the co-operative sugar sector.
3. All the State Governments would persuade the defaulting sugar factories in their State to install pollution control equipments latest by 31.3. 1994.
4. Efforts would be made to ensure that the defaults in respect of loans taken from the sugar Development Fund by the sugar factories are cleared latest by 31st March, 1994.

In addition to the above, an overall appraisal was also made about the sugar production in the country.

jects. Since it is a very important subject, if you allow half-an-hour discussion, I am ready to get the views of the hon. Members. Therefore, I will request you to allow half-an-hour discussion, so that I can get the views of the hon. Members.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Kindly allow half-an-hour discussion on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: It was a good question. It is a very important matter. I think, more discussions on this should take place. Now that the demand has come from the Minister himself, I will allow it. I would expect the Standing Committees of the Parliament to look into these matters. Though they may not be able to go into it fully yet they can go into it to some extent.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Drugs outside Price Control

\*101. SHRI SOBHANĀDRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several bulk drugs which do not fulfil the exclusion criteria are outside the price control;

(b) whether no review of the list of drugs, which are outside price control, has taken place during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether producers are charging exorbitant prices and resorting to over-invoicing; and

(e) the whole-sale price index of medicines in 1986-87 and at present?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c). The issues pertaining to exclusion/inclusion of drugs and other related matters, including the criteria for exclusion, have already been discussed on the 19th and 21st August, 1993 in the House. Based thereon, the exercise regarding Review of Drug Policy, 1986 is now in an advanced stage of finalisation.

(d) Price increases in decontrolled category are somewhat higher than in the controlled category. No case of over-invoicing of imports in the recent past has come to notice.

(e) The Whole-Sale Price Index of Drugs and Medicines for 1986 and as on 12.2.1994 are as under (Base 1981-82 = 188).

	Year 1986	Year 1994 (as on 12.2.1994)	% Increase
Drugs and Medicines	119.90	192.40	60.00

[Translation]

### Judges of High Courts

1199. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the age of judges of High Courts from 60 years to 65 years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government for speedy disposal of pending cases in various courts and the time bound programme for appointment of judges?

MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) At present, there is no proposal to increase the retirement age of judges of High Courts from 62 years to 65 years.

(b) A meeting of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts was convened on 4th December, 1993, under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to consider the problem of arrears of cases in Courts and to find out ways and means to deal with it as expeditiously as possible. The resolutions adopted in the Conference have been forwarded to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations/High Courts/Central Ministries for necessary action. The Administration of Justice has been made a plan item with a view to remove infrastructural bottlenecks coming in the way of expeditious disposal of cases.

The Supreme Court vide their Judgement dated 6.10.1993 in W.P. (Civil) No. 1303 of 1987 - Supreme Court

Advocates-on-Record Association and Another versus Union of India has prescribed certain guidelines for making appointments and transfers of Judges in High Courts including expeditious filling up of vacancies.

[English]

### Newsprint Control Order, 1962

1200. SHRI SOBHANA-DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Indian Newspaper Society has urged the Government to rescind the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 and allow the functioning of newspaper industry in a liberalised environment;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHNI): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The implications of the request are under consideration of the Government.

### Housing Facilities to Ex-Servicemen

1201. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Delhi Development Authority to provide housing facilities to Ex-Servicemen, particularly to the handicapped;

**Subsidy to Fertilizer Units**

1248. SHRI SOBHANADREESHWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy provided to fertilizer manufacturing units on their fertilizer production; and

(b) the break-up of such subsidy for nitrogen, phosphate and potash fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). At present, only the manufacturers of straight nitrogenous fertilizers, namely, urea, ammonium sulphate, ammonium chloride and calcium ammonium nitrate are covered under the Retention-Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme. A provision of Rs. 3430 crores (including Rs. 430 crores obtained as supplementary grant) has been made in the Budget for 1993-94 for payment of subsidy to the fertilizer manufacturing units.

**Assistance to Kerala**

1249. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government to increase the Central assistance for its projects during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Additional central assistance of Rs. 3.00 crores was given during 1993-94 for the satellite earth station over and above Rs. 361.41 crores (net) allocated for Annual Plan 1993-94. Total (net) assistance allocated for Annual Plan 1994-95 is Rs. 383.20 crores. Total allocations made for Annual Plans 1993-94 and 1994-95 include allocations for Special Problems indicated by the State.

[Translation]

**Khadi Producing Institutions**

1250. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commissions has supplied yarn to khadi producing institutions during 1993-94 so far against the sale of khadi by them.

(b) if so, the details of these institutions and the quantum of rebate given to them;

(c) the loan recovered by the Commission from various khadi producing institutions so far;

(d) whether any loan is outstanding against the khadi producing institutions functioning in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the drinking water is likely to be made available to these villages in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL): (a) As on 1.1.94 there were 22 problem villages which had no drinking water facility as per norms.

(b) Funds are not provided for digging of wells for drinking water. However, the allocation for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for 1993-94 has been increased to Rs. 54.88 crore from Rs. 33.90 crore in 1992-93.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The remaining problem villages are likely to be covered by 31.3.95.

#### **Delicensing of Industries**

1274. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether industries with large export potential are being considered for delicensing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to delicense sugar, beer and consumer electronics sectors also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the new steps being taken to further liberalise and simplify the procedure to attract foreign investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d). Industrial licensing is presently required for 16 industries only on grounds such as security and strategic concerns, social reasons, problems related to safety and over-riding environmental issues. Further delicensing of industries is a continuing exercise.

(e) Procedures relating to foreign investments are constantly reviewed.

[Translation]

#### **Drinking Water Schemes**

1275. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR:

SHRI PROBIN DEKA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign agencies have agreed to provide assistance for drinking water schemes in the cities of Madhya Pradesh and Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (c). In its urbanisation strategy paper, Government of Maharashtra has identified 20 towns for priority development under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) during the Eighth Plan period. The State of Maharashtra has been tentatively allocated 17 towns for inclusion under IDSMT during the Eighth Plan period. Against this tentative allocation, the project report of 15 towns have already been cleared and Central Assistance of Rs. 3.78 crores sanctioned. Town-wise details of the Central Assistance sanctioned during the year 1992-93 and till now during the current financial year are given in the enclosed *Statement*. Project proposals submitted by the State Governments for Central Assistance under IDSMT are cleared from time to time in accordance with the guidelines in force and subject to availability of funds.

### STATEMENT

*Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1285. for 2.3.94*

S.No.	Town	Rs. in lakhs
<b>1992-93</b>		
1.	Jalgaon	40.00
2.	Srirampur.	35.00
3.	Shripur (Warwade)	20.00
4.	Wani	20.00
5.	Ambad	10.00
6.	Ahmednagar	35.00
7.	Kopargaon	20.00

S.No.	Town	Rs. in lakhs
8.	Latur	20.00
9.	Phaltan	16.132
Total:		261.132
<b>1993-94</b>		
10.	Sangammer	22.00
11.	Sangli	40.00
12.	Dhule	40.00
13.	Mukhed	12.0
14.	Pachora	24.00
15.	Warora	24.00
Total:		162.00
Grand Total:		378.132
i.e. Rs. 3.78 crores.		

### Rural Electronic Technology Centres

1286. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Rural Electronic Technology Centres in the country, location-wise;

(b) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on each of these centres during the last three years year-wise;

(c) the manner in which rural people have been benefited from these centres;

(d) whether these centres have any proposal to organise any programme to impart T.V./Transistor repairing training to the rural youths at block and panchayat level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). There is only one Rural Electronics Technology Centre (RETC.) at Jaipur in Rajasthan functioning since April, 1990 as a unit of Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd. (REIL), a public sector enterprise. The Government of India have released grants-in-aid as under:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Amount released
1989-90	5
1991-92	15
1993-94	11

(c) Products developed by RETC. Jaipur are field tested at Block/Panchayat levels. The product-line for computerised milk collection systems have helped in automation as well as fair and prompt payment to the dairy farmers at village cooperative societies for milk collection. The Solar Photovoltaic systems (SPV) have helped in providing energy in un-electrified remote areas for pumping lighting telecommunication, entertainment, etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does note arise.

### Production of Fertilizers

1287. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of basic fertilizers, item-wise during each of the last three years;

(b) their total import and export, if any, item-wise, during the corresponding years;

(c) the total estimated production and the total export/import envisaged for the current year;

(d) the break-up of estimated production between the public and the private sectors for the current year;

(e) the estimated subsidy on the use of fertilizers during the current year; and

(f) whether the subsidy is non-discriminatory and whether it shall be available to the producer or to the actual user?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The details of production of fertilizer nutrients during the last three years are given below:

the international market has shown downward trend during the year 1993

(b) During 1993 while prices of WTI was the highest at US \$20.61 per barrel during March, the lowest was registered by Dubai Marker crude at US\$ 12.83 per barrel during December

(c) The total quantity of crude oil for 1993-94 proposed to be imported is around 30.79 MMT at an approximate value of US \$ 3.39 billion

(d) The average unit prices paid for imported crude during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are as under

*(Figures in \$/bbl)*

1991-92	17.07
1992-93	17.88
1993-94	14.92

(April 1993 - January, 1994)

### **Irrigation Facilities**

\*132 SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the utilisation rate of irrigation facilities in proportion to their potential in respect of major and medium irrigation projects,

(b) the percentage by which the utilisation rate fell during the Seventh Five Year Plan and the anticipated drop during the Eighth Five Year Plan,

(c) the reasons therefor, and

(d) the strategy adopted by the Government to increase the utilisation rate of irrigation facilities during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) The percentage of Irrigation potential utilised to irrigation at the end of 92-93 is about 85.7% (anticipated)

(b) There was no drop in the percentage utilisation of Created potential during Seventh Plan from the level of 85.1% at the end of Sixth Plan. As per targets of Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97), the percentage utilisation of Created potential is likely to drop to 85.3% from the present anticipated level of 85.7%.

(c) Creation of potential and its utilisation is a continuous process. A lag of a few years between the introduction of irrigation and its full utilisation is unavoidable as it takes time for the farmers to construct the field channels and to prepare the land for irrigated farming. Also the switch over from rainfed agriculture to irrigated agriculture involves a major change in agricultural techniques which farmers take time to master.

(d) To reduce this gap a Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme has already been in implementation since 1974-75. The Eighth Plan strategy, inter alia, includes extending this programme to large minor schemes above 500 ha or in a group of schemes to make a contiguous block of 500 ha and above, continuation of National Water Management Project and reappraisal of actual potential of old schemes and annual performance review.



**NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA)** (a) So far 45 Oil/gas discoveries have been made in Assam

(b) Drilling of wells is in progress by ONGC Ltd in Lakwa-Lakhmani, Geleki, Rudrasagar, Demulgaon, Charali, Sonarai and Changmaigaon in Upper - Assam, Borholla and Khoraghat in Dhansin Valley, and Patherna and Bhubandar in Cachar area OIL is carrying out drilling activities at Dikom, Kathaloni, Moran, Shalman, Hapjan, Makum, Kathalgun and Naharkatiya areas in Upper Assam

(c) 43 ngs are presently engaged in different fields

(d) Yes, Sir

#### **Pharmacy Education Regulation**

1423 **SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum to implement the pharmacy Education Regulation, 1991

(b) if so the details thereof, and

(c) The action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B SHANKARANAND) (a) to (c) Yes Sir There have been representations requesting for implementation of the Pharmacy Education Regulation 1991 In this regard the amendments suggested by the Pharmacy council of India are under examination

#### **Demolition of Schools and Government Buildings In Doda , J & K**

1424 **SHRI KASHIRAM RANA** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state .

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of schools and Government buildings have been demolished by the militants in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir during the last four months, and

(b) if so, the actual number thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) (a) and (b) According to available information 17 Government buildings and 25 schools has been damaged by the militants in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir during the period from October 1993 to January 1994

#### **Aided Petroleum Project**

1425 **SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA SHRI RAJESH KUMAR**

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

(a) whether political development in Russia have affected the petroleum projects aided by that country in India,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND

**Development of Oil Fields**

1472. SHRI PROBINA DEKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bids received for development of small and marginal oil and gas fields in Assam;

(b) the number of such bids received from the State Government Undertakings;

(c) whether any preference would be given to such undertaking while evaluating the bids; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) No bid was received for development of small and marginal oil and gas fields in Assam.

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

**Utilisation of Funds**

1473 SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE  
PROF M KAMSON

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have any information regarding misappropriation or diversion of funds meant for scheduled castes and tribal development

(b) if so the details with the names of the States concerned

(c) whether the Government have

issued any guidelines in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the other steps taken/proposed to ensure proper utilisation of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) (a) to (e). The matter has been taken up with the State Governments to ascertain the facts. After receiving the facts from the State Governments appropriate steps will be taken in this regard.

**Petroleum and Natural Gas Plants**

1474. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petroleum and natural gas functioning in the country;

(b) whether any such plants is functioning in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details of production of each of these plants during 1992-93 and 1993-94 so far

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up some more such plants in Gujarat

(e) if so the details thereof, and

(f) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) 13 refineries, 80 LPG bottling plants 2 LPG recovery plants and a number of exploration and production projects are functioning in the country

payable to the State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c) The Government had last notified on 6th February, 1993 the revised rate of royalty at Rs. 481/- per M. T. for crude oil for the period 1.4.1990 to 31.3.1993. At the same time, it was also decided by the Government that the crude price will be reviewed from time to time and the royalty paid thereon accordingly until the revised rate is notified formally under the statute, on account payments will be made to the State Governments.

[*Translation*]

#### **Modern Equipments in Genetics**

1493 SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(a) whether the indiscriminate use of modern equipments and technology in the field of genetics is having ill-effect on the health of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B.

SHANKARANAND) (a) to (c). According to the Indian Council of Medical Research the use of modern equipments and technology has not had any ill effect on the health of the women. However, to check the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques, 'The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Bill, 1991 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha in September, 1991.

[*English*]

#### **Irrigation Projects of Andhra Pradesh**

1494. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for clearance of pending irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir. A note on clearance of major and medium irrigation projects was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh

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

## STATEMENT

Sl No	Name of Project	Status of Appraisal
1	Telugu Ganga Project	Put up to Advisory Committee in April, 1988 but consideration deferred due to non-resolution of inter-State issues. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have taken upon themselves the resolution of the inter-State issues.
2	Srisailem left Bank Canal Scheme	The State is required to establish clearly the the water availability on long term basis.
3	Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme	-do-
4	Sriam Sagar Project State - II	Hydrology has been finalised and State is required to finalise irrigation aspects in the first Instance
5	Galeru Nagar Sujala Sravanthi	The State is required to establish water availability on long term basis.
6	Priyadarshini Jurala Project	Accepted by Advisory Committee in April, 1988. The State Government is required to obtain clearance from the environmental angle.
7	Vamsadhara Project State - II	Accepted by the Advisory Committee in December, 1991. The State is required to obtain clearances from the Ministry of Environment and Forests from environment and forest and from the Ministry of Welfare and Rehabilitation and resettlement aspects
angles		
8	Yeleru Reservoir Scheme	Accepted by the Advisory Committee in 3/93 subject to the clearances from the Ministry of Environment and Forests from environment and forest angles. clearance from the Ministry of Welfare on Rehabilitation and resettlement aspects and sorting out of the issue regarding charging for the water for industrial supply

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Status of Appraisal
9	Polavaram Project	Hydrology has been finalised and state is reuried to finalise irrigation planning in the first instance.
10	Inchampalli Multipurpose Project	The detailed project report has not been formulated. A Working Group is to be constituted for sorting out environmental issues in the first instance.
11.	Chetamalavagu Project	Accepted by the Advisory Committee in 8/93 subject to forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and clearance from the Ministry of Welfare for rehabilitation and resettlement aspects. These clearances have recently been obtained and conveyed to the Planning Commission.
12.	Buggavanka Reservoir Scheme	Investment clearance Given by the Planning Commission in: 7/93
13.	Upper Kaulasnala	Investment clearance given by Planning Commission in February, 1993.
14.	Maddileru Reservoir Scheme	-do-
15.	Yerrakalva Reservoir Scheme	-do-
16	Jhanjavathi Reservoir Scheme	The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is required to obtain concurrence of the Orissa Government for submergence of land in their territory and furnish Rehabilitation and Resettlement plans to Ministry of Welfare.

[Translation]

**Export of Sugar**

1531. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE  
RAI:  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantity of sugar exported during 1992-93;
- (b) whether the sugar industry had to suffer loss as a result of this export;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). The Indian Sugar and General Industries Export Import Corporation Limited (ISGIEIC), an apex body representing and sugar mills in the country has been entrusted with the responsibility of exporting sugar under provisions of the Promotion Act, 1959. While entering into contracts with prospective importers of sugar ISGIEIC is expected to exercise its commercial judgement for the export of sugar. The loss/profit, is, therefore, worked out by the exporting agency, i.e. ISGIEIC, with reference to the price paid to the factories administrative expenses, etc., and sales realisation. ISGIEIC has intimated the f.o.b. cost and realisation dur-

ing 1992-93 as under:—

Year	FOB Cost Rs./MT	Realisation Rs./MT
1992-93	8950	8440

During 1992-93, 3.76 lakh MT of sugar was exported.

[English]

**Production of Silk**

1532. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:  
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:  
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:  
SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA:  
SHRI SOBHANADREES-  
WARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production of the silk in the country during 1992-93 and 1993-94, State-wise and variety-wise;
- (b) the domestic consumption of silk in the country during the above period;
- (c) the quantity of China silk imported during the above period;
- (d) the reasons for importing China silk; and
- (e) the target fixed for export of silk during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) A statement indicating State-wise/variety-wise production of silk in the country during 1992-93 is enclosed. However, the similar data for

the year 1993-94 will be compiled on receipt of reports from the State Sericulture Departments after the expiry of the year

(b) The raw silk produced in the country is largely utilised to meet the requirements of domestic sector

(c) During the year 1992-93, a total quantity of 2918 metric tonnes of raw silk was imported from various countries including 1906 tonnes from Chinese Taipei & Peoples' Republic of China. The import data for the year 1993-94 will be available only after the expiry of the year

(d) Under the Advance Licensing Scheme of the EXIM Policy, the exporters have been allowed the facility to import their raw silk requirements for export production, at international prices, from various countries including China. However, in exceptional circumstances, when there is an acute shortage of supply in the domestic market causing distress to the weavers especially of the handloom sector, limited imports of raw silk are allowed under close supervision

(e) The VIIIth Plan target for export of silk textile products is about Rs 3000 crores

### STATEMENT

*State-wise Production of Raw Silk (in Metric tonnes) during 1992-93*

State	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total
Andhra Pradesh	3139	1	-	-	3140
Assam	20	-	389	60	469
Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	5	-	6
Bihar	43	265	31	-	339
Gujarat	1	-	-	-	1
Himachal Pradesh	9	-	-	-	9
Jammu & Kashmir	23	-	-	-	23
Karnataka	7285	-	-	-	7285
Kerala	Neg.	-	-	-	Neg.
Madhya Pradesh	4	20	-	-	24
Maharashtra	2	2	-	-	4
Manipur	39	1	139	-	179
Mizoram	1	Neg.	1	Neg.	2
Meghalaya	1	-	137	-	138
Nagaland	1	Neg.	18	Neg.	19
Orissa	4	71	1	-	76

State Government of Andhra Pradesh have submitted the following seven proposals during 1993-94 for development of tourism in the state —

Sl No	Name of the project
1	Restaurant at Golconda Fort
2	Restaurant at Bora Caves
3	Wayside facilities at Mallepalli
4	Tourist lodge at Hemavati
5	Tourist complex at Mantralayam
6	Tourist complex at Nacharam
7	Restaurant at Warangal Fort

Out of these five projects amounting to Rs 59.76 lakhs have since been sanctioned

### **Agricultural Credit**

1703 SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the credit quantum and percentage in overall lending by nationalised banks fulfilled the raising demand for agricultural credit and

(b) if not, the avenues proposed for raising the level of lending to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) (a) and (b) The existing credit policy is formulated to meet the credit needs of agriculture and allied activities. Rural borrowers all over the country are

provided loans by Public Sector Banks, cooperative banks and Regional rural Banks (RRBs) for activities undertaken by them on their own or through schemes framed by Government in this regard Under Service Area Approach all villages in the country are now allocated to the branches of commercial banks and RRBs. All the service area branches of commercial banks and RRBs are now preparing village-wise annual credit plans which take into account the requirements of credit for all types of borrowers in the villages including small medium and large farmers. In terms of guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to all commercial banks are required to extend atleast 18 per cent of their total credit for direct agriculture. A number of steps have also been taken with a view to increase the flow of agricultural credit. The important ones are

- (i) Banks have been instructed that all applications upto credit limit of Rs 25,000/- are to be disposed off within a fortnight and those over Rs 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks
- (ii) To facilitate speedy disposal of applications, the applications forms are made available in regional languages. Terms and conditions regarding margin/security should be printed on the reverse of the application form itself
- (iii) The interest on loans upto Rs 25,000/- is kept low at 12.0% per annum
- (iv) Term loans are provided at concessional rates
- (v) No third-party guarantee or collateral security is to be insisted upon for loans upto Rs 10,000/-



- (vi) Appropriate sanctioning powers have been delegated to the rural branch managers so that majority of loans applications are sanctioned at branch level itself.

[Translation]

**Foreign Exchange Reserves and Export**

1704. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of foreign exchange reserves and export target fixed during the current financial year;

(b) whether the target has been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints about acquisition of Dollars through Havala Bazar and return through trade market; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). Foreign exchange reserves are the net result of all external transactions and no target was fixed in this regard for the current financial year. The target for exports (DGCI&S) for 1993-94 was fixed at \$ 22.14 billion which represented a growth of about 20 per cent over actual exports of \$ 18.42 billion (provisional) during 1992-93. Actual ex-

ports during April-January, 1993-94 at \$ 17.80 billion implied a growth of 21.4 per cent over the same period last year. The export target for 1993-94 is likely to be reached.

(d) and (e). There is a common perception that hard currency is acquired clandestinely abroad through the hawala market by some Indian nationals and NRIs, and is brought back to India through trade channels. This illegal route is sometimes adopted to launder unaccounted funds, as export earnings are tax-exempt, as also to avail of export incentives under various schemes. The Enforcement Directorate takes prompt action against such racketeers as and when specific intelligence is received.

[English]

**Creation of Free Trade Zones in Maharashtra**

1705. SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to create free trade zones in the State;

(b) if so, the locations suggested for creation of such zones by the State Government; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) An Export Processing Zone is already functioning in the State at Santacruz, Bombay. No proposal to set up another such Zone