

certain borrowers in USA and some unknown officers of the Bank and private parties, misused his official position and granted various credit facilities by exceeding his delegated authority and without ascertaining the financial status of the borrowers and without making required credit assessment including pre-sanction/post sanction inspection. CBI has registered a case against Shri Kathrani and others. In connection with this case CBI has also searched the residential premises of a former Chairman & Managing Director of Bank of India and seized certain assets and incriminating documents therefrom. Further action, as warranted, would be taken in accordance with the results of CBI investigation.

[*Translation*]

#### **Bank Frauds**

6628. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to constitute a special cell of the Central Bureau of Investigation to inquire into the cases of fraud in banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to constitute the special Courts and Tribunals to hear the cases of economic offences; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that a cell already exists in the CBI to investigate bank

frauds. The CBI and its branches located all over the country investigated bank frauds. All important and major cases are handled by the Economic Offences Wing and Bank Security Cell in Headquarters at Delhi and Bombay.

(c) and (d). Government have already constituted some Special Courts to hear cases of economic offences.

[*English*]

#### **Domestic Support to Wheat, Cotton and Pulses**

6629. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the domestic support extended to paddy, wheat cotton, pulses groundnut, sunflower and other oil seed crops between the years 1986-87 and 1988-89;

(b) the domestic support extended to sugar cane crop during the same period when statutory minimum price and average of State Government advised prices are taken into account separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The average product specific aggregate measurement of support for the relevant crops during the reference period was as follows:

Basic Product	Product specific AMS Average 1986-89 (Rs. Million)
Rice	- 77235
Wheat	- 89880
Cotton	- 14543

Basic Product	Product specific AMS Average 1986-89 (Rs. Million)
Gram	- 4945
Urad	- 1394
Moong	- 1752
Tur	- 4550
Groundnut	- 20494
Rape seed )	
Toria )	- 8694
Soyabean (Yellow )	
Soyabean (black )	- 16
Sugar cane	+ 2405

The details of calculations of AMS on these items are provided in the supporting tables to the Schedule of Commitments, copies of which were placed in the Priliament Library.

#### Indo-German Exports Promotion Projects

6630. SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently an Indo-German Exports Promotion Project has been set up in India to boost exports between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Indo-German Export Promotion Project (IGEP) which has been in operation since 1988 aims at the promotion of exports of specific products from India *inter-alia* through integrated product and market development projects in sectors such as

gold jewellery, silverware, shoes, leather garments, silk, software, automotive parts, bicycles and bicycle components, plastics, castings and forgings.

[Translation]

#### Foreign Aid/Grants

6631. SHRI LALL BABU RAI:  
SHRI HARI KEWAL  
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign debt outstanding against India as on March 31, 1994 including the interest payable on it and the names of the countries from which this debt was taken;

(b) the amount of foreign aid/grants received by the country during 1992-93 which is not to be repaid; and

(c) the names of countries from which this financial assistance was received ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The total external debt outstanding on the Government Account, Non-Government Account and IMF borrowings is estimated to be Rs. 144214 crores at the end of December 1993. Besides, an amount of Rs. 51453 crores on External Commercial Borrowings account was also outstanding as on 30.9.93. The names of the countries/institutions from which the loans were taken are Abu Dhabi, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, EEC, France, Germany, I.S.O. Italy, Japan, Kuwait

(a) the details of the medium and small scale industrial units lying closed in Gujarat;

(b) the total investment involved in these units; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to revive these units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Export of Tractors

6646. SHRI SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India proposes to export tractors to USA during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of tractors exported during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Major Manufacturers of Tractors have indicated that they are exploring the prospects of Exporting Tractors to USA during 1994-95.

(c) The number of tractors exported to USA during three years beginning 1990-91 is as under:

Year	Number of Tractors
1990-91	43
1991-92	82
1992-93	267

1200 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am told that yesterday all the Members, who wanted to speak on the Finance Bill, have spoken. So, I think the Finance Minister can now commence his speech in response to the points made by the hon. Members. We can take up the Finance Bill first and then we can give the same amount of time to other matters which we usually take up after the Question Hour is over.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): We will go by whatever direction you may give. If you wish to have the Finance Minister complete his reply and thereafter take up the Zero Hour, it is fine for us as long as others agree.

MR. SPEAKER : I think most of the Members are present in the House and all of us are more interested in this matter rather than anything else.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): We always obey your orders. But on some occasions our grievances should also be entertained.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We had a 13 hours debate on this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I appreciate it and we will go by whatever direction you give. But there is only one aspect of the Finance Minister's reply, that is regarding certain developments

**STATEMENT**

*District-wise details of new Electronic Telephone Exchanges proposed to be commissioned during 1994-95*

1. Alleppey	2
2. Calicut	5
3. Malappuram	5
4. Wynad	1
5. Cannanore	10
6. Kasargod	3
7. Kottayam	2
8. Ernakulam	7
9. Idukki	2
10. Palghat	2
11. Pathanamthitta	4
12. Quilon	3
13. Trichur	4
14. Trivandrum	6

**Regional Language Films on Doordarshan**

6730. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for telecast of regional language films on Doordarshan;

(b) whether some regional language films are given preferential treatment for telecast on Doordarshan;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the number of Assamese films for telecast; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Doordarshan telecasts regional language films offered to it in its national network by rotation in alphabetical order.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Since February, 1994, in addition to the primary channel, Assamese films are also now being telecast on one (DD-5) of the three satellite channels earmarked exclusively for regional language programmes.

**Purchase of Port RAX**

6731. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the basic objective of the procurement policy for purchase of 128 Port RAX, and other C-DOT switching equipments meant for providing communication facilities in rural areas;

(b) whether DOT had indicated purchase of 1500 Nos. of 128 Port RAX when the procurement policy was announced;

(c) if so, the reasons for placing order for 500 Nos. only;

(d) whether the above-mentioned order of 500 Nos. which was placed from DOT Headquarters is not being honoured by the Chief General Managers of various regions;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the plans of DOT to procure RAX during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Basic objective of procurement policy, for purchase of 12 Port RAX and other C-DOT switching equipments is to induct reliable switching equipments in telecom. network; while RAX is normally used in rural areas, higher capacity C-DOT exchanges are usually used in towns.

(b) Yes, Sir. A tender was floated for 1500 Nos. of RAXs for commissioning 1,32,000 lines during 1993-94.

(c) Only 500 Nos. were actually ordered to be procured since at the time of ordering, after processing of the tender the requirement of the Circles was again reviewed and it was found that in view of the availability of switch of 256 Port capacity having additional facility of digital trunking, the requirement of 128 Port had come down. The ordered quantity was, therefore, distributed as 500 Nos. of 128 Port C-DOT RAX and 500 Nos. of 256 Port C-DOT RAX, keeping the total number of lines more or less at 1,32,000.

(d) and (e). A few of the Circles had not initially placed purchase orders on the firms allotted to them. This was mainly due to paucity of funds. However, after instruction from the Headquarters most of the Chief General Managers have placed Purchase Orders.

(f) Tentative plan for procurement of RAXs (128 Port and 256 Port RAX) during 1994-95 is about 1380 Nos. as shown below:

128 P – 216 Nos.

256 P – 1164 Nos.

[Translation]

### Allocation for Strategic Roads

6732. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government allocate special funds to those States for the maintenance of the roads where Defence work is undertaken by Army;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated for his purpose, State-wise;

(c) the year-wise funds allocated to Rajasthan for the maintenance of roads falling in the Western Areas of the State from 1989-90 till date;

(d) whether an amount of Rupees 1.25 lakhs has been provided to Rajasthan State so far this purpose;

(e) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be provided; and

(f) whether the Union Government propose to enhance this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (f). The Ministry of Defence projects its development requirements for strategic roads to Ministry of Surface Transport which gets the work executed through concerned States or B.R.D.B.

No funds are provided by the Central Government to the concerned States for the maintenance of such roads.

[*Translation*]

**Construction of Railway Stations**

6942. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:  
SHRI RAM TAHAL  
CHOUHDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the people for constructing Railway Stations under the South-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the time by which construction work is likely to be started in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. During 1993-94, 26 proposals have been received. Out of these, seven passenger halts have been sanctioned, two of which have since been commissioned, construction work of two others has been taken up and the work in respect of the remaining three will be taken up after the completion of necessary formalities.

No decision has been taken as yet in respect of other 19 proposals.

[*English*]

**Development of Catchment Areas**

6943. SHRI SOBHANADRESS  
WARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals regarding develop-

ment of catchment areas of Tunga-bhadra, Nizamsagar and Nagarjuna Sagar under the Centrally Sponsored Soil Conservation Project from Government of Andhra Pradesh for approval and seeking financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley project is being implemented by covering the catchments of Machkund-Sileru, Nagarjunasagar, Nizamsagar and Pochampad in Andhra Pradesh. In the Tunga-bhadra catchment, only the Karnataka State areas are being covered. Proposals for 94-95, under this scheme are still awaited. During 93-94 an amount of Rs. 300 lakhs had been released for treating 8213 ha. area.

[*Translation*]

**Gur and Khandsari Control Order**

6944. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have refused to accept the Gur and Khandsari Control Order;

(b) the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this order has badly affected the production of sugarcane;

(d) whether the Union Government

raising/ extension/ widening of platforms at Badshahnagar, Gorakhpur, Saidraja & Tilhar; provision of additional platforms at Manakapur. Duddhinagar & Pariawan Kalakankar Road; augmentation of booking/reservation facility at Deoria Sadar, Pilibhit & Badshahnagar; electrification of Ramaipur, Parsehra Mai, Manwa, Munda Gopal Ashram, Mahtha Bazar, Pindra Road, Piparsand, Sonik, Bandhua Kalan, Jaunpur Kutchery, Rahmat Nagar, Talakhajuri, Tikauli-Rawatpur, Ramchandrapur, Ishardaspur, etc. were taken up.

[English]

### Gauge Conversion

7015. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work on proposed broad gauge Railway line from Vasco Margao Railway Station upto Hospet-Hubli via Londa;

(b) the details regarding redeeming features of the proposal in terms of year-wise financial provision physical target of works and latest status of the project by standard norms and provision of funds for 1994-95;

(c) whether conversion of present railway track into broad gauge is likely to affect rail traffic between Vasco to Hubli;

(d) if so, the extent of loss of revenue to the Government on cargo and passenger traffic;

(e) whether during the conversion period the mining and other industrial activity in Goa and Hospet are likely to be hit severely; and

(f) if so, the action being taken to ensure that the work is carried out smoothly?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The work is making good progress on Hospet-Hubli-Londa section which would be completed in 1994-95. Work would be taken up between Londa and Vasco shortly. The funds provided for this work in 1994-95 are Rs. 89 crs.

(c) Yes, Sir. Temporarily, till the entire route is converted.

(d) As the loss will depend on quantum of traffic getting diverted to road or not moving at all it is difficult to forecast the same.

(e) and (f). The matter has been discussed with the Mining Industry and they have agreed to temporary road bridging between Londa and Vasco.

### State Land use Board

7016. SHRI SOBHANADREES WARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have accorded approval for the continuation of Central Sector Scheme for strengthening the State Land Use Board during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) whether the State Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have submitted proposals for Centre's approval and release of necessary funds for implementing the Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

if any, provided at present?

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon along with financial assistance,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI  
AVRIND NETAM): (a) Yes Sir.



(Rs. in lakhs)

(b) (d).

S. No.	Name of State	Financial Year	Proposal received from State Govt.	Central assistance released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	192-93	13.10	12.05
		1993-94	21.00	9.40
2.	Karnataka	1992-93	7.36	4.46*
		193-94	No proposals was received	

\* (including revalidated balance amounts lying with the State from previous years)

The Administrative Approval indicating the tentative allocation for 1994-5 has already been issued in respect of State Land Use Board who have implemented the scheme continuously upto 1993-94. However, the detailed proposals are awaited from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Children's Board first constituted on 3.12.1974 is under reconstitution at present.

The Board was constituted in pursuance of the provisions in National Policy for Children Resolution dated 22.8.74 to provide a national focus and forum for planning, review and coordination of the services to meet the needs of children. The Resolution envisages the National Children's Board with Prime Minister as President and Ministers for Human Resources Development, Finance, Health & Family Welfare, Labour and Minister of State for Education and Culture, Youth & Sports and Women and Child Development as Members, five Minister of State Governments dealing with Child Welfare, two Members of Lok Sabha and one Member of Rajya Sabha, Chairman, Central Social Welfare Board, ten non-officials with experience in Child Welfare, Director, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development are also nominated as members of the Board. Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development acts as Member-Secretary of the Board.

[Translation]

#### **Closure of Sugar Mills**

7081. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the details of sugar mills closed in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) the steps taken for their revival in future;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Khalilabad Sugar Mills, Khalilabad, District Basti is lying closed at present in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) to (d) It is the responsibility of the sugar factory to commence crushing in the season. However, Government on its part have been announcing its sugar policy each year aimed at improving the economic viability of the sugar factories. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh had informed that Khalilabad Sugar Mill could not undertake crushing due to capacity expansion of the plant and financial crisis.

[English]

#### **Integrated Pest Management**

7082. SHRI SOBHANADREES WARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Integrated Pest Management Programme is under implementation ;

(b) the objective of the Programme ;

(c) the number of districts covered under the programme till date state-wise ;

(d) the amount provided to States for implementation of said programme, state-wise ;

(e) the progress made there from till date in each State since its inception ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL EN-

ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Government of India established 26 Central Integrated Pest Management (IMP) Centres in 22 States/UTs. in 1991 for the implementation of IPM. During Eighth Plan special thrust has been given to promote and implement IMP Programme in various crops.

(b) The main objectives of the programme are to enable the farmers to raise healthy crops with minimum use of pesticides;

- adoption of preferential of nonchemical control measures;
- promote safe, judicious and need based use of pesticides; and
- reduction of environmental pollution due to pesticides;

(c) to (e) The State-wise number of districts covered, amount provided and progress made till date are given in the attached Statement

## STATEMENT

## STATEWISE NUMBER OF DISTRICTS COVERED, AMOUNT PROVIDED AND PROGRESS MADE UNDER INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) PROGRAMME UPTO MARCH, 1994

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Distts. covered	Amount provided (lakh Rs.)	Progress under IPM Programme			IPM training (nos. trained)	
				pest Surv. (lakh ha)	Biocontrol	SMS		
								Release of biocontrol agents (in millions)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	7.32	1.81	311	0.66	140	820
2.	Assam	14	2.16	0.56	6	-	110	510
3.	Bihar	25	1.40	0.83	6	0.11	11	51
4.	Goa	04	0.35	0.33	6	0.11	11	51
5.	Gujarat	13	1.05	0.95	370	0.86	32	150

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Distts. covered	Amount provided (lakh Rs.)	Progress under IPM Programme			IPM training (nos. trained)	
				pest Surv. (lakh ha)	Release of biocontrol agents (in millions)	Biocontrol Area covered under Augmentation and conservation (Lac ha)	SMS	Farmers
6.	Haryana	9	1.40	1.33	277	0.64	40	200
7.	Himachal Pradesh	03	0.70	0.50	93	0.21	20	100
8.	J & K	07	0.70	0.51	411	0.28	20	100
9.	Karnataka	18	1.77	0.89	115	0.55	69	320
10.	Kerala	14	1.07	0.31	5	-	33	228
11.	M.P.	18	1.75	1.56	235	0.59	47	250
12.	Maharashtra	19	1.42	0.82	84	0.26	50	271
13.	Mizoram	03	0.35	0.085	-	-	9	50
14.	Nagaland	02	0.35	0.225	15	-	11	50

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Distts. covered	Amount provided (lakh Rs.)	Progress under IPM Programme			IPM training (nos. trained)	
				pest Surv. (lakh ha)	Biocontro agents (in millions)	Area covered under Augmentation and conservation (Lac ha)	SMS	Farmers
15.	Orissa	13	2.14	0.96	284	0.61	80	420
16.	Punjab	09	1.05	1.01	32	0.11	38	150
17.	Rajasthan	10	0.70	0.97	168	0.34	40	100
18.	Sikkim	02	0.35	0.18	9	0.03	15	15
19.	Tamil Nadu	12	1.77	0.65	5	-	71	320
20.	U.P.	32	2.43	2.00	285	0.53	70	350
21.	W. Bengal	14	1.40	0.81	505	0.76	38	200
Total		242	31.63	17.17	3253	6.61	984	4855

My second supplementary question is whether the Adivasi and hill districts of Maharashtra i.e., Thane, Dhule and Nasik come under the backward districts mentioned in the reply where employment will be provided under the KVIC's special employment programme and if so, the time by which employment will be provided and if these districts do not come under the areas mentioned then what are the reasons therefor?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have the information? He is referring to some districts in Maharashtra.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : These districts have been selected on the basis of the recommendation of KVIC. It was scrutinized by a Committee headed by the Secretary, Small Scale Industries. In the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan, we will be taking up another 50 districts. I do not know whether it is being done or not.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in respect of the Schemes that are being encouraged by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, the unit cost has been enhanced in recent times to a great extent. The actual necessity is, more number of beneficiaries should be helped rather than the steep escalation in the cost of the unit. I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister whether the Government will look into aspect and make necessary changes so that it gives revised instructions to the State KVIC to help more number of rural artisans, particularly the black-smiths who can manufacture the improved agricultural implements, tools etc. and the bamboo basket-makers. There are lot of avenues now.

I would like to know from the Government whether it will also issue clear instructions to the financial institutions. Here you have said you are giving assistance through KVIC. The banks must also give more financial assistance.

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the question now. This kind of verbosity will not help.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : I would like to know whether the Government will issue clear instructions so that their financial requirements are met positively.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, this aspect has been looked into. A high power Committee headed by the Prime Minister has been constituted. The Committee will be submitting its recommendations very shortly. This aspect is also being discussed.

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY : What is the policy support that the Government is giving to Khadi and Village Industries to increase employment opportunities?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As far as the Government is concerned, it is giving due policy support in the form of positive and protective measures for the KVI sector. Number one is, permission has been given for the use of duty free polyester fiber for the KVIC. Import of raw wool has been exempted from excise duty and the number of items which have been allowed excise duty exemption is now increased.

The poly-vastra of KVIC has been allowed for use by Government employees to promote hand-made paper industry. The Government has given instructions to various Ministries and Departments to purchase fifty per cent of their requirement from

**Per Capita Expenditure Incurred in Rural and Urban Areas**

7226. SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any disparity in the per capita expenditure incurred in rural and urban area;

(b) if so, the proportion thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any commission to conduct a survey to remove this disparity; and

(d) if so, by when the commission is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Per capita monthly household consumption expenditure in 1990-91 according to the 46th round of National Sample Survey was Rs. 202.12 in rural areas and Rs.326.75 in urban areas. Rural to urban proportion in this respect was 1: 1.62.

(c) and (d) The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) document prepared by the Planning Commission sets out the strategy and programmes for agricultural and rural development. Which will contribute to increase in investment and income in the rural areas.

**Rural Sanitation Programme under JRY in Karnataka**

7227. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether latrines and streets etc. are

being constructed under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in the rural areas of Karnataka State; and

(b) if so, the number of villages yet to be provided with these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The primary objective of JRY is generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and the under-employed persons, living below the poverty line in rural areas. All works which result in strengthening of rural economic infrastructure and also creation of assets in favour of the rural poor for their direct and continuing benefits, including construction of latrines and streets, etc. can be taken up under JRY by the implementing agencies themselves, namely, the District Rural Development Agencies and the village Panchayats, in respect of their respective shares of funds under JRY. Construction of sanitary latrines is an essential component of houses constructed under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), a sub-scheme of JRY.

Since the works to be taken up under JRY are decided by the Implementing Agencies themselves as per the felt needs of the people, no targets are fixed or statistics maintained on the number of villages yet to be provided with these facilities in the rural areas of any State. However, at the national level only about 2 percent of the rural population has been covered under the rural sanitation programme so far.

**Ramagundam Plant of F.C.I.**

7228. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA



RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ramagundam plant of F.C.I. has come into operation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the installed capacity of this plant and actual production therein; and
- (d) the steps proposed to improve the efficiency of this plant?

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) to (c) Due to prolonged power cut imposed by Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB), Ramagundam Plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) had to be shut down from 26.3.94. FCI management, therefore, decided to take annual turn around of the plant w.e.f. 15.4.94. The start-up activities have already begun and the plant is expected to produce urea from 17.5.1994, subject to adequate supply of power by APSEB.

The Plant has an annual installed capacity of 227.7 tonnes in terms of Nitrogen nutrient and the actual production during the past 3 years was as under:-

Year	Production ('000 MT of Nitrogen)
1991-92	88.3
1992-93	58.0
1993-94	88.8
(Provisional)	

(d) FCI had proposed rehabilitation of Ramagundam Plant at a cost of Rs. 158.44 crores, which included setting up of a 40 MW Captive power plant. In the meanwhile, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) declared FCI as a sick company under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. On 16.3.1994, the BIFR passed an order appointing Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) as the Operating Agency for FCI. As per these orders, the Government is now required to submit the revival plan for FCI to the Operating Agency which in turn will submit a revival plan to the BIFR. The future of Ramagundam Plant would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before BIFR which is a quasi judicial authority. In the meantime, Government is providing, to the extent possible, budgetary support to meet the fund requirements of FCI to enable it to continue its operations.

#### **Medical Facilities in BHEL**

7229. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has stopped the provision of medical facilities to the families of its employees covered under CGHS in spite of the requisite certificate from the respective Ministries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND

datory in industries to cover up power shortage;

(b) whether any final decision has been taken; and

(c) 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) to (c) No, Sir. However, in order to encourage industries and other to utilise solar energy so that electricity or fuels could be saved, Govt. is providing various fiscal and financial incentives. Industries can avail of soft loan facilities provided by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) and also make use of incentives provided by Govt. in the form of accelerated depreciation allowance, exemption from sales tax & excise duty etc. and subsidy wherever applicable for installation of solar energy devices.

### **Mini Hydel Projects**

7259. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide financial assistance for the schemes of mini hydel projects undertaken by the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of mini hydel projects taken up and completed in West Bengal during the last three years alongwith their capacity and the amount involved therein?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the capital subsidy scheme, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources provides subsidy for various types of projects, upto 3 MW capacity, whether grid or non-grid, upto 50% of fixed capital cost on E&M equipment and civil works. Projects eligible under IREDA/WB financing or those requiring international competitive bidding or tied supplies are not eligible under the MNES subsidy scheme. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has so far sanctioned 74 projects in 13 States aggregation to 80 MW capacity.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No Small Hydro Power Project has been taken up so far under the above scheme in the State of West Bengal.

### **Wind Energy**

7260. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some complaints from the private sector regarding lack of a clear policy initiative on wind energy;

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

(c) whether the private sector has been demanding higher price of power generated from wind energy from State Electricity Boards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL

No-Confidence Motion . It can be moved only against the Government and not against the Opposition. [Interruptions]

SHRI R. ANBARASU: When individual person's character is assassinated, they will not talk about the opposition party leaders. What I want to say is that their views are biased; they should not take sides and they should publish unbiased news.

I would like to end by saying this. There was a poet by name 'Nakeeran' . It seems that once Lord Shiva wrote a poem about the hair of the ladies. In that poem, he described that the hair of the ladies have fragrance. That is, God wrote that poem. But the poet who was so honest and who was so straight forward said, "Nothing doing ! you are wrong: the hair of the ladies does not have fragrance. Then the God became annoyed. He was in the form of a king. Then, He said, " No, you are wrong." The poet Nakeeran said, "I know in what form you are here : you are God. But, even if you open your third eye, I will call spade, a spade." The, Lord Shiva opened the third eye and burnt him. That is how, the story goes.

What I want to say is that the journalists should be like Nakeeran. They should set up a standard: they have to set up a morale for journalism.

Hence, I urge and appeal to the Press Council of India to evolve a Code of Conduct so that the real aspirations of the people are projected. I appeal to the Hon. Minister also in the absence of any such Code of Conduct to give the Press Council more powers so that they can proceed against the erring journalists.

With these words, I conclude my speech; and I welcome this Bill.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDEE: Madam Chairperson, I support the amendment that has been brought forward by the Hon. Minister to the Press Council Act, 1978.

We are all aware that freedom of Press is essential for safeguarding and strengthening democracy. Still we remember those days when the Press was gagged during the emergency where the news relating to one district was not available to the people residing just in the next district. That was the state of affairs.

There were restrictions on the Press which were not there even in the days of the British Rule. When people gave victory to the Janta Government, the Press Council Act had been brought forward. We must admit that during all these 15 years, the functioning of the Press Council is, by and large, quite satisfactory. There may be slight deficiencies also. But we find that the circulation of almost all the papers is increasing. The reading habit of the public is increasing. In Andhra Pradesh, one leading Telugu paper, Eenadu, has introduced a district edition. In all the 23 districts, separate editions are there.

SHRI E. AHAMED: What is the total circulation?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDEE: It may be more than one lakh—highest circulation.

Now, several other leading Telegu papers are trying to follow the same. That means, more local news are being covered and with that, the circulation. My point is that now the electronic media is a powerful media. Because of the cost involved and because of constraint of time, the newspaper is a very useful and powerful instrument to

convey the real message to the people of this country.

The Hon. Member, who preceded me, has made very elaborate point about some of the journalists who might not be behaving responsibly. They may be very few in number. But, by and large, the journalists are also reporting very responsibly. In my experience, by and large we feel quite satisfied. We find that rather than constructive news, many a time, the news relate to squabbles within a political party or some news which are not really useful to the public. More space is devoted to such things, may be to attract more number of readers. How do we know what are their economic calculations? But we feel that more space can be devoted to news like success of family planning in a particular area and instances of communal harmony. Even where several places are burning, there may still be some places where communal harmony might be kept intact with the best responsible participation of the people from different communities. If such news and such instances are given in all the regional languages, it will have tremendous impact. We hope that in the days to come, our Hon. Minister will go through the reports given by the Press Council. Let him go through the reports and take necessary steps to further improve the working of the Press in this country for the service of this nation and for the betterment of the people.

The object of the Council is also to help newspapers and news agencies to maintain their independence. Sometimes it so happens that the local authorities have some vengeance against papers because they might try to bring out certain deficiencies and mistakes committed by the people in power. They may be politicians or political leaders or police officials or whoever they may be. In such instance the police or some

officials try to put the journalist or the reporter in a very tight spot.

There are many instances of this type. At Kozikode a journalist had brought out a series of articles on certain lapses taking place in a local area station. The journalist was arrested and harassed. A few months back all of us had expressed our deep concern over the harassment being meted out to Malai Murasu in Tamil Nadu.

Many a time the Government in power favour certain newspapers which give more coverage to Government news other than being impartial. My suggestion to the Government is the a clearly demarcated criteria should be followed. Advertisements from the local authorities should be given to the newspapers on some fixed criteria. Small newspapers must be given a higher priority for the regional news. At any point of time advertisement should not be denied to a particular Paper because it is writing against a political party in power either at the Centre or in the States. The Government should take strict measures to protect the independent functioning of the Press.

The Hon. Member, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee mentioned about the official Secrets Act. We can understand that information regarding sophisticated defence equipment of a very recent purchase should not be leaked out. In other words, we can say that almost all the activities undertaken by the Ministry of Defence are secret and come under the Official Secrets Act. Madam, we have come to know that a lot of wastage is going on in the purchase of defence equipments. Many a time under the garb of this Official Secrets Act the Press is denied certain information. I would suggest that the Government should bring an amendment to this Official Secrets Act so that the public money is not allowed to be wasted.

We have the freedom of Press in our country. This freedom has been guaranteed in the Constitution. But, this freedom is not there for the foreign journalists. It is natural because definitely there will be a difference between a person who is a citizen of this country and a person who has come from abroad. A citizen of this country may have in his possession certain information which may be prove good for the country but he may not share it with the public keeping in mind the interest of the nation. But, we cannot expect the same thing from a foreign journalist. Precisely because of it, the Press Council of India has expressed its reservations regarding giving permission to the foreign Press in our country. In this connection I would like to say that the Government should take a very careful decision in this regard.

Finally, I would like to make one small submission to the Hon. Minister. At present we have a scheme of Concessional Postal Registration for Newsletters. Some days back a local institution of engineers at Vijayawada published newsletters relating to various meetings that were taking place every week or every fortnight. They circulated it to the Press and at various other places.

There was a concession in regard to this postal tariff. I do not know why it was withdrawn. My suggestion to the Government of course I will also personally contact the Hon. Minister—is that the objective of these newsletters is to transmit information to various places, particularly, to the educational institutions. So, this practice should be started again. Almost all the voluntary organisations cannot afford to bear the increased postal tariffs.

So, with these few words, Madam, I

thank you for giving me an opportunity to say few words on this Press Council (Amendment) Bill.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI(Nainital):  
Madam, Chairman, this amendment seems to have been brought in a haste. It should have been quite comprehensive. Journalism was introduced in India during freedom struggle. Several persons devoted their entire lives to journalism. We have reached the present position after 45-50 years of efforts but now, foreign newspapers are trying to take over Indian newspapers. Any Indian newspaper or journalist can have ideological differences with the Government but when it comes to country's interest, he will perhaps prefer country's interest than his own, whereas the foreigners' only interest will be to earn more and more and they will not be bothered for the interest of the country.

It is a matter of regret that for sometimes, journalists are being attacked in the country. A few days back a decision of the Court regarding the murder of Mahesh Dobhal, the local journalist of Dehradun was given. It is really very sad that criminals involved in the murder have escaped easily even after the CBI inquiry. The Government should make arrangements for providing protection to journalists as their work is risky. They have unearthed several scams risking their lives, be it security scam, Bofors scandals or any other thing. We all know that Newspapers were closed throughout the country during Emergency, Who had refused to write in favour of the Government. Journalists were imprisoned. Several of them were imprisoned for 19 months, many of them died but they refused to bow before that decision of the Government.

Press Council was set up in 1978 under

Minister, you can do that.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Regarding the BC Corporation, the Minister has said that margin money is given by the BC Corporation. But the banks are not coming forward to give loans. A lot of unemployed youth are suffering in this regard. I would like to know whether the Minister will issue a circular to all the banks in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has noted your point.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am seeking a clarification because I was not here. I want to have some clarification. The hon. Minister is here. I would like to know whether he is aware of the fact that in several University hostels, a lot of tension is brewing among some sections of the students because of the difference in the amount that is given as scholarship or hostel charges or mess charges. At that infant age, they do not tolerate any discrimination. I want to know whether the Government is aware of this fact and if it is so whether the Government will take a decision to make the level uniforms in respect of the Government's help to the poorer boys. The level of help should be the same to pursue education, to stay in the hostel.

The number of beneficiaries may be more from a particular section because the Government has got a definite obligation to spend 15 per cent of its total expenditure on some sections and 7 per cent of its total expenditure on certain other weaker sections. We do agree with that. But the quantum of amount that is being spent should be the same. Will the Government examine this aspect?

We are very happy that ultimately, after

several decades, this Mandal Commission Report has come into being and it is being implemented now. We want to know very categorically from the Minister whether the Government has any plans to see that these benefits go to the poorest of the poor.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That point has already been answered.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Even in our IRDP Schemes, in a village, when we select the beneficiaries, the benefit is expected to go to the poorest of the poor. In the same way, will the Government take necessary steps to see that these benefits also go to the poorest of the poor?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would the Minister like to reply to these points now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA GALU) : I have already replied to all the necessary points during my intervention. We are taking into consideration all the aspects of these issues which were raised by the hon. Members. We are considering them very seriously. We sincerely want to see that these issues are sorted out quickly. That is why, at various levels, we are taking up these matters to see that these issues are sorted out quickly. And in future, no member of the OBC community would be in trouble. One hon. Member was saying that the banks were not cooperating with the Corporation. In this regard, we have given special guidelines to all the banks and its Chairmen through the Finance Ministry. And if there are any specific instances where they are not cooperating, please let me know so that we will take up those issues and sort out the matters. The very purpose of this National Backward Class Finance Corporation is to help the poorest among the poor. Those people who are below the poverty line and