

(a) the details of operational services provided by the Department of Science and Technology in the field of meteorology and surveys through the IMD, SOI and NATMO; and

(b) the manner in which these services have been modernised and how do they compare with similar services in other developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The operational services provided by the Department of Science and Technology in the field of meteorology, surveys through India Meteorological Department (IMD), Survey of India (SOI) and National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) are:

#### **India Meteorological Department**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) provides operational services in different sectors such as agriculture, water management, cyclone warning services, aviation meteorological service and earthquake monitoring.

#### **Survey of India**

Survey of India provides topographical cover in surveying and mapping for the entire country to meet the national requirements, including those of Defence Forces, tidal prediction for 44 ports in the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, Compilation/mapping and production of Geographical Maps/Inter-national Map of the world

series and the world Aeronautical Chart, surveys for development projects, Tourist maps, road maps, postal maps, railway maps and other special maps, standardisation of geographical names, demarcation of the external boundaries of India, digitisation of maps and coordination and control in providing aerial photographic cover for the whole country.

#### **National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation**

The Organisation provides services like revision of National Atlas, Landuse mapping Atlas, Landform Mapping Atlas, Land Resource Atlas, Student's Reference Atlas, Socio-Economic Atlas, Indian Ocean Realm Atlas, and District Planning Map Series. In addition, specific projects are undertaken as per user requirements like Maps on Hydrological Service, Urban Studies, etc.

(b) Modernisation of the services of IMD, SOI and NATMO is a continuous process. The operational services in IMD i.e. communication, computational and weather forecasting capabilities have been modernised by induction of modern equipments. Survey of India has modernised the process of digitisation of maps to a significant extent based on recent developments in these areas all over the world. NATMO is currently implementing a plan to modernise its operations through installation of digital mapping system for quick processing of Geographic data.

#### **National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.**

\*457. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has recommended winding up of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees of NBCIL likely to be affected, category-wise;

(d) the steps taken to expedite their retirement benefits;

(e) whether BIFR has asked the Government to take up the disposal of NBCIL's assets; and

(f) if so, the total valued assets of NBCIL as on date including the immovable and movable property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). As the IDBI (Operating Agency) appointed by BIFR concluded in its report that NBCIL is not economically viable company, BIFR in its last hearing held on 20th December, 1993 came to the conclusion that it is just and equitable that the company be wound up. The BIFR has since communicated its opinion to the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay.

(c) The details of number of employees of NBCIL likely to be affected category-wise is given below:—

(a)	Executive	-	19
(b)	Supervisors/ Staff	-	139
(c)	Skilled workers	-	65
(d)	Unskilled workers	-	461

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684

(d) Affected employees will be given statutory compensation as admissible under the law.

(e) and (f). BIFR has not asked the Government to take up the disposal of NBCIL's assets. However, the Book value of company's assets is Rs. 1.89 crores gross, which include the value of moveable property (Rs. 0.21 crores) and immoveable property (Rs. 1.68 crores).

#### **Rural Housing Scheme**

\*458. SHRI SANAT KUMAR  
MANDAL:  
SHRI SHANKERSINH  
VAGHELA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved a scheme to supplement the efforts of the States and Union Territories in rural housing for weaker section and people below the property line during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the broad features of the scheme and the capital outlay involved;

(c) the funds allocated for rural housing, State-wise; and

(d) the role to be assigned to the State Governments for the execution of this plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (d). Government of India has launched a scheme to strengthen and enhance various efforts