Notes:

- 1. The above figures of savings are with relevance to the original and Supplementary grants/ appropriations. The savings reflected in the appropriation accounts are not worked out with reference to the final expenditure estimates. These do not also reflect recoveries adjusted in accounts in reduction of expenditure or receipts which are netted for the purpose of exhibition in the expenditure budget.
- 2 in cases marked @ the expenditure exceeded the sanctioned grant.

Facilities to Beedi Workers

6095. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is no scheme of insurance, Provident Fund and pension etc. for beedi workers in the country: and
- (b) if so, the measures taken or being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM): (a) There are several schemes like the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, Employees Pension Scheme and Group Insurance Scheme which are applicable to the Beedi workers in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation of Liquid Fuel

 $6096.\ SHRI$ AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have curtailed the increased allocation of liquid fuel for power projects in

Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for curtailment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) In order to meet the demand for electricity, it has been estimated that for IX Plan period (1997-2002), the country would require an incremental capacity of about 57000 MW and the requirement during the Xth Plan (2002 - 2007) is estimated to be 65000 MW. In order to meet the shortages, many State Governments have been requesting the Government of India to permit setting up of liquid fuel based power plants in the private sector as these plants have the advantage of shorter gestation period. The Government have formulated the Liquid Fuel Policy for the purpose and have decided to allow development of 12000 MW of power generation capacity based on liquid fuels in the Country. State-wise allocation of this capacity has been made by the Ministry of Power on the basis of additional requirements and energy and peaking shortages of States.

The power capacities based on liquid fuel, allocated to the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are 1160 MW and 1500 MW respectively. Allocation of liquid fuel

is made to the power projects in the States on recommendation of the Ministry of Power limited to the power capacity allocated to the respective States States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have recommended projects far in excess of allocated capacities. Ministry of Power has been requested to reprioritise and rationalise the recommendations so as to keep the allocations within the sanctioned capacity.

Indo-Canadian Joint Commission

6097. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER bé pleased to state :

- whether the Indo-Canadian Joint Commission is proposed to be set up to establish better economic cooperation between both the countries:
- if so, the areas of co-operation identified so far; (b) and
 - the steps taken in the above matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) During the recent visit of Canadian Foreign Minister, Llyod Axworthy to India it was decided to establish a Joint Ministerial Committee headed by the External Affairs Ministers of the two countries. The committee will work towards intensifying co-operation in the economic as well as commercial and political fields. There is, at present, no proposal to set-up a separate Indo-Canadian Joint Economic Commission.

- Identification of the exact areas for co-operation will form part of agenda of the first meeting of the Committee the dates for which are yet to be finalised.
- The two Governments are in touch with each other to finalise details of the first meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee.

Introduction of Ring Railway in Bangalore

6098. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- whether the Government are aware that there is a long pending demand from the State of Karnataka for introduction of Ring Railway In Bangalore; and
 - if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka have proposed introduction of Light Rail Transit System, in Bangalore. The State Government have requested Government of India for equity participation to the tune of Rs. 500 crores for this Project. However, the Government of Karnataka is still in the process of preparation of Detailed Project Report and Economic and Financial Analysis for the Project. The State Government has been requested to expedite the completion of these Reports to enable the Government of India to take appropriate action with regard to the participation in the equity of the above Project.

Indo-Oman Agreement

6099. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether Sultan Kaboos-bin-said of Oman visited (a) India recently;
- (b) the details of the agreement signed between the two countries during the visit;
- whether any agreement was also signed on Investment/protection and avoidance of direct taxation; and
- (d) if so, the details and main purpose of this agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) and (c) The following agreements were signed between the two countries during the visit.
- Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.
- Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- (iii) Memorandum of Agreement for Scientific and Technical Co-operation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- The Executive programme of the Cultural and (iv) Educational Agreement between India and Oman for 1997 and 1998.
- (v) Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Civil Aviation matters.
- (vi) Joint Venture Agreement on the Oman-India fertiliser project.
- The broad intent of the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement is to promote and protect investment from either country in the other. Each country is required to encourage and create favourable conditions for investors and the admission of investment shall be subject to the laws and policies of the country where the investment is made, in addition, each country is required to accord treatment to investments from the other country which is fair and equitable. Further the agreement provides that nationalisation and expropriation of the investment shall