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Thursday, March 28, 1985
Chaitra 7, 1907 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Second Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 28, 1985/
Chaitra 7, 1907 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Indian Protection and Indemnity Club for the Shipping Industry

*221. SHRI SATYA GOPAL
MISRA:

SHRI AMAL DATTA :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING
AND TRANSPORT be pleased to
state :

(a) whether Government have deferred a decision on the creation of an Indian Protection and Indemnity Club for the shipping industry;

(b) if so, whether this will cost the country about Rs. 24 crores annually in foreign exchange alongwith some other disadvantages for the shipping industry of the country; and

(c) if so, the rationale behind this move ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) No final decision has been taken in this regard.

(b) and (c) The payment made on calls of P & I Clubs in foreign exchange for the entire Indian fleet during 1985-86 is likely to be between Rs. 18 and 20 crores. Against this outflow of foreign

exchange, recoveries against liabilities and cost of damages paid by P & I Clubs on behalf of the shipowners result generally in inflow of foreign exchange. Figures of 10 years from 1970 to 1979 show that total claims settled by P & I Clubs on behalf of Indian shipowners exceeded over premiums paid by them by an amount of over Rs. 1.37 crores. By not having an Indian P & I Club, Indian shipowners have not been put to any immediate disadvantage.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
The idea of having an Indian P & I Club was mooted in the year 1979. The General Insurance Corporation and the Shipping Corporation of India are very much in favour of this proposal. Also, by having such a club, we could have saved a lot of foreign exchange. We could also have developed our expertise in this field. But one year's extension to do business with the foreign clubs was given, and it has expired on 20th February this year. In view of all these facts, may I know from the hon. Minister whether a meeting called by the Finance Ministry was held to solve this problem, who were present in that meeting and what was the outcome of that meeting ?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : It is true that this idea was mooted in the year 1979, viz. to form an Indian Club, and that it was being discussed at different levels. The Indian National Shipowners' Association has also discussed it and submitted a report, enumerating some advantages and many of the disadvantages. Therefore, in view of the disadvantages which they have enumerated, till now no decision has been taken as to whether it will be in the best interest of the shipping industry to form an Indian P & I Club. The Ministry of Finance, on consideration of the decision taken above, granted exemption to the shipowners to renew the P & I and other ancillary insurance

boards. They have given an exemption to the Indian shipowners to be members of these international clubs and group of clubs.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : My question has not been answered. My first supplementary was whether a meeting in this respect was called by the Finance Minister, or not; if so, who were present in the meeting and what is the decision at that meeting.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : An inter-Ministerial meeting was called by the Finance Ministry, which was held on 1.2.1985 to review the position regarding the grant of approval to the shipowners under the provisions of Section 25—i.e. whether exemption should be given to the shipowners to be the members of these international clubs which were there—because there was a bar under Section 25 of the General Insurance Business Notification Act, 1972. Therefore, in that inter-Ministerial meeting, it was decided that the exemption should be given to the Indian shipowners to become members of the international clubs.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Earlier also I have said that; again I am forced to say that the General Insurance Corporation of India and the Shipping Corporation of India which owns more than 50% of the ships in our country, were very much in favour of setting up of a P & I Club of our own. But I do not know why the Finance Ministry took such a decision or in the meeting such a decision was taken? What is the reason? Is it due to some foreign pressure that decision was taken? I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister. Can he assure in this House, after this two-year term, a P & I Club of our country will be set up or not?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : I cannot give any categorical answer to this question. These clubs are voluntary associations which have been formed long time back and the ship owners find it convenient to be members of these clubs because many risks which are not covered, many losses which are not covered under the general insurance are being covered by those

clubs. It was envisaged that some Indian club should be formed so that this outflow of foreign exchange should not be there. The Indian National Shipowners' Association, which is an apex body of the shipowners and which has gone into the whole question, whether Indian P & I Club should be advantageous or not, they have gone through it and they have submitted a report in which they have given a lot of disadvantages in it, Only one or two advantages have been given; and all the disadvantages have been enumerated in that list. Now the question is: that in view of this resistance from the shipowners and their association, should we just force them to an Indian Club which will be a voluntary organisation. In view of this fact, the Finance Ministry in that inter-Ministerial meeting has taken a view that for the time being the exemption should be given and the matter should be further examined and if they come to a conclusion that it will be advantageous to form an Indian Club, it will be done. I cannot give any categorical answer to this question.

SHRI AMAL DUTTA : From what the Minister has said, it appears that it is left to the shipowners to decide whether they are going to join an Indian Club if and when formed. I don't think the Minister is really giving a correct picture, because unless the government gives exemption for them to join a foreign P & I Club, they cannot join. Therefore, if the government withdraws its exemption and forms an Indian P & I Club, they will be forced to join the Indian P & I Club; and the disadvantages of insurance will not be there, because the Indian P & I Club will follow the P & I Club rules which are followed all over the world. So, in view of that, if the Minister may not himself be able to decide, but he can take into consideration the fact that P & I Club, although the British predominate if in the world, every country having a considerable shipping tonnage has got its own P & I Club and they should take into consideration India's national prestige into consideration. We do not have go to

some other countries to beg to be a member of their P & I Club. Another thing is that the figures are given to justify are given not having an Indian P & I Club or figures from 1970 to 1979. This is most unfortunate because the figures on which such a decision has been arrived at on 1st of February, 1985 obviously are the figures which are five years old. Why a decision had to be taken on the basis of figures which were already five years old? Are the current figures not available; if they are not, why not; if they are, what is the result of those current figures from 1980-1985?

Secondly, is the G.I.C. pressing for it to be able to make losses, according to what you have said?

AN HON. MEMBER : Why should it to make losses?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Is the G.I.C. pressing for it to be able to make losses, or have they made a calculation so that they can make a profit?

MR. SPEAKER : You have taken too long.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : The question was asked for five minutes!

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The hon. Members is teaching you how to conduct the House. He should learn the manners of this House.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : It was not a question, it was a long speech giving certain suggestions. The position is like this. The figures which we have given, they are indicative figures for ten years. As far as the current year's figures are concerned, we do not have them.

The whole question is this, that under Section 25 we can just debar them from becoming members of those clubs, but we cannot force them to form a club.

PROF. MADHU DANDVATE : Mr Ansari, this is like declaring the 1985 elections on the basis of 1977 voting figures. That is what you have done.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : We cannot force them to form their own P & I Club. As I have already told you, the advantages have not yet been firmed up; the disadvantages enumerated by the Indian National Ship Owners' Association are much more and therefore in the inter-ministerial meeting, decision was taken — a conscious decision — that the exemption should be given for some time. If during that period of time the advantages are firmed up..... (*Interruptions*)

AN. HON. MEMBER : He is taking more time.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Moreover, he is not saying anything ;

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : As far as the latest figures are concerned, it takes a few years to settle the claims and unless those claims are settled we cannot come before you with the latest figures.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS rose

MR. SPEAKER : This has taken already 17 minutes.

Qn. 222 — Prof. Halder.

Revision of UGC Pay Scales for College and University Teachers

*222. PROF. M. R. HALDER ; Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which present University Grants Commission scale of College and University teachers were declared ;

(b) whether Government propose to revise these pay scales ;

(c) if so, the time by which the revised pay-scales will be introduced ; and

(d) whether there is any demand of All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisations in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) The pay scales of university and college teachers

were last revised with effect from January 1, 1973.

(b) and (c). The University Grants Commission has appointed a Committee to consider a further revision of pay scales of teachers in universities and colleges. The work of the committee is in progress. According to the Commission, it may take about a year for the committee to finalise its work.

(d) Yes, Sir, The Federation has submitted a Memorandum to the Committee containing its views on pay-structure, service conditions, and other benefits that should be applicable to teachers.

PROF. M.R. HALDER : Mr. Speaker, I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that at the time of the introduction of these Pay scales, that is on 1-1-1973, it was stated that after each five years revision of the pay scales would be done. If so, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the cause for delay in the introduction of new pay scales.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Earlier, during the Second and the Third Plans five years revisions were done, and this was a Plan-Scheme under which the UGC paid the money directly to the universities. But in 1965 there was an Education Ministers' Conference which recommended that this should be a Non-Plan Scheme, and since 1966 this has been a Non-Plan Scheme. After that, in 1971 this was linked to the Third Pay Commission's recommendations and since the previous revision of pay scales was linked to recommendation of the Third Pay Commission, since then, It is linked to the Pay Commission's recommendations because it is linked to the pay, salaries, and pay scales of Class I Central Government employees. Therefore, it is now linked to the recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission.

PROF. M.R. HALDER : Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that some of the States have already started giving ad hoc payment to the college teachers? Unless and until new pay scale are adopted, will the hon. Minister request all the State Government to

give this type of ad hoc payment to the college teachers?

SHRI. K.C. PANT : I am aware of the fact that some of the States are not giving even the increases which were recommended in the previous revision of the pay scales. I am not aware of any State giving increases beyond the prescribed revision.

PROF. M.R. HALDER : I would like to know whether ad hoc payment will be given. Some States are giving.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I am not aware of the fact. But it would be a happy day if some of the States were to give ad hoc increases. If others are also to give I will still be to happy.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Will the Minister tell the House way the Government of West Bengal has not released the grant to the college and university teachers, which was already revised and given to them for the last 8 years?
(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. PANT : For the implementation of the recommendations which were made by the UGC Committee, ultimately agreed to by the Government in 1973 and implemented in all the states except a few, the Central Government paid 80 per cent of the extra money required from 1975-79 in order to enable the States to get over their ways and means position and the difficulties imposed by the sudden increase in pay scales. One expects that after that all the States would have passed on the benefits to the intended teachers. hope, all the States have done so. If the West Bengal Government is not doing it, I would appeal to my friends from West Bengal to persuade them;

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The Kerala Government has not implemented revised UGC pay scales in respect of college teachers. Has this fact come to the notice of of the Minister? If so, will he give specific instructions to the Kerala Government to implement UGC scales?

SHRI K.C. PANT : My hon. friend is quite correct that the Kerala

Government has not been paying their teachers according to the revised pay scales. Since 1973 they have not been doing so.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Have they taken the money ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I do not think so. But the point is that in this matter we have to have some understanding of the problem of Kerala Govt. They are already investing, as a matter of fact, 43 per cent of their Budget in education. And this is not a party matter. There had been CPI Government headed by Shri Achuta Menon, then CPM Government headed by Shri Nayanar. There is now the Congress Government, mixed Government. But none of them has been able to implement it.

MR. SPEAKER : Question 223. Dr. A.K. Patel.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Please allow me, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, we represent university teachers in the country and we are not allowed to put the questions..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : None of them is a college teachers, Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, allow supplementary to Mamata Banerjee.

There will be some life in the House (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : On the recommendation of the Professor, I will allow Mamata Ji (*Interruptions*).

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : All on me also, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You are a teacher, she is a lady.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that in West Bengal, professors and teachers are not getting their pay on time. On the other hand, some principals of different colleges who are CPI-

minded, are not utilising the UGC grants for proper development of their colleges. What is the Government's outlook regarding this because this is a very serious matter..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : This is not true, Sir. She is not a teacher,

I am a college teacher in West Bengal..... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Is that what you wanted Professor ?

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Sir, let the Minister enquire into this matter... (*Interruptions*).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will you agree, Sir, that dullness has disappeared ? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, in the normal course I would have been inclined not to answer the question and not perhaps even to take up matter here but to discuss it first with my hon. friend who put the question. But the reaction of my hon. friends opposite makes me a little more suspicious than I would have otherwise been..... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Suspicions are suspicions, I am not going to probe into them..... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : We know that is happening in West Bengal..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We have..... a debate outside..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. It is too much on your part. Don't get irritated on every small matter..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, I have been in this House since 1962 and I have found that a certain measure of humour helps things a lot..... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have recommended that instead of getting angry, they should laugh at them.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : The whole world is laughing at them.

SHRI K.C. PANT : We both have a good sense of humour.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Literacy in Adivasi Areas

*224 SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of increase in literacy in Adivasi areas during the Sixth Five Year Plan ;

(b) whether the increase conforms to the targets fixed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c). Literacy rate in the country is measured only through the census conducted once in ten years by the Registrar General of India. The last census was held in 1981 and the next census falls due in 1991. The literacy rate among scheduled tribes population has increased from 11.30% in 1971 to 16.35 in 1981. Increase in literacy rate between 1981 and 1991 will be known when the 1991 census is conducted.

While no target has been fixed, the Sixth Five Year Plan document envisaged eradication of illiteracy by 1990.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that a large amount is being spent for providing education to the children in the tribal areas, but the expected results have not been achieved so far. I would like to ask the hon. Minister the reasons therefore. In tribal areas schools are there these days, but teachers and buildings are not there. A child is admitted in the First standard he studies upto fifth class and thereafter there are no arrangements for further education. These children are also part of the national mainstream. I would

like to urge the hon. Minister that deficiency, if any, in the Sixth Plan may be rectified in the Seventh Plan. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has any scheme to spread literacy among the tribal people.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member that special emphasis must be given on importing education in the tribal areas. But if information is supplied to me about such schools where education is not being imparted properly, I shall make all possible efforts to set the thing right. So far as schools in the tribal areas are concerned, I have got the information that wherever Ashram type schools have been opened, the children go to those Ashram schools. In addition to good education, attendance is also good and their results are also not poor. So far as non-formal education is concerned, the Centre provides grant to many States for the purposes. The Centre provides separate grants for adult education. The Ministry of Home Affairs have got their Tribal Sub-Plans and the Ministry of Education have also got their Tribal Sub-Plans. Aid is provided for education through all these methods.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Minister that aid is provided for their education. He has also stated that wherever Ashram schools exist, the students can get education there by living together. I have with me the report of the S.C. and S.T. Commissioner for the year 1981-82 in which it has been stated that the huts of the tribal people are quite scattered. The entire funds for the Tribal Sub-Plans are spent through the state Governments. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would bring this subject on the Concurrent List and make provision in the Seventh Five Year Plan for providing education to the tribal people through Central schools on Ashram pattern ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : The Government would consider this suggestion.

(English)

SHRI V. SOBHANA DREESWARA RAO : The Minister has told us that only 16 per cent of the Adibasi are literate. At the same time, he says that by 1990 hundred per cent literacy will be achieved, which appears to be quite far away. Will the Government consider the supply of text-books and provision of mid-day meals to the Adibasi children so that their percentage of literacy may increase ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : 100 per cent literacy by 1990 is the aim of the Sixth Plan. We have to make a serious effort to reach that target. The tribal population is about 7.76 per cent of the total population. But one has to make a special effort for the disadvantaged sections, particularly for women. The girls are even further behind in literacy than the boys. One small fact that I would like to bring to your notice is that this 15 per cent. includes the children from the ages of 0—4. That is a marginal point but it will increase the percentage somewhat if these 0—4 age group children are left out of the calculation.

Now, as far as the mid-day meal scheme is concerned, this is provided and it is one of the incentives that has been provided under the 20 point programme for the tribal population. In the schools there are other incentives also provided to them. But in spite of that there are certain constraints one of which is the scattered population and the need for some kind of schools within easy walking distance of these habitations, and the other is the fact that the parental encouragement to the children to go to school for the first generation goes is not as much as it is in other areas. Taking into account these factors, other incentives also have to be provided. So, I recognise the need for additional incentives. These additional incentives include free text books free stationery, for uniform, mid-day meals, scholarships and freeships and compensation to the parents also because when these children have to go to schools, they are not available for work. That

is the idea that also has to be kept in mind.

SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what is the percentage of literacy among the Advivasi women and whether any special strategy has been formulated to educate them.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Among the Adivasi women, the percentage of literacy is 8.04 per cent. Among men it is 24.59 per cent. Actually special assistance is given to the educationally backward States for the education of women and for the arrangement of women teachers so that the girls can go to the schools. Many families do not like to send the girls to the schools which have only male teachers. For the adult education programme meant only for women also the State gives one hundred per cent assistance in the educationally backward States.

(Translation)

Improvements in Capital Express Train

*225. **SHRI D.L. BAITHA :** Will the Minister of RILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Capital Express running between Danapur and Katihar is the only train which links North Bihar with the State Capital Patna;

(b) if so, whether the number of passenger coaches in this train is very inadequate and the coaches are in dilapidated conditions;

(c) whether normally the first class compartments are not attached with it and their maintenance is also very poor;

(d) whether steam engine is being used for hauling this train which invariably breaks down on the way and the train rarely runs on time;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to run more trains for North Bihar from the Capital, increase the number of coaches in the Capital Express, improve their proper maintenance and provide a diesel engine for hauling it; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

(English)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Capital Express has a normal composition of 11 coaches including a First class compartment. It had been running underload and without first class compartment for some time. Due to pilferage and miscreant activities condition of coaches becomes unsatisfactory and are attended from time to time.

(d) Yes Sir, the train runs with steam engine. There are occasional failures of the engines (for which action is taken) but last running is due to newly converted section on Barauni-Katihar where works are still in progress causing detention to train.

(e) and (f). On account of paucity of resources in the shape of coaches and diesel locomotives, there is no proposal to (i) introduce any additional train between Patna and North Bihar for the present (ii) and dieselisation of 45/46 Danapur-Katihar Capital Express.

[Translation]

SHRI D. L. BAITHA : Mr Speaker, Sir, before gauge conversion of the section between Barauni and Katihar, fourteen Up and Down trains used to run on this line, but after the gauge conversion, only two Up and Down trains are being run there. This is the only line linking the capital as well as four or five districts. He has just now stated in his reply that the work of gauge conversion on this railway track is still going on but, according to my information after the gauge conversion, this track was opened to traffic eight months back. I would like to know which work is still pending and which are the direct trains running between Patna and North Bihar.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The work relating to signals, communication links and laying of concrete is still going on. Due to this reason, trains run at a

slow speed there. In addition to Capital Express, two more trains are being run on this track. One is the Assam Mail and the other is the Muzaffarpur- Bombay V. T. weekly Express.

SHRI D. L. BAITHA : It has been stated in the reply that the condition of coaches becomes very unsatisfactory due to pilferage and the activities of miscreants. What arrangements have been made by the Government to check this menace and to keep the rail engines in good running condition, which now stop all of a sudden ? You can imagine the ordeal faced by the passengers due to the failure of railway engines. Sometimes the passengers are stranded at places where they cannot get anything to eat or drink. This is the only direct train running from the capital to North Bihar. If a diesel engine is attached to this train, the people would be amply benefited. You should consider this matter and take steps to check the deteriorating condition of coaches due to pilferage.

SHRI BANSI LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the possible arrangements are being made with the help of the police and by other methods. Efforts are made to replace the items and fittings in the coaches, which are pilfered. So far as attaching diesel engine is concerned, we do not have diesel engines at present.

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Mr Speaker, Sir, all the through trains which have been running from Patna, the capital of Bihar towards North Bihar for many years have been cancelled during the last one or two years. Previously, there was a direct train running in North Bihar towards Samastipur, Darbhanga and Jay Nagar, which is situated on the Nepal border. 77 U.P. and 78 Down trains used to run upto Patna and Hajipur-Jamnagar. Besides this, the Jaynti-Janta Express was also running. All these trains running towards North Bihar have been cancelled. When people made a demand to increase the number of trains running towards North Bihar, instead of increasing the number of trains, all the trains were cancelled. It was stated in the reply that as construction of Mahatma

Gandhi Setu over the river Ganga had been completed, there was therefore, no necessity of running these trains. When these trains were cancelled, the people were forced to travel by buses but buses are available with only a frequency of three or four hours. The hon. Minister said that there was no necessity of running these trains. I would like to say a few words about this...

MR. SPEAKER ; You should put your questions.

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : I would like to say that when trains are cancelled the people would be forced to travel by buses, and this would lead to a loss of revenue to the Government. Secondly, fares of express train are charged from the passengers whereas the trains run like passenger trains. When the drivers take refreshments at every station, what would be the utility of the express trains ? I would therefore, urge the Railway Minister that the trains which had been running for many years and which have now been cancelled may be restored. The train running *via* Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Samastipur and Jay Nagar has also been cancelled. Your officers have submitted a wrong report to you. I would like to know whether the trains would be restored by ignoring the aforesaid report ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : All the trains have not been cancelled. Trains are running there, but the trains which were not considered necessary have been cancelled and such trains would not run now.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question, Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Amar Roy Pradhan.

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : The cancellation of trains in North Bihar is an injustice with the people of the area. Those trains should be restored... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Now you kindly resume your seat.

[*English*]

Reservation In Medical Colleges

*227. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a copy of the Report of the Rane Commission relating to reservation in the medical colleges :

(b) if so, the main recommendations in the Report :

(c) the board policy of the Government regarding reservation in educational institutions ; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to be taken to implement the same on a uniform pattern ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). As per the policy of of the Government of India/University Governments Commission, 22.5% seats in all courses of studies in Universities and colleges should be reserved for students of SC/ST communities (15% for so and 7.5% for S. T.). Guidelines have been issued to all Universities, State Govts./U. Ts in this regard.

While the Central Universities are expected to follow the Central Government/U.G.C. guidelines regarding such reservations, the Universities established under Acts of State Legislatures generally follow the reservation policy and the instructions issued by the concerned State Governments.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Mr Speaker, Sir, you please decide whether it is an evasive reply of a nursery child.

MR. SPEAKER : Child is the father of man.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Even though the Rane Commission Report has created so many problems in the State of Gujarat and there are slogans for reservation and anti-reservation for which riot, was there and so many people were killed in the riot, the report of the Rane Commission itself was placed in the Gujarat Assembly a fortnight back. Now, you are telling in your answer, "No, Sir, does not arise". I don't know how the Government is functioning. It was published in so many news papers including the *Indian Express* and the *Times of India*. (*Interruptions.*) I would like to ask the question. If you go through the three years' report, you will find that out of 22.5% seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, only 10.6% seats had been filled in. I would like to know why has the remaining quota not been filled in Gujarat.

More over, whether it is a fact that in the light of the report of the Rane Commission, the Gujarat Government has adopted a policy of reservation not on caste basis but on income basis ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, the report of the Rane Commission is laid on the table of the Gujarat Assembly only this year. It is a report of the State Government and it will be discussed in the Assembly, if the State Government and the Assembly so desire. So, it has nothing to do with us or the Home Ministry of the Government of India. So, we have not received that report so far.

So far as some seats which are not filled in are concerned, it is due to non-availability of qualified students.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, then I would like to seek your protection. I have raised this Question. It was shifted from one Department to another Department. Earlier it was sent to Home Ministry and later shifted to Health Department. Now, they are telling that it is not possible to reply. You just protect me and protect the right of the Member.

MR. SPEAKER : He said, "That is laid on the Table of the Assembly". That is what he said. It has been laid on the Table of the Assembly and it is they who can discuss and implement it.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, I have already said that we have not received the report. If at all it has to be discussed it has to be discussed, in the Assembly of the State.

MR. SPEAKER : They say that they have not received that report. It has been placed only last week on floor of the Assembly.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Sir, you know that just before the Assembly elections in Gujarat though there had been a general policy guideline of 22.5% reservation quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it was announced by the Gujarat Government that it would be raised to 49%. Of course, after the Assembly elections, it had been brought down. But my question is whether the Government is aware of the fact that particularly in Gujarat State, the State of Mahatma Gandhi, the rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students are going to be abolished ?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : It is not going to be abolished.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Yes, it is going to be abolished. Under the provisions of the relevant articles of the Constitution of India, will this be implemented properly in the State of Gujarat ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, there is no question of abolition of the reservation because it has been provided under the Constitution of India. (*Interruptions.*) I do not subscribe to the view of the hon. Member in that respect.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the hon. Minister while answering the Question said that, "22.5% is reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Central medical universities". I would like to know whether

the Minister is aware of the recommendation of the Mandal Commission, that the reservation must be made for backward classes also? Will the hon. Minister consider this recommendation?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The Question is based on the Rane Commission Report. It has nothing to do with the Mandal Commission Report.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The Rane Commission Report dealt with backward classes as well.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : But the Question is on the Rane Commission Report. I have no information. All these Reports are with the Home Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri D.P. Yadav.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He has not answered my question. Let me read out the question.

MR. SPEAKER : I am satisfied with the answer.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How can you be satisfied? It is I who put the supplementary. This is very strange! You kindly read the Question. The part (C) reads :

“the board policy of the Government regarding reservation in educational institutions;”

SHRI D.P. YADAV : The reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is a statutory provision as the Constitution. I hope the stand of the Government is that this statutory provision will be implemented. May I know whether the hon. Minister of Health will sit with the Home Minister and the Education Minister also to see that the policy of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at least is implemented in full, not only in Medical Colleges but also in Central Universities and other educational institutions and technical institutions also? I have found that somehow this thing is waived. I want to know whether there will be an inter-

Ministerial meeting between the Ministers of Health, Home, Education and others concerned to see that at least a statutory provision made in the Constitution for the reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of admission as well as in the appointment of teachers in those institutions will be implemented.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : In the matter of reservation, the nodal Ministry is the Home Ministry which is from time to time reviewing the situation throughout the country, whether it is medical education or other technical education or services. So far as my Ministry is concerned, we are also reviewing the situation and we give directions to the colleges which are under the Centre. But so far as State colleges are concerned, they are governed by the State laws of reservation. It is based on the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in a particular State.

So far as the seats which are not filled in by the candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned, I have already said that it is due to non-availability of candidates. However, in order to bring them upto the standard, training courses and coaching courses are organised for them. In the Seventh Plan, we are giving special importance to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have definite information that there was reservation in the medical colleges in U.P. for the children of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In addition, there was 15 per cent reservation for the backward classes also, which has been abolished now. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, whether he would write to the U.P. Government to reconsider the question of 15 per cent reservation to backward classes.

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : It is basically the concern of the State

Governments and the State Governments from time to time decide about the reservation for the backward classes thoughts the general provision in the Constitution is under article 16 (4).

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : One of the aspects of reservation policy, apart from reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, is reservation on the basis of domicile or where the college is located. This is particularly important in the case of colleges located in small areas, for example, in a small area from which I come. Will the Government, therefore, spell out what is their policy on the question of reservation, on the basis of domicile, in respect of medical colleges which are located in small area, for example, in a small area from which I come to protect the local people?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : In this regard, Medical Education Review Committee also recommended 75% reservation for the locally resident people. But the Supreme Court of India have in a judgment said that in any case it should not exceed 70%. It is now 70%. The upper limit is 70%

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My question is supposed to arise from Mandal Commission. But does this question arise from Rane Commission? (*Interruptions*). The hon. Minister did not agree with me. The Hon. Speaker did not agree with me. The Hon. Speaker is broad-minded when it comes to you, not for us.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : I am happy it is so. All the time my complaint is the other way.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : If the Minister wants to reply to any supplementary, he may do so. But if any supplementary is not relevant to the main question, he does not reply to it.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I could not follow you.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Sabebe would explain to you.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday also, I had put a question as Mr. Deputy Speaker had called me, but I had missed the bus. Today you have been kind enough to me and you have called my name in time and I am thankful to you for this. There is reservation for the students belonging to the Scheduled castes and the Scheduled Tribes in medical Colleges, but the students of the caste Hindus take admission these on the basis of the bogus certificates. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any such case has been brought to his notice, if so, what is the number of such cases and what action is being taken to check the recurrence of such cases.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : No such case has been brought to our notice and therefore, second question does not arise.

[*English*]

Third and Fourth Turbines for Raichur Thermal Power Plant

*228. **SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER** : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka' first thermal power plant at Raichur was completed 6 months ahead of the time schedule ; and

(b) if so, whether in view of the acute power shortage in Karnataka for the past 7-8 years, Government propose to sanction the third and fourth turbines of the above thermal power plant immediately?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir, the first unit of Raichur thermal station has not been commissioned ahead of Schedule.

(b) The third unit at Raichur has been approved by the Planning Commission. For techno-economic appraisal of the

fourth unit, revised cost estimates are awaited from the Karnataka Power Corporation and availability of coal has to be tied up.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : I know that the third unit has been approved by the Planning Commission.

I have only said that the first unit has been completed.

May I know from the Government whether it is aware when the first unit will be commissioned. The hon. Minister knows very well that there is acute power shortage in the State of Karnataka to the extent of nearly 75-80%. While thanking the Government for approving the third unit by the Planning Commission, may I know whether they will also approve of the 4th unit so that all the Units can be taken up immediately?

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I am happy to inform the House that the first unit will be commissioned within a couple of days, most probably by the end of this month or in the first week of next month.

The second unit is also expected to be commissioned by April, 1986.

The third unit has been cleared by the Planning Commission.

As regards the fourth unit, there has been some problem in tying up the availability of coal.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : As I said already, the hon. Minister is also aware of the acute shortage. I would suggest that the 4th Unit should be started immediately. Even if we get all the units completed, it will not suffice us. So, please expedite it.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I will be very much more happy than the hon. Member if the problem of coal is solved with the cooperation of the Governments concerned, specially the Andhra Pradesh Government. I hope the fourth unit also will be processed in due course.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

[English]

Railway Accident During 1984

*223. **DR. A.K. PATEL :**

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) number of railway accidents during the year 1984 ;

(b) number of persons killed and injured therein ;

(c) total loss suffered by railways as a result thereof ;

(d) total amount of compensation paid during the above period and the number of cases in respect of which the amount of compensation has not been paid or not paid fully ;

(e) whether any proposal to ensure payment of the amount of compensation within a prescribed period from the day of the accident is under consideration of the Government ;

(f) if so, details thereof ; and

(g) if not, the reasons then for ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) There were 772 train accidents during the year 1984.

(b) 345 persons lost their lives and 732 persons were injured in these accidents.

(c) The loss suffered by Railways as a result of these accidents has been estimated as Rs. 7.82 crores.

(d) Out of 361 claims filed under the provisions of the Indian Railways Act, 1980 by the claimants pertaining to train accident that occurred during 1984 125 claims have so far been settled and a sum of Rs. 71.11 lakhs has been paid as compensation to the dependents of those killed and to the injured persons during January, 1984 to December, 1984 which includes compensation in respect of accidents that occurred earlier also. The remaining 236 claim applications

are pending adjudication in the various Courts of ad hoc/ex officio Claims Commissioners.

(e) to (g). The following measures have been taken to out down delays in the settlement of accident claim which come under the purview of Indian Railways Act, 1890 :

- (i) Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules, 1950 have been amended making it obligatory on part of the railway administration concerned to appoint an ad hoc Claims Commissioner within two months from the date of accident.
- (ii) Instructions have also been issued to the Zonal Railways to appoint more than one ad hoc Claims Commissioner in accidents involving 100 or more Casualties/Claims.
- (iii) State-wise standing panels of judges willing to be posted as ad hoc Claims Commissioners are being formed.
- (iv) Restrictions on the appointment of retired judicial officers as ad hoc Claims Commissioners have been removed.
- (v) The General Managers of the Zonal Railways have been delegated powers to create posts in connection with settlement of accident claims.

It is not feasible to fix any time limit for the payment of compensation. The matter rests with the Claims Commissioners.

Construction of Howrah-Amta B.G. Line

*226. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the progress made so far in constructing the Howrah-Amta broad gauge railway line;
- (b) when the Howrah-Amta line is likely to be completed;

(c) the present position of construction of broad gauge line between Amta and Sheakhala;

(d) when this work is likely to be completed; and

(e) whether Government will expedite work on these lines to end, the sufferings of thousands of people in Howrah and Hooghly districts ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The construction of Phase-I of Howrah-Amta Broad Gauge line i.e. from Santragachi to Bargachia (24 Kms) has already been completed and opened to traffic in 1984.

(b) to (e). Further extension of Broad Gauge line to Amta would depend on the availability of resources. There is no proposal to construct a line between Amta and Sheakhala.

Steps To Improve Standard of Health Education

*229. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO
SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government are aware of the very low standard of Health Education in the country; and
- (b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to make improvements in this regards ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) and (b). The level of Health Education in the community is closely related to the level of literacy. Education of the people about health matters is a continuing process. In order to accelerate this process Government is taking various measures. Health Education is being imparted in schools and colleges; various channels of communication are being used to disseminate information for promotion of health. Health Education has also been integrated in the various health Programmes.

Assistance for Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics in Kerala

*230. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the MINISTER OF EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government for increased assistance to the Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government there to ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). It is the responsibility of State Governments to make provisions for various programmes of engineering colleges and polytechnics running under their auspices. In its draft annual plan for 1985-86, the Government of Kerala proposed an outlay of Rs. 335 lakhs for Technical Education. The State Plan outlays for Kerala for 1985-86 are, however, yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

Assistance is given by the Central Government under certain Central Quality Improvement schemes, to selected institutions in the different States for specific projects in the identified areas which satisfy the criteria and guidelines laid down for the respective schemes. During the last two years 23 schemes of Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics in the State of Kerala have been given Central assistance amounting to Rs. 150.65 lakhs under the Central schemes. The proposals for the year 1985-86 from the institutions in different States of the country, including Kerala, will be considered during the course of the year, as and when these are received.

Absorption of Trained Navigators by Shipping Corporation of India

*231. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Cadets who were trained as Navigators by the Shipping Corporation of India, have been asked to wait for 60 months for employment in their fleet :

(b) whether the candidates were made to sign a bond to serve the Organisation for atleast five years;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in providing employment after the training; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT. (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) It is expected to take upto 60 months to absorb all those on the waiting list as on date.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d). In the past owing to better job opportunities abroad, a large proportion of Shipping Corporation of India trained cadets sought employment outside Shipping Corporation of India.

However due to the global recession resulting in shrinkage of job opportunities in the Shipping Industry, almost all the ex-cadets are asking for employment with Shipping Corporation of India, which is in excess of Shipping Corporation of India's requirements.

Supply of Coal to Coal India Limited Yards

*233. SHRI SHIVENDRA BHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways authorities have stopped supply of Coal to Coal India Limited Yards; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Irrigation Plans for Mirzapur District

*234. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any projects had been sanctioned specially in Fifth and Sixth Five Year Plans for irrigation purposes in Mirzapur District in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to sanction any project for that district during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI A. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) . A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Irrigation Plans for Mirzapur District-Approved by the Planning Commission during the 5th and 6th Plan period.

Name of the Project	Estimated cost (Rs. Lakhs)	Irrigation potential (Hectares)
1. Balan Bakhar Diversion	197.00	5706
2. Bakhar Marihan Feeder	94.72	2068
3. Dhoba Pump Canal	75.00	4050
4. Dhenkwah Dam	89 00	1310

Resuscitation of Rupnarayan River in West Bengal

*235. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the river Rupnarayan in West Bengal is fast deteriorating and the predominantly peasant population of the Ghatal and Tamluk sub-divisions of Midnapur district, West Bengal, are greatly suffering due to this ; and

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of including any project for resuscitation of Rupnarayan River in the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The river Rupnarayan in West Bengal is getting silted in certain reaches resulting in drainage congestion.

(b) The State Government has proposed Phase-I of dredging of Rupnarayan river in the State's Seventh Five Year Plan.

Contract Awarded to Sweden for Vindhya-chal Unit

*236. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of

IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that National Thermal Power Corporation has given a contract to Sweden for commissioning a Vindhya-chal Unit ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited has signed a contract with M/s ASEA, Sweden for the supply and erection of a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) back-to-back link between the Northern and Western Regions, to be established at Vindhya-chal.

(b) This HVDC back-to-back link is being established to facilitate transfer of power from one region to the other which may be operating at different frequencies.

Declaration of State Roads as National Highways

*237 SHRI C. D. GAMIT :

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have declared, any State roads as National Highways during 1984-85 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to declare some State roads as National Highways during 1985-86 ;

(b)

S. No.	NH. No.	Name of Road	Length in Kms (Approx)
(1)	4 B	Panvel-Uran near Nhava-Sheva Port Complex (Bombay)	27
(2)	56	Lucknow-Jagdishpur-Sultanpur-Jaunpur-Varanasi Road in U. P.	285

(c) to (e) The outlay for the 7th Five Year Plan has not been finalised as yet. As soon as the size of the Plan is known all the State Governments will be requested to furnish proposals for inclusion of roads in the National Highway system. The proposals so received will be given due consideration keeping in view the criteria for declaration of roads as National Highways, inter-se priority of individual roads and the availability of resources.

Location of the Floating Dry Dock Near Bombay Coast

*238 SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any controversy over the permanent location of M/s. Escorts' floating Dry Dock near Bombay Coast ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the permission to locate the dry-dock in Nhava Sheva was granted to M/s. Escorts for one year in December, 1983 ;

(c) if so, whether the permission was extended further ;

(d) whether there has been protest by the Bombay Citizens Committee over

(d) if so, whether any roads in Gujarat State have been indentified to be declared as National Highways ; and

(e) if so, details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) Yer, Sir.

the location of this Dry-Dock in Bombay ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the continuation of the Dry-Dock there in spite of the objections of the Committee and the officials of the Bombay Port Trust ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRASTPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) No final decision has yet been taken regarding a suitable permanent location for M/s. Escorts' Floating Dry Dock near Bombay Coast.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Government is not aware of any protest by the Bombay Citizens Committee over the location of this Dry Dock in Bombay. However, a representation was received from Bombay Environmental Action Group in February, 1984 in this regard. The matter was examined in consultation with the Department of Environment and their clearance was obtained for allotment of the existing temporary site to M/s. Escorts.

Allocation for Education During Sixth Plan

*239 PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN-SOZ : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total monetary allocation for education during the Sixth Plan ; and

(b) the actual expenditure in the Sixth Plan period on Primary, Secondary and Higher Education separately ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The VIth Plan allocation for the country for Education is Rs. 2523.74 crores.

(b) As the VIth Plan is still in operation, the figures of actual expenditure are not yet available.

Requirement/Availability of and Disorders Caused by Deficiency of Iodised Salt

*240. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of effects and developmental disorders caused by the iodine deficiency in the human body ;

(b) what action Government have taken to meet the shortage of iodised salt and with what results ;

(c) what is our total requirement and availability of iodised salt in the country and what action has Government taken to improve the position ;

(d) which are the worst affected States in the country where people suffer on this account ; and

(e) amount spent by each State during 1983-84 and till December, 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) Iodine deficiency disorders in the human body include goitre-an enlargement of the thyroid gland, mental retardation and physical disabilities such as stunted

growth, defects of stance and gait, squint, lack of muscular coordination and deaf-mutism. Another serious iodine deficiency disorder is cretinism which is a condition of mental retardation combined with some of the other infirmities.

(b) and (c). The total requirement of iodised salt for the hyper-endemic zone has been estimated at 10 lakh metric tonnes. At present the public sector is producing 1.92 lakh metric tonnes per annum. In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply the government have permitted the private sector also to produce iodised salt. It is expected that the country's requirement of iodised salt will be fully met by the end of the Seventh Plan.

(d) The endemic goitre belt in India covers the entire Sub-Himalayan Region and includes the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura apart from Punjab, Haryana, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Endemic goitre is also found prevalent in certain districts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

(e) The National Goitre Control Programme is an entirely Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the entire expenditure towards iodisation of salt is met by the Government of India. A sum of Rs. 20.66 lakh was spent on iodisation of salt in 1983-84 and Rs. 17.00 lakh till December, 1984.

Polavaram Project, Andhra Pradesh

*241 SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the estimate for the Polavaram Project has since been received by the Centre from the Andhra Pradesh Government ;

(b) whether it has been cleared by Central Water/Power Commission ;

(c) whether foundation stone for the said project was laid by the previous Chief Minister and if so, when ; and

(d) whether the revised project reports submitted to the Central Water Commission in April, 1983 have received the approval of the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. In 1982.

(d) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Moradabad-Ramnagar and Bareilly-Kathgodam Lines

*242. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of conversion of Moradabad-Ramnagar and Bareilly-Kathgodam railway lines into broad gauge is going on ;

(b) if so, the total amount spent on this work so far ; and

(c) whether the work on these projects would be completed during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Work on conversion of Moradabad-Ramnagar is in Progress. No Work has been taken-up on the Bareilly-Kathgodam section except Survey.

(b) and (c). An amount of Rs. 4.23 crores is anticipated to be spent on Moradabad-Ramnagar Gauge Conversion upto, 31.3. '85. Its completion will depend on availability of resources.

[*English*]

Rail Line Between Nadikude to Bibinagar

*136. SHRI N. V. RATNAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) when was the railway line between Nadikude in Guntur District to Bibinagar near Hyderabad taken up and the present stage thereof ;

(b) whether the conversion of Nadikude line to broad gauge from Guntur has been taken up and if so, the present stage; and

(c) by what time this railway line is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The work was included in the Budget for 1974-75. The 1st Phase of line from Bibinagar to Nalgonda (74 Kms.) was opened to traffic on 27.3.1981. The Second phase of the scheme from Nalgonda to Nadikude (75.4 Kms.) is in progress. The Section from Nalgonda to Miryalguda (37 Kms.) was recently opened on 15.9.1984 for goods traffic. Efforts are now being made to concentrate on opening the next section upto Vishnupur as early as possible subject to availability of funds. The overall progress of the work (Phase-II) is 72.75%.

(b) The conversion of Guntur-Nadikude-Macherla Section from Metre Gauge to Broad (130 Kms.) is an approved on-going project. Work on two bridges has been taken up. The progress on these two bridges is 98%.

(c) The completion of the line will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Translation of Books by Indian Council of Historical Research

1292. SHRI G. V. RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Historical Research got several history books translated into Indian languages for the use of students, researchers and staff in the universities and colleges;

(b) how many books have been translated and how many translations published so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). 86 books have been got translated into different languages. 340

manuscripts in different languages have been received. Out of these, 59 have already been published and 17 are with the publishers. It has not been possible for the Council to publish all the manuscripts so far since the publishers did not find the proposition attractive. The Council is, however, still negotiating with the private publishers, Government agencies, different Granth Academies and universities for publication of the remaining manuscripts.

Memorandum Submitted by NPCC Contractors' Employees Union

1293. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received a memorandum No. BM/02/ACC/85 dated 23rd February, 1985 from NPCC Contractors' Employees Union, Calcutta regarding absorption of some workers of NPCC working in Agartala (Tripura) in regular service since they had suffered injuries while on job; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to absorb these workers ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). NPCC Contractors' Employees Union, Calcutta have submitted a memorandum on behalf of two workers of the sub-contractors of NPCC. As they were not engaged by NPCC but were employees of the sub-contractors, the question of their being offered regular employment in NPCC does not arise.

Facilities to Disabled School Children

1294. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state the number of handicapped children in the Kendriya Schools in Delhi/New Delhi age-wise and the concession or scholarships if any granted to them ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : There are 98 handicapped students in the Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi/New Delhi. Their age-wise break-up is as under :

6 years	—	13
7 years	—	7
8 years	—	6
9 years	—	5
10 years	—	3
11 years	—	15
12 years	—	12
13 years	—	7
14 years	—	13
15 years	—	6
16 years	—	7
17 years	—	3
18 years	—	1

There is no provision for any special concessions / scholarships / examinations in fee etc. for the handicapped children in the Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Ship Repairing Facilities

1295. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no ship repairing yard in the country and a huge amount is being spent every year on the repairing of our ships abroad;

(b) if so, the amount spent abroad on ship repair during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to provide adequate ship repairing facilities in the country in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There are a number of ship repairing yards/firms in the country. However, the capacities are inadequate, necessitating repair of many ships abroad.

(b) The amount spent on ship repairs abroad is as under :

1982-83 — Rs. 75.77 crores

1983-84* — Rs. 45.86 crores.

*This excludes payments to be made as a part of deferred payment.

(c) In order to augment the ship-repairing facilities in the country, a number of schemes have since been approved of action initiated as per details given below :

- (i) A scheme for improvement and modernisation of Dry Dock inside Calcutta Port;
- (ii) A scheme for improving and modernizing of shiprepair facilities at HSL;
- (iii) A scheme for improvement and modernization of dry docks in Bombay Port;
- (iv) A scheme for setting up of shiprepairing facility inside Madras Port;
- (v) A scheme for establishment of an exclusive Dredger Repair Facility at Calcutta;
- (vi) Engagement of foreign experts in Cochin Shipyard to improve its productivity and skills in shiprepairs.
- (vii) Extension of fiscal measures to registered shiprepairs for better utilisation of their ship-repairing facilities.

Doubling of Sheoraphuli-Tarakeshwar Rail Line

1296. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering for doubling the rail line between Sheoraphuli and Tarakeshwar which is an important place for pilgrims;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c). A

survey for augmentation of line capacity between Sheoraphuly and Bandel section including Tarakeshwar Branch has been taken up. Engineering field survey has been completed and recess work is in progress. A decision on the proposal will be taken after the survey report has been received, and the same examined, subject to availability of funds.

Representation from Workers of Wagon Repair Workshop, Rayanapadu (South Central Railway)

1297. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received a memorandum dated 25 January, 1985 from the workers of Wagon Repair Workshop, Rayanapadu, South Central Railway;

(b) whether they have drawn attention to lack of safety measures for the workers and the workshop; and

(c) whether Government are taking steps to improve the situation in view of the serious lapses in the safety system in the workshop ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) ; (a) Yes, Sir

A collective memorandum dated 25.1.85 from the workers of wagon repair Workshop Rayanapadu, S.C. Railway has been received under D.O. letter No. SM/259/F-2(b)/85 dated 20-2-85 from Shri Basudev Acharya, M.P. addressed to the Minister of Railways.

(b) and (c). Instructions exist with the Railways for determining their need based supply of protective accessories in the workshops, within the extent of legal/statutory obligations or occupational hazards.

The Subject matter of the representation from the workers of wagon repair shop Rayanapadu has been examined by the Zonal Railway Administration from time to time, during the informal meetings with the organised labour and also at the meetings of the

Permanent Negotiating Machinery. The safety precautions of the shops are constantly being reviewed and corrective action is initiated where necessary.

Short-Fall in Sixth Plan Targets by Railways

1298. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways fall considerably short of planned targets at the end of the Sixth Plan in (i) the acqui-

sition of rolling stock (ii) the freight operations (iii) renovation of sick railway-lines and (iv) extension of lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether it is mainly due to short allocations of funds therefor and if so, what active steps are being taken to augment the fund allocations therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b).

	Target for the Sixth Plan	Expected acquisition/ achievement
1. Rolling Stock		
(a) Wagons	1,00,000 (Scaled down to 77,000 at the time of mid-term appraisal)	73,000 approx..
(b) Locomotives	780 (Revised to 980)	900 approx.
(c) Coaches	5,680	5,000 approx.
(d) EMUs	606	660 approx.
2. Track renewal	14,000 kms.	9,200 kms.
3. Freight Traffic	309 mt.	264 mt.
4. New Lines	No target	About 700 kms.

The rolling stock acquired will be marginally less than the revised targets, the short fall being mainly on account of inadequate plan allocations. In respect of coaches the existing production capacity also militated against larger acquisition of stock.

The short fall in track renewal was chiefly due to phenomenal increase in the price of rails and track components.

The short fall in freight traffic will be essentially because of reduced offer of traffic from core sectors in the earlier months of 1984-85; the railways were garred to lift 270 mt. of traffic but because of reduced after the target for 1984-85 had to be scaled down from 270 to 264 mt.

(c) Allocation to the railways was less than their requirement, and a step up will be possible only with larger mobilisation of resources at the national level.

Bridge over Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh

1299. SHRI ANAND PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering for the construction of a bridge over the Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh ;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c). A
Techno-economic Feasibility study for
construction of a bridge over Brahma-

putra river near Dibrugarh has recently
been completed. The study has brought
out the following alternatives :

Alternatives	Capital Cost (in crores of rupees)	Rate of return (%age)
(i) Road bridge only	131.67	13.0
(ii) Rail-cum-road bridge		
(a) single track	242.49	9.4
(b) double track	303.20	8.1
(iii) Separate rail and road bridges side by side	279.11	8.6

Only a road bridge is financially viable. However, the views of the concerned agencies like the North Eastern Council, Ministry of Shipping and Transport on the proposal are being obtained. A final decision will be taken after the various alternatives have been considered in details, in consultation with the Planning Commission, subject to availability of resources.

**Theft of fans from EMU Coaches in
Howrah and Sealdah Divisions of
Eastern Railway**

1300. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about
50 per cent of the fans fitted in EMU
coaches in the Howrah and Sealdah
Divisions of Eastern Railway are
always missing ;

(b) if so, the approximate number
of fans stolen during 1982, 1983 and
1984 ;

(c) whether the thefts are commi-
tted from empty rakes parked in the
yards at night ; and

(d) if so, reasons for the failure of
the Railways Protection Force to do
their duties ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir,
The fans fitted in EMU coaches in

Howrah and Sealdah Divisions are
found to be missing to the extent of
about 8% and 17% respectively.

(b) The approximate number of
fans stolen from EMU rakes during
the period 1982 to 1984 is as under :—

	Howrah Divi- sion	Sealdah Divi- sion
1982	1,294	2,108
1983	735	2,316
1984	705	1,429

(c) No, Sir. Fans of EMU rakes
are generally stolen on the run mostly
during lean periods i.e. early morning
and late night hours when there are
very few passengers in the coaches.

(d) Normally EMU trains are not
escorted by the R.P.F. staff. However,
certain selected EMU trains which are
known to be affected by thefts are
escorted by R.P.F. Empty EMU rakes in
Yards and at way side stations are also
guarded by R.P.F. staff at night. The
preventive measures adopted include
provision of anti-theft guards for fans
in EMU coaches, frequent raids by
R.P.F. on the hide-outs of criminals and
receivers and close liaison, at all levels,
with the State Government to apprehend
criminals and receivers.

News Item Captioned "Compulsory Dowry a Commercial Practice"

1301. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH:
SHRI ANAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report captioned "Compulsory Dowry a Commercial Practice" in the Patriot dated January 29, 1985 ;

(b) if so, whether Government have caused any independent study regarding the impact of 'Dowry Abolition Law' and the connected steps to abolish the evil of dowry; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) Yes, Sir, through News-Paper Report.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

Benefits of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme which Reached Weaker Sections in Karnataka

1302. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYAWANSHI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the benefits of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme have reached the Weaker Sections viz. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes and weaker sections of the Society in Karnataka ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, activity-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) yes, Sir,

(b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme provides

the following package of services to children upto the age of 6 years, pregnant women and nursing mothers :—

1. Supplementary nutrition ;
2. Immunization ;
3. Health Check-up ;
4. Referral services ;
5. Nutrition and Health education ; and
6. Non-formal pre-School education

Karnataka has 78 ICDS projects; 48 Centrally-sponsored and 30 State-Sector. The State Government has reported the number of beneficiaries as 8.35 lakhs. Of them 22.84% belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, while the remaining 77.16% belong to backward classes, weaker sections and families below the poverty line.

National Highway Passing Through Maharashtra

1303. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) number of National Highways passing through the State of Maharashtra;

(b) which are these National Highways, details thereof;

(c) what is the volume of traffic on these Highways; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to make them more durable for heavy traffic ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) Ten.

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

(d) The National Highways in Maharashtra are traffic worthy and are being continuously improved keeping in view the traffic and the availability of financial resources.

**Statement
National Highway Network in Maharashtra**

NH. No.	Name of Highway	Important places connected in Maharashtra.	Total length in km.	Daily Average Traffic (May 1983)		
				NH Section	Light Commercial	vehicles.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Bombay,-Agra Road	Bombay, Thane, Nasik, Dhule.	395	a) Bombay Nasik b) Nasik-Dhulia-	800-1530	2500-3500
4.	Thane-Pune- Banga- lore-Madras.	Thane, Pune, Kolhapur.	404	a) Bombay-Pune b) Pune-Kolha- pur-Karnataka Border	500-1000 1700-3000	1500-2500 4000-5000
6.	Dhulia-Nagpur-Raj- pur Calcutta Road	Dhulia, Jalgaon, Akola, Amravati, Nagpur, Bha- ndara.	667		400-900	1000-2000
7.	Banaras-Nagur-Hyd- erabad Bangalore- Cape Comorin Raad	Nagpur, Karanji, Bork.	553		300-700	700-1500
8.	Bombay-Ahmedabad- Delhi Road.	Bombay, Dahisar, Ghod- bunder, Bassein, Manor, Kajali.	121		1000-2000	3000-5500

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	Pune-Sholapur-Hyderabad Road.	Pune, Sholapur.	352		400-900	1000-2000
13.	Sholapur-Chitradurga Road.	Sholapur, Border with Karnataka.	30		300-600	600-1100
17.	Panvel-Mahad-Panaji, Mangalore-Calicut-Cochin Road.	Panvel, Mahad, Chiplun, Sangmeshwar, Lanja, Rajapur.	495		400-800	600-1500
50.	Pune-Nasik Road	Pune, Sangmaner, Nasik.	209		400-2000	600-2000
4 B.	Link road to Nhava-Sheva Port link.	Nhava-Sheva, Panvel.	26		Not available.	

Micro Hydroelectric Projects for Kerala

1304. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government has sent any proposal for

installing mini and micro hydroelectric projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) . Yes, Sir. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Mini/Micro Hydel Scheme	Installed Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. lakhs)	Present Status
1.	Muvathupuzha	1×6	780.2	Scheme have been recommended to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the State Plan.
2.	Malampuzha	1×2.5	294.6	
3.	Madupatty	1×2	292.3	
4.	Chimoni	1×2.5	313.72	
5.	Peppara	1×3	392.00	

Installation of Lignite Based Thermal Power Plant in Rajasthan

1305. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no decision has been taken so far on the financial aspect of the installation of a lignite based Thermal Power Station at Palana in Bikaner District of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay and

(c) the specific date by which financial sanction will be accorded for the said power station and when it is likely to start functioning ?

MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) to (c). Rajasthan State Electricity Board has submitted in February, 1985, the revised cost estimates for the Palana Lignite Project for appraisal by the Central Electricity Authority. The Project is in the State sector and the financial sanction will depend on its inclusion in the State's Plans,

Facilities of Impounded Dock System at Haldia Port

1306 SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facilities of an impounded dock system which permits entry and exit of vessels at all hours and under all conditions of tide are available at Haldia Port;

(b) if not, the reasons for non-availability of such facilities in a dock which was conceived as an impounded dock;

(c) to what extent non availability of such facilities has affected the movement of ships and or prevented increase of traffic; and

(d) the steps taken/or proposed to be taken for providing such facilities there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (d). Facilities for entry and exit of vessels from the impounded dock system at all hours and under all

conditions of tide, are not available at Haldia. Normally, vessels enter and leave the Haldia dock system on high water so that the River Bars can be negotiated with difficulty. Facilities for exit and entry of vessels into the impounded dock system at Haldia is dependent on tide and not on impounding system.

Haldia Dock complex was conceived as an impounded dock system. By the impounding system the level of water inside the dock is maintained at the required level and does not fluctuate with the water levels in the river which are dependent on tides. As has been indicated above, impounding facilities are available at Haldia. As such there has been adverse impact on Shipping and Traffic.

Setting up of Power Finance Corporation

1307. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Power propose to set up a Power Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, its broad pattern estimated equity capital base and objectives;

(c) whether the Corporation would be allowed to raise market borrowings, float bonds and seek contributions from the State Electricity Boards to build up its investment; and

(d) when it is likely to come into being ?

MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d). A proposal to set up a Power Finance and Development Corporation is under examination.

[Translation]

Conversion of Darbhanga-Jayanagar Rail Into Broad Gauge Line

1308. SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether any proposal to convert Samastipur-Darbhanga metre gauge section into broad gauge had been approved;

(b) whether a survey for converting metre gauge line from Darbhanga to Jayanagar into broad gauge line had completed in 1983; and

(c) if so, the time by which work on both these schemes will be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The execution of the conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga Metre Gauge section into Broad Gauge, which is an approved project, will depend on availability of resources.

The question of taking up the conversion of Darbhanga-Jayanagar section will have to wait till the resource position improves.

[English]

Rayachur Macherela Rail Link

1309. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Rayachur with Macherela via Deverkonda-Jedcherla ;

(b) if so, the details thereof of ;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted so far ;

(d) if so, the funds actually sanctioned and expenditure incurred so far ; and

(e) whether project will be expedited in view of its socio-economic importance ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c). A Preliminary- Engineering - cum - Traffic Survey for a new Broad Gauge line between Macherla and Raichur via Gadwal is in progress. The length of the proposed line is expected to be about 260 Kms. The progress of the Engineering Survey is over 60%. The traffic survey has not been started so far.

(d) The estimate for the survey was sanctioned in 1981 for an amount of Rs. 17.52 lakhs. The anticipated expenditure upto the end of January, 1985 is Rs. 12.16 lakhs.

(e) On completion of the survey, the report will be examined in all its aspects, and further action taken in consultation with Planning Commission, if necessary, subject to availability of resources.

Dharna by JNU Students' Union

1311. SHRI K. R. REDDY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the day-long Dharna by Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union in the capital and if so, steps taken/proposed to defuse such wasteful situations ; and

(b) whether Government propose to empower and require the Governing Bodies of such Institutions to look into such breakdown without any delay and find lasting solutions by establishing lines of communication between students and the faculty ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) During 1984-85, the Jawaharlal Nehru University had given provisional admission to a number of students subject to the condition that they produce the results of their qualifying examination by 30 October, 1984. 44 students, who failed to submit the mark-sheets of their qualifying examination by the stipulated date were removed from the rolls of the University. These students launched an agitation including a day-long Dharna on 14th February 1985, to press their demand for revocation of the University's decision to remove them from the rolls.

The Academic Council of the University considered the matter and decided that in case the affected students can submit the documents by March 22, 1985, they may be readmitted

to the Winter Semester as fresh entrants. The University also decided that in future no student should be admitted without submission of all necessary documents at the time of admission, and that all fresh admissions should be closed on 14th August of the year of admission.

Pandiar-Punnapuzha-Nellithusai Scheme to Augment Water Supply to Coimbatore

1312. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present stage of proposal of Pandiar - Punnapuzha - Nellithusai Scheme ;

(b) the action taken by the Government for the speedy implementation of this scheme in the near future ;

(c) whether the water tapped at the Lower Bhavani Basin would augment the present water supply position for Coimbatore ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) As inter-State issues relating to the utilisation of river waters are involved, the projects will be considered, after these issues are resolved.

(c) and (d) Information in the matter is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction/Conversion of Rail Line in Rajasthan

1313. SHRI BANWARI LAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the length of the new railway lines constructed or converted into broad-gauge lines in the Rajasthan during the last three years ; and

(b) the details of the railway lines likely to be constructed or converted

into broad-gauge lines in Rajasthan during the financial year 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Nil

	Name	Length	Remarks
New Line	Kota-Chittaurgarh Neemuch (partly in Madhya Pradesh)	221.76 Kms.	
Conversion	Suratgarh- Sarupsar- Anupgrah, Suratgarh- Bikaner.	78 Kms. 182 Kms.	Expected to be completed shortly.

Setting up of Central Sponsored University

1314. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state ;

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Central University in Cachar District (Assam) ; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Symposium on World Literature

1315. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Symposium on World Literature was held in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi recently ;

(b) if so, the problems discussed and resolutions passed ;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to provide assistance to the literatures and men of letters ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following new lines/conversion works will remain in progress in Rajasthan during the financial year 1985 86 ;

(b) The Symposium, organised by the University of Delhi, mainly discussed the impact of India on the evolution of different literatures in the world, the image of India in such literatures, and the contribution of Indian ethos and motive to the emergence of the concept of world literature. The Symposium did not pass any resolutions.

(c) and (d) Such academic conferences are organised by Universities and research institutions to enable scholars, researchers, teachers, and students from various countries, and also from within the country to come together, exchange experience and ideas and contribute to the academic growth of the subjects discussed. The proceedings of such conferences are normally published for further studies and research by scholars.

Road Accidents in India vis-a-vis in other Countries

1316. **SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons died and sustained severe injuries in the road accidents in India in comparison to other countries every year ;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to decrease the number of road accidents ; and

(c) the modern techniques, transport system rules followed in other countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) A statement is annexed.

(b) Steps include tightening of rules and regulations related to issue of driving licences, certification of vehicle tests, prescribing maximum safe axle weights permissible for transport vehicles and strict implementation thereof with surprise checks by senior officers. A highway patrol scheme on selected sectors of National Highways, establishment of Driver Training School in Delhi for imparting comprehensive training to improve driver skill and driving habits are other measures. The respective State Governments and Union Territories have also been requested to formulate and implement the schemes

of Highway Patrol and driver training and also to create awareness in the public for road safety measures.

(c) Modern techniques of Traffic Management developed countries consist mainly of (i) regulatory techniques such as automated procedure for driver testing and vehicle testing, (ii) traffic control devices like automatic singles and computerised centralized traffic control, (iii) segregation techniques like grade-separation of various streams of traffic and of slow moving and fast moving vehicles and pedestrians (iv) bus priority technique with dedicated bus lanes priority for buses at lights, (v) traffic restraint techniques to reduce the number of vehicles during peak hours like imposing fine to enter Central Business Districts, increase in registration tax etc., and (vi) system of staggering of office hours.

Statement

Country	Fatal Accident per 10,000 Vehicles			Injury Accidents per 10,000 vehicles		
	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979
France	5.0	4.5	4.5	136	126	126
Germany (Federal Republic)	6.1	5.5	4.7	207	194	177
United Kingdom	NA	NA	3.6	NA	NA	188
Italy	3.7	3.5	NA	95	92	NA
Sweden	2.8	2.8	2.5	52	56	53
U.S.A.	3.2	3.2	NA	198	201	NA
Japan	2.2	2.0	1.8	147	139	130
Pakistan	114.9	112.2	93.4	300	197	261
Thailand	20.7	28.0	28.8	76	75	64
India	58.7	58.7	50.0	264	245	228

NA—Not Available

Source—"World Road Statistics 1975-79"

Published by International Road
Federation, Washington D.C.

Plans to Create Infrastructure With Ancillary Industries Around Cochin Shipyard

1317. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any plans to create infrastructure with ancillary industries around Cochin Shipyard ;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to sponsor small cooperatives and entrust this work to them ; and

(c) if not, what are the plans to eliminate the private industries from exploiting the local labour ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) Yes. Cochin Shipyard Ltd. have projected their requirements to the Government of Kerala and they have been requested to do the needful in this regard.

(b) and (c) No. So far only private entrepreneurs have come forward to establish ancillary industries. If co-operative societies also show interest, suitable encouragement would be available to them as well.

M.V. Chidambaram Fire Accident

1318. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the official figure given in regard to the number of persons missing in the recent M.V. Chidambaram fire accident is not tallying with the total number of those who disembarked with passports and with permission for temporary landing at Madras Port;

(b) if so, the steps taken to reconcile this difference;

(c) whether a decision has been taken by the Shipping Corporation of India some years ago to scrap this ship;

(d) if so, the reasons for not implementing the decision; and

(e) what alternative steps have been taken to continue this important shipping service to Singapore and Malaysia from Madras ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shipping Corporation of India has addressed letters to the addresses of all persons for whom the immigration record is not available at Madras. After the receipt of response the exact number of missing persons will be known.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No final decision in this regard has yet been taken.

Doubling and Electrification of Bandel-Katwa Section

1319. SHRI SAIFFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a long standing demand of the people of West Bengal for doubling and electrification of Bandel-Katwa section of the Eastern railway;

(b) whether Government are going to take up work in this section; and

(c) whether Government have decided any time limit about this ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Survey for augmentation of the line capacity on the Bandel-Katwa section has been approved. Further action will be taken after the survey has been completed, and the survey report examined, subject to the availability of funds.

As regards electrification, it may be mentioned that electrification projects

are sanctioned by priority on sections with heaviest traffic density and within the constraint of availability of funds. It has not yet been feasible to include the electrification of Bandel-Katwa section in the Railways Works Programme.

Establishment of a Shipyard at Hazira

1320. SHRI RANJIT SINGH P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a shipbuilding and repair yard at Hajira near Surat in Gujarat has been found techno-economically suitable;

(b) whether the National Shipping Board has also favourably recommended for the establishment of a Shipyard exclusively for repairs at Hajira;

(c) whether the project, if implemented, would save about Rs. 75 crores of foreign exchange every year for getting our ships repaired abroad;

(d) if so, whether, in view of a technical suitability, transport, industrial infrastructure, skilled man power, favourable marine conditions, availability of adequate land etc. Government propose to take a final decision and include the project in the Seventh Plan; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) In an exercise in 1977 a scheme for establishing a new Shipyard for Ship Building (and not for repairs) at Hazira in Gujarat had been found to be techno-economically feasible.

(b) No such recommendation has been received from the present National Shipping Board.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Working Group for Shipbuilding & Shiprepair Industries set

up by the Planning Commission for formulating proposals for inclusion in the 7th 5-Year Plan has recommended the proposal for setting up of a New Shipyard during the 7th 5-Year Plan. No specific recommendation in regard to the site has been made. In any case, a decision on these recommendations can only be taken after the Seventh Five Year Plan has been finalised and the availability of resources for different sectors of the economy is decided,

Open Universities

1321. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) number of Open universities proposed to be set up by the Government in the country;

(b) whether admission to these universities will be by entrance examination; and

(c) whether these universities will undertake teaching through radio and T.V. ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The Central Government has a proposal to establish a National Open University. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has already established an Open University in the State. The Government of Maharashtra is also understood to be considering a proposal to establish an Open University.

(b) and (c) The details of the academic programmes to be offered by the National Open University, the methods and extent of utilisation of educational technology, including radio and T.V., in the programmes of the National University, etc. have not yet been finalised.

Maintenance and Improvement of Shillong Badarpur National Highway

1322. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Shillong Badarpur National Highway is in a bad state and that motoring over it has become an extremely dicey affairs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the State Government Meghalaya have represented that the maintenance and improvement of this Highway should be handed over to them; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government there to ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) and (b) The National Highway No. 44 from Shillong to Badarpur is in traffic worthy condition. It is being further widened and strengthened keeping in view the growth of traffic.

(c) and (d) The Shillong to Jowai section is being maintained by the State Government. For the transfer of remaining length from the Border Road Development Board, the State Government has been approaching the Government of India. But it has not been possible to concede to their request of operational reasons.

Non-Availability of Tagore's Geetanjali

1323. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state ;

(a) whether English and Hindi version of Tagore's Geetanjali is not available in the market?

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) steps Government propose to take to make available the translated version in India and abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b) It is not a fact that English and Hindi versions of Tagore's Geetanjali are not available in the market. The English version of Geetanjali has been published by M/s. MACMILLAN INDIA LIM-

TED and copies are available for sale in the market. Hindi translation of this book has been published by M/S. SUBHODH PUBLICATIONS 2/3-B Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi and copies of the Hindi version are also freely available.

(c) Indian books are made available abroad through normal trade channels. To publicise Indian books, India participates in important International Book Fairs abroad,

Collision of Goods Trains at Basal Station of Central Railway

1324. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item 'Goods Trains Collide' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 5 March, 1985 wherein it has been stated that thirteen wagons of a goods train were derailed when it rammed into a stationary goods train at Basai Station on the Bina-Jhansi Sector of the Central Railway on 4 March, 1985;

(b) if so, the causes of the accident;

(c) estimated loss of property; and

(d) whether any inquiry has since been conducted and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Goods train 1NJ side collided with Jumbo Goods train starting from Basai station:

(b) and (d) A departmental committee has inquired into this accident which has not yet finalised its report. Prima facie, the accident occurred due to disregard of signals by the Driver of 1NJ Goods train.

(c) Cost of damage to Railway Property has been assessed at Rs. 5,35,000/- approximately.

**Commission to Vendors at Delhi Main/
New Delhi Stations**

1325. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether vendors at the Delhi main and New Delhi Railway stations are being paid commission;

(b) whether the said commission is reduced when the licence is transferred to the son of the licenses after his death;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the vendors have been agitating against such reduction of the commission ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Delhi main station was one of the first stations on Northern Railway where departmental catering services were introduced with effect from 1.10.1955 and the rates of commission for various items were fixed at a much higher level than was done for subsequent units taken up for departmental catering. In order to reduce the disparity, the rate of commission is reduced at Delhi Main Station to bring it at par with that prevailing at New Delhi Station, in respect of new and additional establishments as well as transfer of vendorship.

(d) There has been no agitation. However, representations have been received in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Incidents of Fire in Trains

+1326. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of fire trains during the last three months and the number of persons killed in each of them;

(b) the causes of fire therein; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) There were no incidents of fire in trains during December, 1984 and January, 1985. During February, 1985, 4 fires in trains occurred. In one of these accidents, 35 persons were killed and there was no casualty in the other three cases.

(b) The causes are under investigation in three cases, while in the fourth case, no specific cause could be established.

(c) Some of the precautionary measures taken to check recurrence of such incidents in passenger carrying trains are :

- (i) Use of rubberised coir in place of foam cushion to reduce its inflammability;
- (ii) Provision of fuses in negative circuit also. Relocation of fuses and increasing the length of unprotected length of branch wires;
- (iii) Replacement of combustible ceiling material by limpet sheath;
- (iv) Use of fire resistant paint over wooden pattens, wooden troughing, etc.;
- (v) Provision of spark arresters on steam locomotives to prevent escaping of burning cinders; and
- (vi) Publicity through posters, pamphlets, cinema slides, Radio and T.V. regarding hazards involved in carrying inflammable articles in compartments.

[*English*]

Projected Population Growth by Turn of Century

1327. SHAI V.S. VIJAYA-RAGHVAN : Will the Minister of

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
be pleased to state :

(a) what is the projected population growth by the turn of the century ; and

(b) what special measures are being taken to arrest further increase in population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) The projected demographic goals to be achieved by the year 2000 A.D. are : birth rate of 21 and death rate of 9 giving a natural population growth rate of 1.2%.

(b) A well defined strategy has been evolved to promote the Family Welfare Programme. The salient features of the strategy are ; intensified efforts to spread awareness and information through imaginative use of multi-media and inter-personal communication strategies ; provision of services and supplies as close to the door steps of the acceptors as possible ; development of facilities for rapid increase in female literacy ; population education of the youth in schools and colleges as well as those out of schools ; assistance and support of the elected representatives of the people ; proper linkages with other Ministries and Departments concerned ; incentives to individual acceptors and State Govts.; and improved programme management.

Power Generation of Talcher Thermal Power Station

1328. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the annual power generation capacity of Talcher Thermal Power Station ;

(b) whether the above power station is not able to generate power to the expectations raised in this regard ;

(c) if so, the reasons for low power out-put ; and

(d) the steps taken to raise the output from the above Thermal Power Station ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) to (d) Talcher Thermal Power Station has an installed generating capacity of 470 MW comprising of 4 units of 62.5 MW each commissioned in 1968 and 1969 and 2 units of 110MW each commissioned in March 1982 and March 1983.

The performance of 62.5 MW units has not been satisfactory due to design and engineering constraints like inadequate capacity of coal mills, frequent outage of ID fans due to abrasive nature of coal, under-rated and unsatisfactory dust collecting system and deterioration in quality of coal.

The 110 MW units had generic problems. These problems were identified and largely attended to by BHEL. The performance of these units has shown improvement in the past few months.

In regard to 62.5 MW units renovation and modernisation scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 2346 lakhs has been approved by the Planning Commission. A sum of Rs. 1901 lakhs will be given as Central assistance. The scheme will be completed in 3-4 years time.

Villages Where Services of Even Mid-Wife is not Available

1329. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages where not even the service of a qualified midwife is available ; and

(b) the reasons for not improving this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) ;

(a) and (b) A sub-centre with a midwife (Auxillary Nurse Midwife now known as female Multi-purpose Worker) was provided for every 10,000 rural population, upto the end of Vth Five Year Plan. In order to provide better coverage, it was decided to have a midwife (sub-centre) for every 5,000 rural population in a phased manner. In order to achieve this norm about 1.3 lakhs sub-centres are required in the country. About 80,000 sub-centres are likely to be in position by the end of VIth Plan. It is proposed to establish additional 50,000 sub-centres during the VII Five Year Plan.

Beside the midwives, maternity services at village level are provided by dais. About 5.03 lakhs dais have already been trained.

Rajdhani Type Superfast Train Between Delhi and Bhubaneswar.

1330. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any Rajdhani type Super fast train connecting Delhi with Bhubaneswar is being introduced ; and
(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Abolition of Post of Demonstrators in Colleges and Universities

1331. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has recommended the abolition of the post of Demonstrators in Colleges and Universities ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) recommendations to the States, if any, on the subject by the University Grants Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K C. PANT) (a) and (b)

While recommending the revision of payscales for teachers in universities and colleges in 1973, the UGC had recommended that while the existing incumbents of these posts might be sanctioned the revised scale, no appointments should be made to this category of teachers in future. It was also recommended that facilities should be provided to existing tutors and demonstrators to improve their qualifications with a view to their ultimate appointment as lecturers.

(c) The above recommendations have been communicated to the universities and State Governments.

Economic Independence of Women

1332. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the slow progress in the economic emancipation of women in rural areas is due to the lack of vocational opportunities ;

(b) whether in addition the Social taboos prevent them to take to modern education and avail opportunities and are contributing towards their slow progress and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA SEKHAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. This is one of the reasons,

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare implements schemes such as socio-economic programmes with the object of helping women to set up small production units, training-cum-production units etc. through the Central Social Welfare Board ; training programmes for rehabilitation of women through voluntary organisations and scheme for training-cum-production

centres for women through public/autonomous organisations.

The Ministry of Rural Development have started two schemes, namely, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) and Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment Programmes (TRYSEM). Women's Industrial Training Institutes have been set up by State Governments. The Ministry of Social & Women's Welfare will continue to support and coordinate such schemes being implemented by other Ministries/Departments.

Deaths due to Diarrhoea During 1984-85

1333 PROF. RAMAKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how many people died of diarrhoea during the year 1984-85 ; and

(b) what steps are being taken to educate the people against this dangerous disease ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : (a) and (b). According to reports received from the States/Union Territories, 6714 persons have died from Diarrhoeal diseases during 1984-85. The following preventives measures have been taken by the State Govts. to control the disease :

(i) Every village health guide looking after 1000 population in the rural areas is being supplied with 60 packets of Oral Rehydration Salt every year.

(ii) Health educational material is being published in different languages for education of health workers and members of the community for prevention of diarrhoea and management through the use of oral rehydration solution.

(iii) Training courses are being conducted for the doctors and other staff in the promotion of oral rehydration salt.

[Translation]

Construction of Geetanagar Railway Crossing near Rewatpur Station (Kanpur)

1334. +SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal is under consideration of Government for the construction of Geetanagar Railway crossing near Rewatpur Station (Kanpur) on North Eastern Railway ;

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

(c) if not, the difficulties being experienced in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) ; (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Railways are undertaking this work of providing new level crossing on deposit terms at the request of State Government. The plans and estimates for this work have been finalized. The Railways has approached the Commissior for Railway Safety for granting his approval and the work will be taken up for execution after the same is received.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Super Thermal Power unit for Sambhalpur, Orissa

1335. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) is there any proposal to start a Super Thermal Power producing unit in Sambhalpur District of Orissa in view of

the fact that there has been a huge deposit of coal in this region ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). Government of Orissa have sent a proposal for setting up a thermal power station of 4×210 MW capacity based on Ib Valley power grade coal. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 424 crores. The project is in the State sector.

Allocation of Funds for Metropolitan Railway Project at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras

1336. DR. A. KALANIDHI : Will

(i) CALCUTTA

Metro Railway	—	Rs. 73.00	crores.
Circular Railway	—	Rs. 7.50	crores.
Total	—	<u>Rs. 80.50</u>	<u>crores.</u>

(ii) BOMBAY

Mankhurd-Belapur	—	Rs. 2.75	crores.
Bandra-Andheri	—	Rs. 0.75	crores.
Total	—	<u>Rs. 3.50</u>	<u>crores.</u>

(iii) MADRAS

Madras Beach	—	Rs. 3.25	crores.
Total	—	<u>Rs. 3.25</u>	<u>crores.</u>

(b) The amount is likely to be fully spent by the close of the year 1984-85.

(c) Does not arise.

Core Curriculum for School Education by National Council of Educational Research and Training

1337. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a rational core curriculum for school education all over the

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total allocation made for each of the Metropolitan Railway Projects at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras for 1984-15;

(b) whether the amount has been fully spent; and

(c) if not, why judicious planning could not be made to avoid surrender of funds at the last minute ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The total allocations for 1984-85 for Metropolitan Railway Projects as per revised estimates are :

country has been recommended by the National Council of Educational Research and Training;

(b) if so, the broad pattern of this new school curriculum;

(c) Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether the State Government will also be consulted in the matter; and

(e) if so, the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) A Working Group set up by the National Council of Educational Research & Training in 1983 to study the curriculum load at the school level, recommended to the NCERT that there is an urgent need to formulate a national core curriculum applicable to all the schools in the country. However, the NCERT have not made any such recommendation to the Government.

(b), to (e) : Does not arise.

Diesel Railway Workshop in Trivandrum Railways Division

1338. **SHRI A. CHARLES :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to start a Diesel Railway Workshop in Trivandrum District in the Trivandrum Railways Division of Kerala State; and

(b) if so, whether urgent steps will be taken to commence the work in 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble member is referring to the work of construction of a Diesel Loco Shed at Ernakulam, in Trivandrum Division. The work appears in the Railway Budget 1985-86 at a cost of Rs. 1.88 Crores on which the expected expenditure upto the end of 1984-85 is Rs 1.63 Crores and an outlay of Rs. 0.25 crore has been provided during 85-86. The work is expected to be completed during 1985-86.

[Translation]

Resolutions Passed in Meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee

1339. **SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry held during 1984;

(b) the resolutions passed in these meetings; and

(c) the details regarding implementation of these resolutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDERA MAKWANA) : (a) Three.

(b) and (c). A Statement is laid on the table of the House. (Placed in Library. see No LT—714/85).

[English]

Talcher Thermal Power Plant

1340. **SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken for establishing the Super Thermal Power Plant at Ib valley near Talcher in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) & (b). National Thermal Power Corporation has submitted a feasibility report for establishing the Talcher super Thermal Power Project. The Central Electricity Authority has accorded techno-economic approval to the installation of 2×500 MW units in Stage I of the Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 955 crores.

Gaya-Hazari Bagh Rail Link

1341. **SHRI Y. P. YOGESH :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to introduce rail link between Gaya and Hazari Bagh via Chatra is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) quantum of expenditure required for the project and the proposed date for launching and complete the project ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Ambulances Provided to Primary Health Centres in Dadra and Nagar Haveli

134I. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ambulance provided by Government to Primary health Centres in rural areas in Dadra and Nagar Haveli;

(b) whether the ambulances are equipped as per the standard; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to provide well-equipped ambulances to those rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c) As per pattern, three Primary Health Centre in the U.T. have been provided with vehicles which are used for supervision as well as to carry serious patients in case of emergency.

New Item Captioned "Towel in Accident Victim's Stomach"

1343. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new item appeared in "Indian Express" dated 2 February, 1985 under the caption "Towel in accident victim's stomach."

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was made into the incident; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken, if any, against the doctors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c) A therapeutic pack was put in the abdomen of the patient to control the continuous bleeding of the badly damaged liver. This is one of the established surgical practices and when the bleeding stops the abdomen is reopened for removing the pack and for surgical correction.

Major Railway Projects for West Bengal

1344. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) which are the major railways projects suggested for West Bengal by the State Government;

(b) whether Government have considered all those projects;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in regard thereto;

(d) which are the new projects the Railway Ministry have accepted for construction in West Bengal; and

(e) which are the projects for future constructions ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) Out of the proposal suggested by the West Bengal State Government, Budge-Budge-Namkhana and Tamluk-Digha Broad Gauge new line projects are appearing in the Budget. For Budge-Budge-Namkhana line, Planning Commission's clearance has not been received for want of resources. In the case of Tamluk-Digha, however, the Planning Commission have not agreed to the construction of this line.

(e) Proposals for the VII Plan have not yet been finalised.

Statement

Details are given below :-

Name of Project proposed by West Bengal Govt.

Position

1. Construction of a new Broad Gauge 1.609 Metre Gauge line connecting New Jalpaiguri with Siliguri Junction Via Rangapani to avoid traffic congestion.

The Railway had proposed a Road Over Bridge on Hilcart Road in Siliguri Town in view of traffic congestion. The State Government did not agree to this proposal and wanted alternatives to be examined. The Railways, therefore, proposed an alternative of diverting the Metro Gauge/Narrow Gauge alignment along the banks of Mahananda River, taking it out of Siliguri Town. As this diversion line is in lieu of Road Over Bridge, the State Government has been approached for the acceptance to bear 50% of the cost, as per extant rules. The acceptance of State Government is awaited.

2. Budge Budge Namkhana new Broad Gauge line.

The project has not been cleared by the Planning Commission for want of resources. Necessary action will be taken, after the Project is cleared by the Planning Commission and funds provided therefor.

3. Raniganj to Bankura via Mejhia

The reappraisal of the old survey of 1976-77 for the work was undertaken in 1983-84. The survey indicated that there is no worthwhile traffic likely to be offered from this area and there is no need for constructing a line between Mejhia and Raniganj, in view of the absence of sufficient traffic and the high cost of the construction of a bridge across river Damoder. The cost of construction of Bankura-Mejhia (38.37 kms.) line was assessed as Rs. 14.16 crores.

In view of the severe constraint of resources and heavy commitment already on hand and further due to the unremunerative character of the project, the question

of taking up construction of this line will have to pend till sufficient potential for traffic develops and the resources position improves.

4. Modernisation of Bandel-Katwa section.

Electrification of Railways is a capital extensive work. Electrification Projects are, therefore, taken up by priority on sections with heaviest traffic densities, so as to afford maximum and quickest benefits. The present priorities are to electrify the metropolitan trunk routes and certain other routes important for carrying vital traffic and for ensuring fluidity of movement, it has not yet been feasible to include the Electrification of Bandal Katwa section in the Work Programme of the Railways.

5. Tamruk-Digha Broad Gauge rail line.

This work was included in Railways Budget 1984-85 with the approval of the Planning Commission subject to the proviso that the project will be taken up after receipt and examination of the survey report. The Planning Commission on examination of the Survey Report have however, not cleared this project.

Addition in Route Kilometres of Railway Track

1345. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent there have been addition in the route kilometres of railway track during the last three years;

(b) the number of wagons put on rails during the same period; and

(c) whether any initiative has been taken in the State of Orissa also in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSILAL) : (a) 134.4 kms of new lines have been added during the period 1981-82 to 1983-84

(b) 45,487 Wagons

(c) There are 3 on-going new line projects in the State of Orissa :-

(i) Jakhapura - Daitari - Banspani (176kms.) New Line-Phase I upto Daitari (33 kms) has already been opened on 22.3.1981.

(ii) Koraput-Rayagada (174 kms) New Line-Phase I upto Machiliguda (19.65kms) is expected to be opened in 1985.86.

(iii) Sambalpur-Talcher (171 kms) New Line :- The work has been taken up in 1984-85.

Railway Catering Corporation

1346. SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the fate of the proposed Catering Corporation in the Railways;

(b) by what time it would operate its functioning; and

(c) the progress so far made for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) to (c) Earlier, a decision had been taken to set up a Railways Catering Corporation to manage the catering services on the Railways. In the mean time, however, India Tourism Development Corporation have been commissioned to modernise and improve the catering arrangements at New Delhi Railways Station as a Pilot Project. Based on the experience derived from this project, further steps to be taken in this direction will be reviewed.

Adult Education Programme

1347. **SHRI MOHAN BHAI PATEL :**
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total allocation for the programme of adult education in the country for 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(b) whether any foreign assistance is being sought for the adult education programmes; and

(c) the various programmes to teach and train the rural youths ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) The total allocation both Central and State Sector for adult education programme in the country during 1984-85 is Rs. 61.71 crores. The outlay approved for central Sector for 1985-86 is Rs. 39.00 crores. The outlay for the State Sector is yet to be finalized.

(b) No, Sir. However, as a measure of supplementing the on-going adult education programmes, UNICEF is assisting a project of Non-formal Education for women and Girls under which a sum of Rs. 6,41,490 incurred on the project during 1984-85 will be reimbursed by the UNICEF. The second project aims at

integration of population education with adult education. An agreement has been signed with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities for implementation of a preparatory project, which will commence from June, 1985. UNFPA will contribute an amount of US dollars 85, 918.

(c) The various programmes designed to impart literacy, functionality and awareness to adult illiterates in the age group 15-35 including rural youths are :

- (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Project;
- (ii) State Adult Education Programme;
- (iii) Literacy projects run by Voluntary Agencies;
- (iv) Literacy projects run by Universities/Colleges and by Nehru Yuvak Kendras; and
- (v) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-literacy and Follow-up Programme.

Construction of Fourth Track Between Bhadreswar and Sheoraphull

1348. **SHRI ANIL BASU :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to construct a fourth track between Bhadreswar and Sheoraphuli for smooth running of trains; and

(b) if so, when and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b). A survey for augmentation of line capacity between Sheoraphuli and Bandel section including Tarakeswar Branch has been taken up. Engineering field survey has been completed and recess work is in progress. A decision on the proposal will be taken after the survey report has been received, and the same examined subject to availability of funds.

Third Track Between Bandel and Bhadreswar

1349. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for a third track between Bendel and Bhadreswar of Eastern Railways ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c). A survey for augmentation of line capacity between Sheoraphuli and Bandel section including Tarakeswar Branch has been taken up. Engineering field survey has been completed and recess work is in progress. A decision on the proposal will be taken after the survey report has been received, and the same examined subject to availability of funds.

Stipend of Interns in Central Medical Colleges

1350. SHRI B.V. DESAI :

SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government has agreed for the increase of the stipend of the interns in the Central Government Medical Colleges to Rs. 750 per month from January, 1985 ;

(b) if, so whether any agreement in this regard for future has also been reached with the authorities concerned ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether amount of intership in all the States is equal, and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d). Yes. The Government of

India have increased the stipend amount to Rs. 750 per month with effect from 1st January, 1985 in respect of interns in the Central Institutions/Hospitals (including Statutory/autonomous bodies wholly financed by the Central Government). The Government have further decided to set up a Committee to review the stipend amount every two years. The amount of intership varies from State to State and it is for the State Governments to take a decision in this matter.

Demands made by Their Dam Worker Union

1351. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received a representation dated 8 February, 1985 addressed to the Prime Minister by Their Dam Workers Union, Pathankot ;

(b) if so, what are their demands ; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to settle the demands ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The representation in question has not been received, Sir.

Deteriorating Standard of English

1352. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the standard of English is declining ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are considering to take to popularise this language in the country and to improve its standard ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b). No comparative studies are available to support the contention that standards of English are declining, although there is a general feeling that such a deterioration has taken place.

In view of the great concern being shown for the need to up grade proficiency in the English language, several measures have been envisaged. These include programmes which will strengthen existing institutions in English and language teaching and adoption of some new programmes. Among others, these include :

(1) Financial assistance to State Governments for setting up of District English language centres which are expected to function as Resource Centres and would be responsible for the preparation of materials and training of teachers in the District.

(2) Financial assistance to Regional Institutes of English, English language Teaching Institutes and other institutions engaged in English Language teaching with a view to strengthening their programmes for training of resource persons and teachers in English.

(3) Strengthening of programmes by the UGC for effecting improvements in the teaching of English in universities and colleges, such as, setting up of English language teaching centres, conducting remedial courses, organisation of summer institutes, holding of seminars, etc.

(4) Intensifying programmes of NCERT for the benefit of schools, teachers and students.

(5) Utilisation of technologies of communication, particularly radio and television, for more effective teaching and learning of the English language.

(6) Enhanced collaboration with the British Council in various forms such as training awards, placement of British specialists, assistance in production and distribution of software material, etc.

[*Translation*]

Delay in Sending Electric Bills in Delhi

+1353. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether is a fact that the people who are provided new electricity connections in Delhi, get their electricity bills after a period of one year or more ;

(b) if so, whether it does not cause loss to Government revenue and inconvenience to the people ;

(c) if so, whether Government are making any arrangements to send these bills in time ;

(d) if so, the time by which Government propose to send these bills to those persons who have not received these bills so far ; and

(e) the number of new electric connections provided during the last two years and the number of cases in which bills have been sent and of those in which bills are yet to be sent ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):(a) No, Sir. Normally it takes 3 to 4 months for DESU to send the first electricity consumption charges bill in respect of a new connection.

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

(e) Out of a total of 1,26,283 new connections given in the last two years, bills have been sent in 1,03,555 cases and bills are being sent in the remaining 22,728 cases.

Delay in Sending Bills by D.E.S.U.

+1354. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the electricity consumers in Delhi have to resort to instalment payments against the electricity bills sent to them after these get accumulated for one or two years ;

(b) if so, the total number of applications received in this regard during the last two years and the number out of them in respect of which permission has been granted for making payments in instalments ; and

(c) the number of consumers whose electricity connections were disconnected even on making payment against such bills ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Normally DESU sends electricity bills to consumers in accordance with a regular billing programme. In certain cases, such as those involving replacement of meters and levy of higher tariff of misuse of supply or use of excess load, bills for a longer period have to be raised. In cases where accumulated/revised bills have to be sent, the benefit of payment in instalments is allowed on consumers' request. During the period from 1.3.83 to 28.2.85 the facility of payment in instalments was allowed by DESU in 7681 cases. According to the Undertaking, electric supply is disconnected only when instalments are not paid on the due dates.

[*English*]

Extension of B.G. Line upto Lanka in Naogaon District, Assam

1355. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the extension of the broad-gauge line upto Lanka in Naogaon District in Assam ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) Surveys are being carried out for conversion of the existing Gauhati-Dibrugarh metre gauge line via Tinsukia into broad gauge, which covers the Gauhati-Lanka section, and for an alternative broad gauge alignment between Guahati and Dibrugarh connecting important towns of Assam. A decision about extension of the broad gauge line beyond Gauhati will be taken after the survey reports have been received and scrutinised, in consultation with the Planning Commission, subject to availability of resources.

Fifth Regional Conference of Ministers of Education

1356. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Fifth Regional Conference of Ministers of Education was held recently in Bangkok for the development of education in Asia and the Pacific ; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the Conference and reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Fifth Regional Conference of Ministers of Education and those responsible for economic planning in the Member-States of Asia and the Pacific was convened by Unesco at Bangkok from 4th to 11th March, 1985.

(b) The conference was attended by 125 delegates from 27 Member-States of Unesco in the region. Besides reviewing educational developments in Asia and the Pacific since the Fourth Conference held in Colombo in 1978, the major issues discussed at the Conference were : the universalisation and renewal of primary education and intensification of the struggle against illiteracy ; the renewal of educational content and methods ; improvement and development of science teaching ; promotion of education for international understanding ; higher education and development, namely, the basic problems of higher education in the region, training, research and development and the role of higher education in the improvement of the education system. Besides, the Conference also considered programmes relating to educational planning and administration, educational reform, research and experimentation, educational innovation and information and the training of educational personnel. The Conference also considered new trends, dimensions and priorities in regional and international cooperation for development of education.

The Conference, *inter alia* adopted a Declaration reaffirming the commit-

ment of the Member-States to the ideal of 'Education for all' and their resolve to continue to work unceasingly for universalisation, democratisation and improvement of education as an essential factor of development. The Conference also adopted 29 Recommendations on different aspects of development of education in the region.

Since most of the recommendations of the Conference are in accord with our own priority goals for educational development, the Government of India supports the recommendations made by the Conference. The Conference unanimously recommended that regional cooperation which has developed so fruitfully in recent years, particularly under the auspices of Unesco, should be intensified and expanded especially in certain fields such as universalisation of primary education, the struggle against illiteracy and 'science for all'. India has consistently advocated the value of regional and international cooperation. The Conference is of special significance in so far as it underlines the need for cooperation among the Member-States in the region for the development of education.

[Translations]

Maximum Permissible and Actual Speed of Rolling Stock of Indian Railways

1357. DR. A.K. PATEL :

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state ;

(a) the maximum permissible speed of electric and diesel engines and of the coaches and wagons of the latest design on the converted broad gauge lines of Indian Railways as against the actual average speed of passenger and goods trains ;

(b) whether, keeping in view the huge expenditure on modernisation, Government propose to increase the actual average speed of the passenger trains and goods trains to increase the income of the Railways and provide facilities to the public ;

(c) if so, the targets set for the year 1985-86 in this regard ; and

(d) the comparative statement regarding the actual average speed for the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Maximum permissible speed on the converted Broad Gauge lines of Indian Railways is 100 Kms. per hour for locs and coaches and 75 kms. for Wagons.

(b) and (c). As regards increase in the average speed of passenger trains the average speed depends mainly upon the number and duration of stoppages besides other factors, such as, the track condition, signalling system, time, allowed for track repairs, type of locomotive etc. Average speed can be increased provided the number of stoppages is curtailed but this will not be possible as this will cause considerable resentment from the users at stations where halts are withdrawn.

(d) A statement is attached.

		Statement		
		1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Average speed (Kms. per hour)				
Mail/express trains	BG	47.2	47.2	47.1
	MG	35.0	34.3	32.8
Passenger trains	BG	27.0	26.7	27.5
	MG	24.4	22.2	24.4
Mixed trains	BG	24.8	25.0	25.0
	MG	18.6	17.8	18.2
Electric Multiple Units trains	BG	32.5	32.1	32.2
	MG	31.3	31.5	31.6
All goods trains	BG	20.8	21.4	21.5
	MG	16.1	16.5	17.0

New Rail Lines in Madhya Pradesh

+13158. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the new railway lines in Madhya Pradesh in respect of which survey work has since been completed ;

(b) out of them, the names of the railway lines surveyed so far and those which have been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(c) whether the work to lay new railway lines in the tribal and backward areas will be taken up on priority basis, with a view to develop these areas ; and

(d) whether the railway line linking Jhabua Dohad which are backward Adivasi districts in Madhya Pradesh and Gujrat with Indore has been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) Proposed railway lines in Madhya Pradesh, in respect of which survey work has since been completed in the recent past are :—

- (1) Lalitpur - Singrauli (Baghwar) with an alternative route to Beohari.
- (2) Guna-Etawah via Shivpur-Gwalior-Bhind.
- (3) Ratlam-Banswara (Partly in Madhya Pradesh)
- (4) Bishrampur to Barwadih (Partly in Madhya Pradesh)
- (5) Korba - Ranchi (Partly in Madhya Pradesh)
- (6) Jagdalpur-Dhalirajhara
- (7) Satna-Rewa.

(b) and (c) The Seventh Five Year Plan has not so far been finalised. However, new lines included in the Budget for the first year of the 7th Plan are :—

(i) Satna-Rewa

(ii) Guna-Etawah via Shivpur-Gwalior and Bhind.

These lines and others if any included in the VII Plan will be progressed to the extent of availability of funds.

(d) A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a new B.G. line from Dahod to Mhow with mixed gauge Mhow and Indore is already in progress. A decision on the project will be taken after the survey has been completed, report examined, subject to availability of funds and clearance by the Planning Commission.

New Building of Katihar Railway Station

+1359. SHRI D. L. BAITHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work of the new building of Katihar railway station and the platform shed for board gauge line was to be completed by 1984-85 but that work has not even been started so far as a result of which the passengers have to face many difficulties ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to complete this work immediately ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) Sir, in connection with the conversion of Barauni-Katihar Metre Gauge, Section to Board Gauge, a high level platform with covering for a length of 32 metres has been completed in 1984-85. A proposal for providing a new station building at a cost of Rs. 51.10 lakhs was mooted in 1984-85 and has been included in 1985-86 budget.

(b) The detailed planning of the building has been taken in hand. The progress will depend upon availability of funds.

(c) Does not arise.

**Bringing of Katihar—Jogbani under
N. E. Railway Administration**

+1360. SHRI D. L. BAITHA :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Barauni-Katihar, Purnea-Saharsa, Forbesganj Supaul-Saharsa and some other sections are in the North Eastern Railways while Katihar-Jogbani Section is in the North-East Frontier Railway ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the trains running in Barauni-Katihar, Katihar Purnea Saharsa, Purnea Banmankhi Jankinagar Saharsa, Forbesganj Supaul Saharsa and other sections on North Eastern Railway start from and terminate at Katihar, Purnea and Forbesganj, which come under the administration of North East Frontier Railway, resulting in several administrative difficulties ;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to bring Katihar-Jogbani Section under the administration of North Eastern Railway ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) :

(a) Yes, sir.

(b) It is a fact that trains running to and from North Eastern Railway on the sections mentioned in this part start from and terminate at Katihar and Forbesganj. No train starts or terminates at Purnea. There is however, no operational and administrative difficulty in this arrangement.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to transfer Katihar-Jogbani Section from Northeast Frontier Railway to North Eastern Railway, since there is no difficulty in the present arrangement.

[English]

Banglore-Miraj B. G. Rail Line

1361. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA
IYER : Will the Minister of RAIL-
WAYS be pleased to state ;

(a) when the Bangalore-Miraj board gauge line work is likely to be completed ;

(b) the amount required to lay this line ;

(c) whether Government are aware that a board gauge Railway line between Miraj-Bombay has already been laid ; and

(d) the reasons for delay in completing Bangalore-Miraj broad gauge railway line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MADHARAO SCINDIA) :

(a) There is at present no proposal to take up the construction of a new BG line or conversion of the MG section between Bangalore and Miraj.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In view of the high cost of conversion, severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand it is not possible to consider this proposal at this stage.

**Making Goa Self Sufficient in Power
Generation**

1362. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION
AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of Goa are suffering enormously in their overall economic development because the territory is almost entirely dependent on power supply from the neighbouring States and these States very often fail to honour their commitments ;

(b) what steps do Government contemplate to improve this state of affairs ; and

(c) whether Government propose to take measures to make that territory self-sufficient in power generation ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION
AND POWER (SHRI B.
SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The

power requirements of Union Territory of Goa are being met fully from the neighbouring States and the Central Sector Korba Thermal Project. There are no power cuts in force in the Union Territory.

There is no proposal to put up a generating station in the Union Territory of Goa. However, to meet the future requirements, allocations have been made from the Central Sector Thermal Projects at Korba and Ramagundam.

Conversion of Vasco-Miraj Rail Line

1363. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been repeated demands for converting the Vasco-Miraj railway line from metre gauge into broad gauge ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in furtherance of this demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to severe constraint of resources the demand for this line will have to await till the resources position becomes favourable.

Plan Outlay for Technical and Vocational Education in Kerala

1364. PROF. P.J KURIEN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase the plan outlay for technical and vocational educational in Kerala ;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Government of Kerala in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) to (c). Government of Kerala have proposed a

considerable increase in its Plan outlay for Technical and Vocational Education. As against Rs. 700.00 lakhs approved for the Sixth Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 2400.00 lakhs has been proposed for the Seventh Five Year Plan for Technical Education. For Vocational Education an amount of Rs. 850.00 lakhs has been proposed for the Seventh Five Year Plan. (In the Sixth Plan it formed part of Secondary Education). The size of the State Plan has yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

No representation was sent by the State Government to the Central Government in this regard. The Plan outlay of the various States is decided by the Planning Commission.

Breakthrough in Transmission Technology

1365. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation expects to achieve a breakthrough in transmission technology

(b) if so, whether the major step forward in transmission technology has already been taken with the decision to introduce high voltage direct current for long-distance bulk power transmission;

(c) whether it is also a fact that NTPC had made all round progress during 1983-84;

(d) whether the NTPC has cleared several new projects and its permission has been obtained for the current year; and

(e) if so, the new projects that will be undertaken during the year 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the year 1983-84 National Thermal Power Corporation commissioned 5 units of 200 MW each as per schedule.

(d) and (e). Investment decisions have been taken, as proposed by National Thermal Power Corporation, for the setting up of the Farakka Stage II (2x500MW) and the Kahalgaon Stage-I (4x210 MW) super thermal power projects and the transmission system associated with the Rihand Super thermal power project. Also, the Central Electricity Authority has accorded techno-economic approval to the proposal of NTPC to set up the National Capital Thermal Power Project Stage I (4x210 MW) and the Talcher STPP Stage I (2x500 MW).

Setting up of a New Shipyard During the Seventh Plan

1366. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has turned down a proposal of his Ministry for setting up a new shipyard during the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether his Ministry had asked for Rs. 75 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan as part of the expenditure for the development of that Shipyard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c). A working Group constituted by the Planning Commission for formulating proposals for ship building and ship repair for inclusion in the 7th 5-Year Plan had included an initial provision of Rs. 75 crores for setting up a New Shipyard in India. No final decision on this has been taken by the Government as the Seventh Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

Construction of Flyover at Level Crossing near Balichak Station of S.E. Railway

1367. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the level-crossing on the State

Highway near the Balichak Station of the KGP division of the South Eastern Railway causes great problem for the passenger buses connecting distant parts of Midnapur district and other vehicles and passengers;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the proposal of constructing a flyover at this point across the railway lines; and

(c) if so, by what time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) There is a 'B' Class level crossing near Dalichak Station. The recent traffic census carried out at this level crossing does not justify its replacement by Road Over Bridge for the present.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

New Trains and Re-Schedulement of the Existing Trains Between Pansukura and Kharagpur Stations

1368. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of suburban trains in the KGP Division of the South Eastern Railway stopping at the stations between Pansukura and Kharagpur are very inadequate and causing great hardship to the passengers from these stations;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Balichak, one of the stations between Pansukura and Kharagpur connect the population of several far-flung police stations by bus; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to increase the train facilities at these stations by introducing new trains and re-scheduling some of the existing trains in the coming new timetable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) At present 13 pairs of local trains stop-

ping at all the stations in between Pan-sukura-Kharagpur section are adequately catering to the need of the present level of traffic offered by these stations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Apart from the lack of traffic justification, introduction of new trains and rescheduling of existing trains is not operationally feasible on account of over-saturated line capacity and lack of maintenance facilities at the terminals.

Purchase of Container Ships by Shipping Corporation of India

1369. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India was interested in buying container ships in the Sixth Plan; and

(b) if so, the number therefore and with which Shipyard have the order been placed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Container ships upto 6 in number are proposed to be purchased by Shipping Corporation of India. No final orders have been placed on any Shipyard so far.

Mogra/Berrikhurd Irrigation Project (M.P.)

1370. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Irrigation project known as Mogra/Berrikhurd in Madhya Pradesh has been cleared by the Union Government and sent back to the Madhya Pradesh State Government to finalise the Project; and

(b) if so, when was it sent and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). Mongra/Berrik-

hurd project, with a dam site at Mongra has been cleared by the Centre in regard to likely submergence of mineral deposits and is referred back to the State Government on 31.1.1983 to prepare a detailed project report.

Uniform Tariff Rates for Power Supply

1371. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation entered into different agreements with different tariffs for different regions;

(b) what are the tariff rates per unit in different Zones for the supply of power from the Central Generating Stations;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Rajadyaksha Committee recommended uniform rates for the entire country for the energy supplied from the Central Stations; and

(d) if so, when and whether those recommendations would be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) National Thermal Power Corporation has concluded agreements with various State Electricity Boards in the Northern, Western and Southern regions for the bulk supply of power from the Singrauli, Korba and Ramagundam Super thermal power projects respectively. The tariff in these agreements is based on similar principles. However, the cost of generation varies from project to project depending upon their capital cost, transmission systems required and the cost of operation, etc.

(b) The tariff rates of power generated from Central thermal stations is as follows :

1. Singrauli	—	36.29 paise per unit
2. Korba	—	35.32 paise per unit
3. Ramagundam	—	43.00 paise per unit

4. Badarpur — 46.17 paise at
220 KV per unit
47.09 paise at
33 KV per unit

(c) and (d). No final decision has been taken regarding the recommendation of the Rajyadhyaksha Committee that power from Central stations should be sold at a uniform rate to State Electricity Board.

[*Translation*]

Honorarium Paid and Medicines Given to Rural Health Guides

1372. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly salary or honorarium paid to a Rural Health Guide and the total value of medicines given to him for distribution;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase his present honorarium and also the quantity of medicines given to him for distribution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) A village Health Guide, is paid an honorarium of Rs. 50/- per month and medicines worth Rs. 600/- per annum.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Irrigation Projects Under Construction

1373. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the irrigation projects in the country still under construction for the last ten years or more;

(b) the time by which all these projects were expected to be completed as per the proposed target and the estimated cost thereof;

(c) the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on them now and the

time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure completion of all these projects within the amount and the time limit fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The requisite information for major and medium irrigation projects started before 1.4.1974 is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library, see No. LT-715/85].

(d) Since Irrigation is a State subject, the projects are planned, funded and implemented by State Governments. Government of India have been urging the State Governments to complete the on-going projects expeditiously by providing necessary funds for such projects on priority. To assist the States in completion of the projects expeditiously, the Central Water Commission monitors selected projects, in which bottlenecks and difficulties in supply of scarce material such as cement allocation for irrigation and power sector are identified. Assistance for such supplies, and other technical assistance is arranged for the State Government. Central Government also arranges for credit/loan assistance from external lending agencies such as World Bank, IFAD and other bilateral agencies to assist the States in getting additional plan assistance.

[*English*]

Fast Shuttle Between Bhusaval and Bombay

1374. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a fast shuttle train between Bhusaval and Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Sardar Sarovar

1375. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction and completion of Sardar Sarovar dam on river Narbada is considerably delayed;

(b) if so, whether construction was started late and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to expedite the completion of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Though there has been no delay as such in starting the construction, the progress has been slow. Centre has urged upon the beneficiary States to provide the requisite outlays for this project in their Annual Plans. An external assistance of US \$ 300 million has also been made available for this Dam and appurtenant works from the World Bank. Further, Government of India has also decided to contribute Rs. 300 crores towards the share cost of Madhya Pradesh to speed up the execution of this project.

Loss in Power Transmission and Arrears Towards the State Electricity Boards

1376. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps that have been taken to minimise the loss in power transmission and distribution, which has been steeply going up year after year, about 25 per cent of power generated being the latest estimate; and

(b) the steps that have been initiated to recover the arrears of power charges from the State Electricity Boards to Power Plants, indicating the State-wise arrears of power charges from each State Electricity Board ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The power transmission and distribution loss (including theft and pilferage) on an all India basis is presently 20.21%. The various steps that have been taken to minimise such losses are indicated in statement-I;

(b) The State-wise arrears of power charges from each State Electricity Board due to the National Thermal Power Corporation, the National Hydro Electric Power Corporation, the Damodar Valley Corporation and the Neyveli Lignite Corporation, as intimated by these Corporations, are given in statement-II. The matter relating to prompt clearance of these arrears has been taken up with the different State Governments/Electricity Boards.

Statement-I

The need for reduction of the transmission and distribution losses has been engaging the attention of the Government of India as well as the State Governments/State Electricity Boards. The Department of Power had written in March, 1984, to the Power Secretaries of all the States, Union Territories, Chairman of the State Electricity Boards, Bhakra Beas Management Board, Beas Construction Board and the General Manager, Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, suggesting to them the implementation of various measures (as mentioned below) in order to reduce transmission and distribution losses :

- (i) Identification of weak areas high system losses and finding out the causes for high losses;
- (ii) Installation of shunt capacitors by all inductive motive power consumers and close monitoring of the progress;
- (iii) Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution systems;
- (iv) Reducing the length of sub-transmission and distribution lines and re-location of substations near the load centres;

- (v) Use of transformers having lower 'noload' losses;
- (vi) Use of small capacity distribution transformers near the loads to eliminate long LT lines;
- (vii) Setting up of vigilance squads comprising SEB Engineers and police to conduct surprise inspections;
- (viii) Use of appropriate techniques in construction and better material, such as non-ferrous line clamps;
- (ix) Provision of cut-outs after the meters to prevent direct tapping of power;
- (x) Use of zig-zag and numbered seals on the meter terminal
- cover and cut-out and to keep an account of seals to detect fake seals;
- (xi) Provision of potential links inside the body of the meters instead of under the terminal cover to prevent tampering of meters;
- (xii) Use of PVC multi-core cables as service mains instead of single core VIR wires to make direct tapping very obvious; and
- (xiii) Comparing monthly meter readings of industrial consumers with those of other similar consumers with a view to detecting significant variations in consumptions.

Statement-II

Position Regarding dues Outstanding with State Electricity Boards/Understandings in Respect of Sale of Power from NTPC/NHPC/DVC and NLC.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State Electricity Board	Name of the Organisation				Total as on 15.3.85
		NTPC as on 15.3.85	NHPC as on 15.3.85	DVC as on 15.3.85	NLC as on 15.3.85	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2250	—	—	—	2250.00
2.	Assam	—	638.55	—	—	638.55
3.	Bihar	—	—	4591	—	4591.00
4.	Gujarat	94	—	—	—	94.00
5.	Haryana	240	850.16	—	—	1090.16
6.	Himachal Pradesh	225	618.32	—	—	843.32
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	145	—	—	—	145.00
8.	Karnataka	607	—	—	—	607.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2067	—	—	—	2067.00
10.	Maharashtra	926	—	—	—	926.00
11.	Punjab	—	1020.91	—	—	1020.91
12.	Rajasthan	1410	—	—	—	1410.00
13.	Tamil Nadu	224	—	—	8982	9206.00
14.	Uttar Pradesh	2646	—	—	—	2646.00
15.	West Bengal	—	—	1486	—	1486.00
Total		10834	3127.94	6077	8982	29020.94

Renovation of Thermal Plants

1377. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA
MALIK :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the details of the centrally-sponsored renovation and modernisation scheme of Thermal Plants at a cost of Rs. 500 crores in view of the facts that out of the installed capacity of around 25,000 MW for Thermal Plants nearly one-third is from pretty old units which require immediate renovation and also in view of the fact that the capacity utilisation in Thermal Plants is about 45 per cent only ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): A Centrally sponsored scheme for renovation and modernisation of existing thermal power plants has been approved by Government for implementation from 1984-85. It is proposed to renovate 36 power plants in the country under the programme. Renovation schemes for 23 power stations have already been approved by the Central Electricity Authority and Planning Commission. The plant load factor of thermal power stations, which is about 49.2% for the period April, 1984, to February, 1985, is expected to improve further after implementation of the scheme.

Power Situation in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

1378. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to improve the power situation in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh within the sixth days time limit that has been fixed by the Union Minister of State for Power; and

(b) whether any such time-limit will be fixed for other regions of the country also and if so, the details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The steps taken

to improve the availability of power relate to (i) expending the commissioning of new generating capacity, and (ii) improving the capacity utilisation of existing thermal stations. Measures have been initiated for the supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal to thermal stations. Minister of State for Power has also written to all the State Governments stressing, inter alia, the need for a planned maintenance of thermal stations. While no time limit has been fixed, the progress in increasing supply of power is monitored regularly. The all-India plant load factor in February, 1985, has increased by over 3% as compared to February, 1984. The PLF of Bihar and U.P. State Electricity Boards has also shown an increase of about 2% and 1% respectively.

Additional Passenger Train Service Between Vadodara and Surat

1379. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide additional passenger train service between Vadodara and Surat on the Western Railway for commuters during office hours;

(b) whether there is a need to provide the above service for commuters as the trains on the Section are running overcrowded; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Railways have extended 43/44 Ahmedabad-Vadodara Passenger to/from Surat with effect from 18th November 1984 to meet the demand of commuter traffic on Vadodara-Surat section. It is not proposed to introduce additional train for lack of resources in the shape of coaches, spare line capacity and terminal facilities at terminals.

Persons Apprehended Travelling Without Ticket in Northern Zone

1380. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ticketless passengers apprehended in Northern Railway Zone during the last six months ending December, 1984; and

(b) the total amount recovered during this period from the ticketless passenger in the form of Railway fare and penalty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :
(a) and (b). During the period July '84 to December '84, as many as 2.43 lakhs persons was detected travelling without ticket or with improper tickets on the Northern Railway and an amount of Rs. 53.93 lakhs was realised from them as Railway Fare and Penalty

Construction of New Rail Lines in West Bengal

1381. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :
SHRI AMAR ROY-
PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of West Bengal have sent some proposals for construction of new railway lines;

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

(c) whether Government of West Bengal have also requested for electrification of an existing line in that State; the

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement is attached.

Statement

Part (b)

Details are given below :

Name of Project proposed by West Bengal Govt.	Position
1	2

1. Construction of a new B.G. cum M.G. line connecting New Jalpaiguri with Siliguri Junction via Rangapani to avoid traffic congestion.

The Railway had proposed a Road Over Bridge on Hilcart Road in Siliguri Town. On in view of traffic congestion. The State Government did not agree to this proposal and wanted alternatives to be examined. The Railways, therefore, proposed an alternative of diverting the M.G./N.G alignment along the banks of Mahananda River, taking it out of Siliguri Town. As this diversion line is in lieu of Road Over Bridge, the State Government has been approached for the acceptance to bear 50% of the cost, as per extant rules. The acceptance of State Government is awaited.

1

2. Budge Budge Namkhana new B.G. line.

3. Raniganj to Bankura via Mejhia.

4. Tamluk-Digha Broad stage rail line.

Part (d) Electrification Projects proposed by the West Bengal Government.

Electrification of Bandel-Katwa Section

2

The project has not been cleared by the Planning Commission for want of resources. Necessary action will be taken, after the Project is cleared by the Planning Commission and funds provided therefor.

The reappraisal of the old survey of 1976-77 for this work was undertaken in 1983-84. The survey indicated that there is no worthwhile traffic likely to be offered from this area and there is no need for constructing a line between Mejhia and Raniganj, in view of the absence of sufficient traffic and the high cost of the construction of a bridge across river Damodar. The cost of construction of Bankura-Mejhia (38.37 Kms.) line was assessed as Rs. 14.16 crores.

In view of the severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already on hand and further due to the unremunerative character of the project, the question of taking up construction of this line will have to pend till sufficient potential for traffic develops and the resource position improves.

This work was included in the Railway Budget 1984-85 with the approval of the Planning Commission subject to the provision that the project will be taken up after receipt and examination of the survey report. The Planning Commission on examination of the Survey report have not cleared this project.

Electrification of Railways is a capital intensive work. Electrification Projects are therefore, taken up by priority on sections with heaviest traffic densities, so as to afford maximum and quickest benefits. The present priorities are to electrify the Metropolitan trunk routes and certain other routes important for carrying vital traffic and for ensuring fluidity of movement. It has not yet been feasible to include the Electrification of Bandel-Kotwa section in the Works Programme of the Railways.

Seats for Donors in Educational Institutions

1382. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state ;

(a) whether seats are reserved for donors in the educational institutions in the country; and

(b) if so, details of the institutions where seats are reserved for donors ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Proposal to Change Medical Education Policy

1383. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to change the medical education policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India set up a Medical Education Review Committee in September, 1981 to review and make recommendations for effecting necessary changes in the present medical education system. The Committee in its Report, inter alia, has made recommendations relating to (i) National Entrance Examination for admission to Under-graduate and Postgraduate course (ii) abolition of capitation fees; (iii) additional incentives to doctors for serving in rural areas; (iv) establishment of Universities of Health Sciences; (v) establishment of Regional Institutions, etc. On receipt of the Report of the Review Committee, an Empowered Committee was appointed which has since submitted its report to Government for consideration and appropriate action.

Delay in Construction of Thien Dam

1384. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been considerable delay in the construction of Thien Dam and the Shahpur Kandi barrage by the Punjab Government due to which Ravi-Tawi Irrigation Project has been delayed very much; and

(b) if so, whether Union Government will take necessary action for the early completion of Thien Dam and Shahpur Kandi Project ?

MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) and (b). There has been delay in construction of Thien Dam. It is on account of constraint of funds with the State Government. The Central Government is considering measures for expediting the construction of this project.

A decision on the Shahpur Kandi Barrage Project has not been taken as the differences between Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir regarding the estimates and sharing of costs of certain components of the Project have to be settled first.

Causes of High Level of Thiocyanate in Urine of Victims Exposed by MIC Gas.

1385. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research was entrusted with the task of determining the causes for high level of thiocyanate which was noticed in the urine of victims exposed to MIC gas recently exposed in Bhopal Union Carbide;

(b) if so, the results of the study made by Indian Council of Medical Research;

(c) whether HYPO is antidote for MIC; and

(d) if so, the reasons for releasing the results of this study after two months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) A comprehensive range of scientific medical research investigation of the gas affected victims in Bhopal was undertaken by the I.C.M.R. in collaboration with the State Health Department, the Gandhi Medical College and the Department of Forensic Medicine of the Medico-Legal Institute of Bhopal. Following preliminary investigations, it was decided that monitoring of the urinary thiocyanates values would be a good index of the normal detoxification mechanism of the body. Hence tests were initiated by one of the ICMR teams in Bhopal in late December, the methodology was double checked in appropriate laboratories in Delhi from the first Week of January onwards. The tests established that there were elevated levels of urinary thiocyanate. Following this it was decided to carry out a study with the use of Sodium Thiosulphate (commonly known as HYPO and Glucose).

Although this drug was known to be harmless and was being used in a limited way in Bhopal the scientific basis of its efficacy was established only after the conclusion of I.C.M.R. Study which demonstrated that thiosulphate administration increases the excretion of urinary thiocyanate. The increased levels of thiocyanate in urine are indicative of clearance of cyanate pool from the bodies of persons exposed to the gas in Bhopal. Once a scientific basis of the efficacy of Sodium Thiosulphate was established, the information was released for wider use on 31.1.1985 and 12.2.1985. The use of Sodium Thiosulphate was also recommended to the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

It is not yet certain in Whether HYPO is specific antidote for MIC. This matter is under investigation. However, according to results obtained so far HYPO neutralises the breakdown products of MIC or other toxic substances generated in the body.

Tripura Objects to Dhaka Dam

1386. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Times of India dated 6 March, 1985 under the Caption Tripura objects to Dhaka Dams;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh.

Review about Occurance and Impact of Communicable Diseases

1387. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN :**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has made any review about the occurrence and impact of some communicable diseases other than Malaria and Tuberculosis in the country ;

(b) if so, what are those communicable diseases which caused concern in different parts of the country in last three years;

(c) whether some such diseases are on the fast expanding in the country;

(d) if so, the efforts made to initiate control measures of those communicable diseases; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the number of cases affected by diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, polio myelitis, enteric fever, and the Guinea-worm diseases for the last 3 years is enclosed.

(c) to (e) (i) Expanded Programme for immunisation has been taken up in a wider scale against Diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis and typhoid fever by making immunisation services available to all eligible children and pregnant women by 1990. Health education measures are being intensified for creating public awareness.

(ii) The Guineaworm Eradication Programme has been launched to eliminate the disease. The main feature of the Programme are :

- (a) Active case searches in each of the villages, twice in a year in every affected district of the country.
- (b) Provision of safe water supply through the Central Public Health Environmental Engineering Organisation and State Public Health Environmental Engineering Organisations in the States.
- (c) Intensive health education of the community through distribution of pamphlets, posters, showing of cinema slides and films, writing of wall slogans, group discussions, Radio talk with the objective of promoting personal prophylaxis in the community as well as reducing transmission potential.
- (d) Treatment of unsafe water sources with temephos 50% EC during the transmission season.
- (e) Training of all District level Health and Engineering officers at the NICD and Medical Officers of PHCs. and paramedical staff in the States.

(f) Treatment of patients and use of occlusive bandaging to prevent contact of patient with the step well water.

Statement

Number of Cases during the last 3 years

Name of Disease	No. of cases during the years.		
	1982	1983	1984
Diphtheria	15144	11697	10288
Whooping Cough	277848	210387	122788
Tetanus	39553	32991	21662
Measles	146256	128043	113954
Poliomyelitis	21469	21290	14672
Enteric Fever	408992	339236	196232
Guineaworm	*42926	*44819	*40443

*These cases are in 79 districts of six States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Modernisation of Power Projects

1388. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have sent proposal to the Central Electricity Authority for the modernisation of some power projects ;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals received by Central Electricity Authority in 1984-85;

(c) the name of the States from which such proposals have come; and

(d) the details of the prospects and costs of each of those projects ?

MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). A statement containing the information is attached.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/U.T.	State Electricity Board etc.	Name of the Thermal Station	Total Estimated cost*
1	2	3	4
Delhi	NTPU	Badarpur	2870.60
—do—	DESU	Indraprastha	4042.35
U. P.	UPSEB	Panki	3703.11
—do—	UPSEB	Obra	4595.00
—do—	UPSEB	Harduaganj 'A' Harduaganj 'B' 2 'C'	6395.00
Punjab	PSEB	Bhatinda	4173.70
Haryana	HSEB	Feridabad	3966.00
—do—	HSEB	Panipat	1654.40
Madhya Pradesh	MPEB	Korba I Korba II Korba III	1629.50
Madhya Pradesh	MPEB	Amarkantak I Amarkantak II	1024.80
Madhya Pradesh	MPEB	Satpura	1778.8
		(Another scheme for renovation of 2x210 MW (Units 6&7) has been received on 5.2.85 which is under appraisal)	
Maharashtra	MSEB	Kordia	2383.40
Maharashtra	MSEB	Nasik	660.47
Maharashtra	MSEB	Bhusawal	66.82
Maharashtra	MSEB	Paras	187.45
Gujarat	GEB	Gandhinagar	1726.70
Gujarat	GEB	Dhuvaran	1891.90
Gujarat	GEB	Ukai	3355.50
Andhra Pradesh	APSEB	Kothagudem	4567.00
Tamil Nadu	TNEB	Ennore	7978.00
Tamil Nadu	TNEB	Tuticorin	676.71
Tamil Nadu	NLC	Neyveli	4970.00
West Bengal	DVC	Chandrapura	3212.60
West Bengal	DVC	Bokaro	841.00

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	DVC	Durgapur	797.50
West Bengal	DPL	Durgapur	2376 00
West Bengal	WBSEB	Bandel	3390.00
West Bengal	WBSEB	Santaldih	2192.00
Bihar	BSEB	Patratu	3530.80
Bihar	BSEB	Barauni	1556.30
Bihar	BSEB	Karbigahia	512.90
Orissa	OSEB	Talcher	2346.30

*Includes expenditure under both the Centrally sponsored scheme and the States Plans.

World Bank's Assistance for Orissa's Irrigation Drainage and Flood Control Measures

1389. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) which of the irrigation projects, drainage schemes and flood protection measures of Orissa are receiving financial assistance from the world Bank agencies;

(b) whether any project of this nature for this State is under negotiation with them and if so the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have negotiated with World Bank in respect of any flood control projects of the river Mahanadi of Orissa and if so give details; and

(d) whether any project proposal of the Government of Orissa for control of flood in Delta region of Mahanadi of Orissa is awaiting clearance and if so give details?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI. B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Two Irrigation Projects viz. Mahanadi Barrages Project and Orissa Irrigation-II Project are receiving financial assistance from the World Bank agencies in the State of Orissa.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The State Government has has furnished a scheme entitled "Rehabilitation to Mahanadi and Kathjori Embankment for postbarrage Condition". The techno-economic viability of this scheme is yet to be established. Further, the project is not yet recommended for consideration by the Flood Control Board and the Technical Advisory Committee of the State Government.

[Translation]

Construction of Fly-over at Vyara Station

1390. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a fly-over at Vyara station on Surat Bhusawal Railways line on Western Railway keeping in view the long standing demand of the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the sanction is likely to be granted for the construction of this fly-over and the estimated cost thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by Government to construct it expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

**Relation of Indian Railway Construction
Company Limited with Indian Railways.**

1391 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN
DAS MUNSHI : Will the Minister of
RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the objective of Indian Railways
Construction Company Limited and its
relations with Indian Railway ; and

(b) the actual loss or profit of
Indian Railway Construction Company
Limited during 1983-84 and 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) The main objects for which
Indian Railway Construction Company
Limited (IRCON) has been established
are :

To carry on all kinds of busi-
ness relating to Railway Construc-
tion and to enter into contracts in
India or abroad, on turnkey basis or
otherwise, either individually or jointly
with other undertaking and
companies or persons abroad or
in India, including supply,
erection and commissioning of
railway equipment and all ser-
vices ancillary there-to etc. etc.

This Company is a wholly owned
Government Company incorporated
under the Companies Act, under the
administrative control of Ministry of
Railways.

(b) During the year 1983-84 profit
before tax was about Rs. 154.5 million
and after taxation about Rs. 127.5
million. The accounts for the year
1984-85 have yet to be compiled.

[*Translation*]

**Central Approval for Irrigation Scheme
at Zankhari in Gujrat**

1392. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will
the Minister of IRRIGATION AND
POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not according
approval so far to the medium irriga-
tion scheme at Zankhari in Surat Dist-
rict by the Government of India ;

(b) the date on which it was submit-
ted to the Government for according
their approval and the acreage of land
likely to be irrigated by it and the likely
amount to be incurred thereon ; and

(c) the time by which the approval
is likely to be accorded to it and the
steps being taken by the Government in
this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGA-
TION AND POWER (SHRI B.
SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c)
Zankhari project was accepted by the
Planning Commission in 1982. Sub-
sequently, the State Government changed
the scope of the project and submitted
an outline of a revised project in Jan-
uary 1984. The modified project is
estimated to cost Rs. 42.90 crores and
is expected to irrigate 27,526 hectares,
annually. Central Water Commission
has sent their comments on the outline
report and has called for from the
State a detailed project report for
further processing and for obtaining
approval of the Planning Commission.
A detailed project report for the revis-
ed scope of the project is not yet receiv-
ed from the State.

**Providing A Stoppage of Ahmedabad
Howrah Express at Songadh Station in
W.R.**

1393. SHRI C.D. GAMIT :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand of
the people to provide a stoppage of
Ahmedabad-Howrah Express at Songadh
Station on Surat-Bhusaval rail line in
Western Railway ; and

(b) if so the details thereof and the action taken by the Railways Department in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). On persistent demands from various quarters, it has been decided to provide stoppage of 133/134 Ahmedabad-Howrah Express at Ukai Songarh w.e.f. 1.5.1985.

[English]

Railways Wagons for 1985-86

1394. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether orders for new railway wagons have been finalised for 1985-86.

(b) the number of wagons ordered from each of the principal wagon manufacturers in West Bengal, and the corresponding number in 1984-85 ;

(c) the overall backlog expected at the end of the current financial year ; and

(d) whether the wagon manufacturers are facing the problem of idle capacity and manpower ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached giving the information.

(c) It is anticipated that as on 31.3.1985 the ten wagon building units in the country will have outstanding wagon orders for 31,880 wagons in terms of four-wheelers.

(d) Wagon building units by and large have alternative lines of production and in the event of inadequate orders for wagons do other work by obtaining orders/export orders from other sources. Hence the problem of idling of capacity and man-power would not arise in spite of less orders than the capacity available.

(Figures in Four-wheelers)

S.N.	Name of the wagon Builders	Production Target for 1984-85	Production Target for 1984-85
1.	Braithwaite	1290	575
2.	Burn/HWH	1891	780
3.	Jessop	350	155
4.	Texmaco	3115	1230
Total		6645	2500

New Rail Line from Bijapur to Sindagi

1395. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to construct a new rail line from Bijapur to Sindagi covering Jawargi, Moratgi, Afzalpur, Ghargapur, Aland, Omerga, Latur and Parali ;

(b) if so, by what time it is likely to be constructed ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Inadequate Specialisation in the Field of Toxicology and Medical Colleges Having Specialised Courses

1396. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhopal tragedy has established the truth that our specialisation in the field of toxicology is utterly inadequate ;

(b) how many medical colleges in the country have specialised course on this subject ; and

(c) whether Government would take initiative and create more facilities in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). The subject of toxicology/clinical toxicology is taught as a part of the undergraduate and post graduate courses on pharmacology and forensic medicine. There are 23 medical colleges/institutions in the country where specialised courses in Forensic Medicine are available. There is scope for greater specialisation in this field.

Connecting Ratnagiri to Kolhapur and Chiplim to Karad by Rail Link in Maharashtra.

1397. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with Government to connect Ratnagiri to Kolhapur and Chiplim to Karad by rail link in Maharashtra ; and

(b) if so, the stage at which this proposal is pending at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Resuscitation of Chandiya River in Seventh Plan of West Bengal

1398. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Chandiya river in Midnapur district caused immense damage to the peasants of Pingla and of the adjoining police stations during the last years' excessive rains as also at many other times in the past ;

(b) if so, whether the Government are thinking of including the resuscitation of Chandiya river in the Seventh Plan ; and

(c) if the reply to be is in negative, whether the Government would reconsider their position ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Chandiya river in Madhapur District is reported to be causing damage in the Pingla police station area over the last few years due to siltation of the river bed.

(b) The Government of West Bengal has formulated a scheme for resuscitation of Chandiya river and has included it in the State's draft Seventh Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Growing Need of Power

1399. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) how many Hydro-electrical projects are proposed to be undertaken during the Seventh Five Year Plan ; and

(b) the State-wise break-up of such proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND). (a) and (b) The size of the Seventh Plan Power Programme has not yet been finalised and would depend on factors such as the availability of resources.

Reasons to Discontinue Special Nutrition Programme Outside ICDS

1400. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for discontinuing the expansion of Special Nutrition Programme outside the Integrated Child Development Services Schemes ;

(b) the reasons for the low utilisation of funds in the Central Sector outlay in this scheme ; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in the finalisation of the scheme on integrated

education in nutrition, health, hygiene and sanitation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : The Special Nutrition Programme was started in the Fourth Plan to provide supplementary nutrition to children below 6 years of age, pregnant women and nursing mothers. It was realised that in order to make a positive impact on the health and nutritional status of children and mothers, health and educational services should be added to supplementary nutrition. Therefore, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme was started to provide an integrated package of health, nutrition and education to pregnant women, nursing mothers and children below 6 years of age. The Special Nutrition Programme now forms the supplementary nutrition component of the ICDS scheme. Expansion of the Special Nutrition Programme is, therefore, part of expansion of the ICDS.

(b) The Special Nutrition Programme is, a State sector programme. There is no central outlay for this. The central outlay for the ICDS (excluding supplementary nutrition which is provided by the state sector) is fully utilized.

(c) The Department of Food is giving final shape to this scheme. Considerable time was required as this scheme had to be formulated in consultation with a number of Ministries, Departments and organisations who are involved in nutrition education activities.

World Health Organisation Offer to help India to Fight Spread of Malaria

1401. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has come forward to assist the Government of India to fight the

spread of malaria in India in recent past ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Yes. The World Health Organisation has been associated with the Government in the control of Malaria in the country for a long time. The W.H.O. provides training facilities abroad on fellowship, International Consultants/experts for Appraisal/Evaluation of the Programme activities, subsidy for training of different categories of personnel, limited supply of essential material and equipment like test kits, support to several research projects, coordination of anti-malaria activities with border countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Burma Maldives, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and also support to national efforts in the SIDA assisted P. falciparum Containment Programme.

Indravati Project

1402. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the original estimated cost of Indravati Project and the schedule for completion of this Project ;

(b) whether the project is likely to be completed within the schedule time ; and

(c) if not, what remedial measures the Government propose to take for correcting the situation for an early completion of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The original estimated cost of Upper Indravati Multipurpose project is Rs. 208.14 crores and the target of completion is 1987-88.

(b) The project is not likely to be completed as originally planned.

(c) The State is being pressed from time to time to provide requisite outlays

to complete the project expeditiously. Moreover IDA Credit and IBRD loan assistance aggregating to US \$ 326.4 million has been extended to the Hydro-Power component of the project. Centre is also monitoring the project and is assisting the State in the procurement of scarce materials like cement and structural steel.

Posts Inconsistent With Management Study of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

1403. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a management study of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration ;

(b) if so, whether a large number of posts were created inconsistent with the Indian Institute of Public Administration Report; and

(c) the details of such posts which are not in conformity with the Indian Institute of Public Administration Report ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Recommendations made in the report of the management study of the Kendriya Vidyalaya-Sangathan undertaken by the Indian Institute of Public Administration as also the actual present and future needs of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, which is a fast expanding organisation, were carefully considered by a high level committee. On the basis of the decisions taken by this committee, a number of posts have been created. Some additional posts have also been created to meet the staff requirements of three new regional offices. Still the total number of posts created on the recommendations of the high level committee and to meet the needs of the new regional offices are far less than the number of additional posts recommended in the management study undertaken by the Indian Institute of Public Administration.

Work shop on Management of Drugs Supply Systems

1404. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a workshop on management of the drugs supply system was held recently in the capital ;

(b) if so, whether the myth that diseases have developed a resistance to medicines was exploded there ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

The workshop did not deal with any aspect of drug-resistance as such.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of a Railway Over Bridge on Panki Railway Yard (Kanpur)

1405. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to construct a railway over-bridge on Panki Railway yard (Kanpur) ;

(b) if so, the details of the project and anticipated date of starting work on it ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and Government's policy in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) and (b). A proposal for provision of a foot over bridge across Panki Railway Yard (Kanpur) which will also the platforms has been included in 1985-86 Budget at an approximate cost of Rs. 13.30 lakhs. The preparation of detailed plans and estimates is being taken up.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Proposal to Reduce Quota of Local Students in Medical Colleges of Delhi

1406. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to reduce the quota of local students in the Medical Colleges of Delhi, and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) and (b). The University of Delhi has reported that from the year 1985-86, the first 30% of the total number of seats (which comes to 79) will be filled up through open combined merit list, as against the earlier arrangement whereby first 50 seats used to be filled up through combined merit list. This decision is based on the judgement of the Supreme Court of India delivered in 1984. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences have reported that there is no quota of local students for admissions to MBBS Course.

[Translation]

Steps to Ensure Fair Admission in Medical Colleges of Delhi

1407. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state the steps taken to ensure that there is no irregularity in the entrance test for admission to M.B.B.S. etc. in Medical Colleges of Delhi as happened last year ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Following the detection of malpractices in 1984, in the entrance examination for admission to medical colleges, the University of Delhi appointed a Committee to examine the remedial measures to be taken to ensure that such malpractices do not take place in future examina-

tions. The specific measures taken by the University are :

- (1) A separate Admission Tests Unit is being established with the Joint Controller of Examinations and the Director of the Computer Centre.
- (2) Use of ink in filling the answer sheets will be permitted.
- (3) The programme for computing the results should be more sophisticated and designed in consultation with senior experienced Professors of Computer Science, which should be vetted by another agency before use.
- (4) Two independent results should be prepared and later on matched to see if there is any discrepancy.
- (5) The number of people involved in the processing should be the minimum necessary.
- (6) The question papers should be set up by the Board of Examiners with the Head of Department as its moderator. The moderator will prepare 4 sets of papers out of which one would be used for examination.

[English]

Rajasthan's Irrigation Projects

1408. SHRI BANWARI LAL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the irrigation projects undertaken by the Centre in Rajasthan State during the last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme; and

(b) the progress made so far with regard to their completion and the area likely to be irrigated by these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development

Programme the Indira Gandhi Nehar Pariyojana (RCP) Stage I, Chambal Project and the Gang Bhakra Project have been receiving Central assistance since the 5th Plan period. Mahi Bajaj-sagar Project was included under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme from the year

1983-84.

(b) The progress made so far with regard to the activities for which Central assistance is available is given in attached statement. The area likely to be irrigated by these projects is as follows :-

(Th. Ha.)

Statement

Project	Culturable Command Area	Area likely to be irrigated	Potential created 1983-84	Area irrigated upto 1983-84
Indira Gandhi Nehar Pariyojana (RCP) Stage I	540	540	441	398
Chambal Project	229	219	204.7	200.9
Gang Bhakra Project	681	541.52	541.52	541.52
Mahi Bajaj-sagar Project	80	80	30	12.88

Statement

(Th. Ha)

S. No	Name of Project	Culturable Command Area	Cumulative achievements to the end of 1982-84		
			Field Channels	Land Levelling.	Warabandi
1.	Indira Gandhi Nehar Pariyojana (RCP) Stage I.	540	253.12	30.52	253.12
2.	Chambal Project	229	39.3	35.85	35.87
3.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar Project	80	31.5	—	—
4.	Gang Bhakra Project	681	17.71	—	541.12

Compensation to the Victims of Fire Aboard M.V. Chidambaram :

(a) number of persons who died as a results of the fire which broke out on 12 February, 1985 in the luxury tourist vessel M.V. Chidambaram;

1409. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(b) whether it is a fact that Govern-

ment has declined to grant compensation for loss of life and baggage; and

(c) if so, whether this goes against the provisions of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act and International Conventions on the subject ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) Twenty-nine bodies/skulls have been recovered after the fire accident.

(b) Government is not liable to pay any compensation for loss of life or baggage of passengers under any provisions of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act or any International Conventions ratified by the Govt. of India. However, an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 10,000/- is being paid by Shipping Corporation of India to next of kin of each person who died in the accident. Further an amount of Rs. 500/- has been paid as ex-gratia to each of 271 passengers who lost their baggage.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Admission to Central Schools

1410. **SHRI G.V. RAMA RAO :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government employees are facing difficulties in getting their children admitted in Central Schools in Delhi and other cities;

(b) if so, the number of admissions made and the number of applications for admissions received in Central Schools in the country during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) whether Government will consider running of 2-3 shifts in the Central Schools till the accommodation problem is solved ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Record of applications for admissions is not kept beyond one year. It is, therefore, not possible to give information regarding number of appli-

cations received in various Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country during the last three years.

Information regarding number of admissions made during the last three years i.e. 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 and the number of applications received at the beginning of Academic Session 1984-85 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

(c) No, Sir.

Vacant Post of Regional General Manager

1411. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH ;** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) how many posts of Regional General Managers in Railways are lying vacant and for how long;

(b) whether this is causing any harm to Railways in decision-making process; and

(c) if not, by what time these appointments are likely to be made by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) None of the posts of General Managers on Railways is lying vacant.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Maritime Frauds

1412. **SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether maritime frauds have been on the increase according to a Seminar on International Maritime and Commercial Frauds held in Bombay earlier this month;

(b) if so, the genesis of these frauds and the penal action taken by Government in case of known default;

(c) whether it has been suggested that Reserve Bank of India should be vested with necessary powers to withhold

remittance of freight amounts by the steamer agents in India till the delivery of the goods at destination port is established; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction to the above suggestion and what other measures it proposes to take to prevent the frauds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Increased incidence of maritime fraud is attributable to factors such as severe depression faced by Shipping Industry the world over. Consequently tonnage is running after limited cargo resulting in great temptation for unlawful activities.

As these frauds are of commercial nature, Government is not directly involved in taking penal action against the fraudulent parties. It devolves on the commercial interests to take appropriate action.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommendations of a Working Group appointed by Government to suggest remedial measures for preventing maritime frauds by tramp operators which also included the suggestion in part 'c' above have been accepted by the Government in principle. Certain other important measures suggested by the Working Group are to license the shipping agents, obtaining of bank guarantee, restriction on the shipping agents to withdraw from the agency until after the completion of the voyage in respect of which he has collected freight from shippers, etc.

Marriage age and Conception age in Andhra Pradesh

1413. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 11th February, 1985 standing that in the

rural areas of Andhra Pradesh the average age of marriage is still 13 years and the conception age ranges between 15 to 35 years ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The violation of any of the provisions of the Child Marriage Restraint Act is punishable through prosecution in a Court of Law. The Government has taken steps to educate the public about the evil consequences of child marriage by publicity through mass media and by involving voluntary organisations. The Child Marriage Restraint Act was amended in 1978 raising the age of marriage from 15 to 18 years for girls and from 18 to 21 for boys.

Findings of the Committee Appointed to Examine the Problems of the Staff of Badarpur Thermal Power Station

1414. **SHRI MOHAMMAD MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (a) of Starred Question No. 709 dated 17 April, 1984 regarding transfer of Badarpur Employees to N.T.P.C. and state :

(a) whether a Committee was appointed by the Department of Power to examine the personnel problems of Badarpur Thermal Power Station ;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has also considered the cases of those Badarpur-based Central Government employees of B.T.P.C., referred to in the aforesaid reply, who have not been absorbed in N.T.P.C. nor considered for promotion during the last seven years by N.T.P.C. or by their parent Department viz. the Central Electricity Authority ;

(c) if so, the findings of the Committee and action taken by Government thereon ;

(d) whether Badarpur Karamchhari Samyukta Morcha has also submitted a memorandum to the aforesaid Committee in this regard ; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee has submitted its report which is under examination of the Government.

(d) and (e). Yes Sir, and the memorandum was considered by the Committee.

'History of Freedom Movement' in School Curriculum

1415. MOHANLAL PATEL :

KUMARI MAMATA
BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the History of Indian Freedom Movement is proposed to be a compulsory subject for all school students ;

(b) if so, the outline of syllabus to be included at different levels i.e. primary, middle and high school ;

(c) whether the Committee has been constituted to prepare policy guidelines in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) to (d). The Government of India have set up a Working Group of Experts to prepare policy guidelines to provide graded introduction to all school students of the History of Indian Freedom Movement. The Working Group has also been assigned the task of suggesting operational guidelines in this regard as well as model, graded syllabus for the study of the Freedom Movement. The

Working Group has started functioning.

National Road Safety Council

1416. SHRI NARSINGHRAO SURYAWANSHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state reasons for not setting up of a National Road Council so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : The Road Safety Committee in its report submitted in 1983 had inter-alia recommended the establishment of a National Road Safety Council to formulate and monitor the implementation of road safety measures. This recommendation was considered in the Government and it was felt that it was not necessary to set up such a Council but that the State Government /UT Administrations should set up Road Safety Cells at State levels to formulate, implement and monitor safety measures. The State Governments were requested to do so.

[*Translation*]

Faizabad Bye-Pass Scheme in Uttar Pradesh

1417. SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Faizabad bye-pass scheme in Uttar Pradesh has been pending for many years ;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which construction work of this scheme will start ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The alignment of Faizabad bypass on National Highway 28 in Uttar Pradesh was approved in 1971 and since then land has been acquired. However, due to insufficient allocation of funds as against overall requirements for removal of existing deficiencies on National Highways in

the country, construction of bypasses had been given lower priority in the Vth Five Year Plans.

(c) Subject to the overall availability of funds and the all-India inter-se priority of this work, it would be considered for inclusion in the VIIth Five Year Plan which is not yet finalised.

Loan/Aid from Foreign Countries and Import of Departmental Machinery

1418. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) which of the foreign countries give us loan/aid or export departmental machinery ;

(b) since when are importing the same (giving country-wise position and amount involved during the last three years ; year-wise) ;

(c) when self-sufficiency is likely to be achieved in this regard ; and

(d) what remedial action has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) At present, financial assistance has been extended to Government of India for Indian Railways by the following countries :—

(i) United Kingdom

(ii) Japan

(iii) Saudi Arabia

The countries from which most of the equipment/goods are being imported are Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Japan, Poland, Romania, Switzerland South Korea, U.K., U.S.A. and West Germany.

(b) On the Indian Railways, machinery/goods are being important from time/to time as necessary. During the last 3 years, Ministry of Railways have authorised import of machinery/goods for the Department from various countries as indicated in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) The goal of attaining self-sufficiency in regard to our requirements is being pursued vigorously. This is a continuing process and no time frame can be prescribed for attaining self-sufficiency in every sphere of country's activities.

Various steps are already being taken to modernise and update the technology available in India with a view to reduce our dependence on imports. The steps taken in this regard are enumerated in chapter "Towards Self-Sufficiency" of Indian Railways Year Book 1983-84 which was laid before the Parliament alongwith Railway Budget for the year 1985-86 on 14.3.1985. A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Import of Machinery/Goods Authorised by the Ministry of Railways

(Rs. in crores)

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15
	Austria	Brazil	Canada	China	France	Japan	Poland	Romania	Switzer- land	S. Korea	U.K	USA.	W. Germany	Others	Total
1984-85															
(upto 18.3.1985)	0.5	6.3	0.5	0.3	13.5	5.4	12.8	5.6	3.2	1.9	9.6	12.8	19.2	11.8	103.4
1983-84	—	5.6	—	—	12.0	14.0	9.5	2.9	2.0	17.2	28.7	27.6	29.4	25.5	174.4
1982-83	3.9	4.2	0.4	4.7	4.8	33.0	6.2	7.4	5.8	2.2	6.0	33.3	13.2	2.9	128.0

Expenditure to be Incurred by Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on the Canal Work under Rajghat Dam

1419. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated expenditure to be incurred by the Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh Governments on the cannal work under Rajghat Dam on Betwa river and the amount of expenditure already incurred by them separately;

(b) how much work remains to be executed;

(c) whether the canal work is progressing according to the target schedule fixed initially; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). The estimated cost of Rajghat Canal Project in Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 82.64 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 8.32 crores is anticipated to be incurred on the Project upto March, 1985.

The estimated cost of Rajghat Canal Project in Uttar Pradesh is Rs. 45 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 14.42 crores is anticipated to be incurred on the Project upto March, 1985.

The canal works are in the initial stages of execution.

(c) and (d) The works on the Rajghat Canal Projects of these States are not progressing according to target mainly on account of the inability of these States to provide adequate funds for these projects.

Construction of Rajghat Dam

1420. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the original and the present estimated cost of Rajghat Dam to be constructed on Betwa river;

(b) by what time it was scheduled to be completed, indicating the reasons

for the delay in its completion and the time by which this Dam will be completed;

(c) the extent to which work has been completed so far and the amount spent on this Dam upto December, 1984;

(d) the number of villages separately in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh which would be submerged due to the construction of Rajghat Dam and the total number of people likely to be affected thereby; and

(e) the number of affected people given compensation and resettled indicating the amount spent thereon and the remaining affected people who are proposed to be compensated and resettled and the time by which this will be done ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The Rajghat Dam Project was approved by the Planning Commission in July 1980 for Rs. 123.22 crores. The Project is at present estimated to cost about Rs. 185 crores.

(b) The project was originally scheduled to be completed by June 1986. However, due to insufficient funds made available by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh the completion of the dam has been delayed. It is proposed to complete the dam by the end of VII Plan.

(c) The progress on Masonry Dam and Earthen Dam upto December 1984 is about 20% and 80% respectively. The total expenditure incurred on the project upto December 1984 is Rs. 60.18 crores.

(d) 44 villages in Uttar Pradesh and 31 villages in Madhya Pradesh will be submerged by the construction of Rajghat Dam, affecting a population of 10,662 persons in Uttar Pradesh and 8105 persons in Madhya Pradesh.

(e) The amount of compensation paid in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is Rs. 260 lakhs and Rs. 394 lakhs, respectively, covering lands from 23 villages in Uttar Pradesh and 19

villages in Madhya Pradesh. For the remaining lands compensation will be settled and paid progressively as the dam works progresses. Cases for compensations for houses and other properties are also in process. No person has yet been made to shift and resettled.

[English]

M.C.I. Decline to Accord Recognition to Medical Colleges in West Bengal

1421. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has declined to accord long term/permanent recognition to some Medical Colleges in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the irregularities which have been noticed in these Medical Colleges; and

(d) the names of such Medical Colleges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) The Medical Council of India have reported that through a series of inspection conducted by them, it was found that facilities provided by way of clinical training and teaching staff were inadequate only in respect of the North Bengal Medical College, Sushurathanagar, Siliguri, West Bengal.

The Medical Council of India have accordingly advised the Colleges authorities to remove these deficiencies and have temporarily recognised the MBBS degree till 30th April, 1986.

The compliance report furnished by the college authorities would be taken into account by the Medical Council of India for according permanent recognition to their degree.

[Translation]

Effects of Bhopal Gas Tragedy on Foetus, Newly Born Children and Old Persons

1422. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR ; Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the effect of Bhopal gas tragedy on foetus, newly born children and old persons;

(b) the number of foetus, newly born and upto fifteen years old children and the old persons affected thereby; and

(c) the details of assistance provided by Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) & (b). The results of the studies so far do not reveal increased incidence of abnormalities in foetus and newborn children. Similarly, the effects in old persons are by and large the same as in other age groups.

(c) Government have taken steps to provide medical care at the doorsteps and have initiated detailed follow up studies of the affected population. The Indian Council of Medical Research has provided both financial and technical assistance to the local scientists at Bhopal to study the effects of toxic gas. The local health services at Bhopal have been strengthened in terms of both technical manpower and equipments,

(English]

Alternative Jobs for Workers Rendered Surplus After Completion of Project

1423. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a policy towards such workers as are rendered surplus after completion of projects;

(b) whether Government are taking steps to absorb these surplus workers in

alternate jobs in other on going projects; and

(c) if so, details thereof and if not reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANAKARANAND) : (a) to (c). To the extent possible, efforts are made to absorb the workers rendered surplus on other projects. Those who cannot be so absorbed are given retrenchment compensation as admissible under the rules.

(Translation)

Allotment of quota of wagons for slack coal

1424. **SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the grounds on which the Railway Board allots the quota of wagons for slack coal;

(b) the names of the States which have specially written to the Railway Board for increasing their quota of Railway wagons and reaction of Government in regard thereto; and

(c) the reasons for reduction in the scheduled quota of railway wagons for transportation fixed earlier and whether the Ministry is contemplating to restore this cut; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCHINDIA) :

(a) The quota of a consumer of slack coal depends on the priority, actual consumption during the previous years and the recommendation of the sponsoring authority.

(b) Recently only Gujarat State has written about increase in the slack coal quota. Considering the total availability of slack coal, transport capacity and demand from other higher priority sectors it has not been found feasible to increase the allocation for Gujarat State. Besides, the consumers in Gujarat have failed to file programmes even upto the sanctioned quota in 1984.

(c) and (d). The quotas were reduced for the year 1984 to make them more realistic, keeping in view the actual availability of coal and transport. The quotas prior to 1984 were very much on the high side and resulted in curtailment at the time of actual allotment and supply of wagons. The Railways will revise the quotas when the availability of coal and transport exceeds the present quotas.

[English]

Reserved Quota of Posts for SC/ST

1425. **PROF. M.R. HALDER :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the Zonal Railways are not maintaining the reserved quota of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) Zone-wise figures of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees vis-a-vis other employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Zonal Railways are maintaining the reserved quota of posts for SC/ST candidates as per extant orders subject to the restrictions that have been imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court/High Courts and also subject to the availability of eligible SC/ST candidates.

(c) A statement giving the latest available zone-wise figures of the SC/ST employees vis-a-vis other employees as on 31.3.1984 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library see No. LT-716/85]

Speed restriction

1426. **SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUHDARY :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether speed restriction in the railways is being expanded;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government are contemplating to remove these speed restriction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) No Sir, The extent of track having speed restrictions has come down from the level of 2356 kms as on 31.3.1983 1903 kms on 31-1-1985.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The pace of Track Renewala is being stepped up. In 1984-85, about 2500 kms of track is expected to be renewed at a net cost of Rs. 300 crores. For 1985-86, Rs. 415 crores (net) (494 crores gross) have been provided and 3000 kms track is proposed to be renewed. The draft Seventh Plan (1985-90) envisages renewals of approximately 21,000 kms of track at an approximate cost of Rs. 2500 crores.

Medium of Medical Education

1427. **SHRI NARSING RAO SURYAWANSHI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Government regarding imparting of Medical Education in English in the country as a whole;

(b) whether Tamil Nadu Government is keen on imparting it in Tamil; and

(c) if so, reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) The Medical Council of India, which is responsible for the maintenance of standards of medical education in the country, has reported that the matter regarding medium of instruction in all the medical colleges was considered by the Council several times and the Council was of the opinion that the present medium of instruction (English) be continued in all Medical Colleges till suitable text books in the regional languages are made available. The Central Govern-

ment have been addressing the State Governments to initiate suitable measures for the production of text books, reference books and other general aids in Hindi and regional languages for creating an atmosphere for the use of Hindi and regional languages in imparting medical education.

(b) and (c) The Tamil Nadu Government have reported that pursuant to the suggestion of the Government of India, they have taken preliminary action to replace English by Tamil as the medium of instruction in Government medium colleges. Preparatory work for transition is in progress.

Setting up of Heart Surgery Including Bypass Units in the Country

1428. **SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that each patient going abroad for by pass surgery requires around Rs. 4 lakhs or so; and

(b) whether Government will consider the necessity for setting up some heart surgery including bypass units with most modern equipment in some places like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and elsewhere where some such arrangements exist already ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGANDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) There is no uniform rate of expenditure in respect bypass surgery in foreign countries. However, it has been estimated that patients generally incur an expenditure between Rs. 2 to 5 lakhs depending upon the country where they choose to avail of this facility.

(b) There are about ten hospitals in India including All India Insritute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi where facilities for bypass coronary surgery are available.

(Translation)

Jaya Nagar-Sitamarhi Rail Line

1429. **SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it as a fact that Government had formulated a scheme to lay a new line from Jaya Nagar to Sitamarhi;

(b) if so, the time by which this line is proposed to be laid; and

(c) if not, the time by which Government will take necessary steps to formulate such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA)
(a) No, Sir,

(b) There is no proposal for construction of a new line from Jaya Nagar to Sitamarhi, at present.

(c) There is no proposal to formulate proposals either in view of the severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand.

[*English*]

Food Assistance to Private Institutions

1430. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether food assistance has been given to private educational and social welfare institutions in India during 1982, 1983 and 1984; if so, the details of assistance given to each State under the programme; and

(b) the details of assistance given to Orissa during the said period and how it was utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) and (b). Supplementary nutrition programmes are in the State sector of the Plan. The Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare implements non-plan nutrition programme for pre-school children (3-5 years) through Balwadis/Day Care Centres. This programme is implemented through five national level voluntary organisations. This programme, however, is not one of food

assistance to private educational and social welfare institutions.

External food assistance for nutrition programmes is received from CARE (Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere) and CRS (Catholic Relief Services). CARE food commodities are given to States and not to private institutions. CRS distributes the food through private institutions for programmes of mother and child health, nurseries/creches, school feeding, other child feeding, individual health cases and food for work. Food assistance from CRS to Orissa for 1982, 1983 and 1984 was as follows :

1982 (actuals)	5 Consignees	4420 M.T.
1983 (actuals)	—do—	3488 M.T.
1984 (estimate)	—do—	1789 M.T.

Non-Availability of Drugs to Cure Meningitis

1431. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the preventive drugs for 'meningitis' are not available in the country;

(b) whether such drugs are available in western country;

(c) if so, whether any effort has been made to import these drugs; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). Preventive drugs for meningitis are available in the country. However, 1,00,000 doses of meningococcal vaccine (A+C) have been imported through W.H.O. and additional quantity of 5,00,000 doses are under supply.

(d) Does not arise.

**Appointments By Vice-Chancellor of
Delhi University**

1432. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK :

SHRI SAIFUDDIN IN
CHOUHDARY :

SHRI MOOL CHAND
DAGA :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention
has been drawn to the new items
appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated
19 February, 1985 wherein it has been
stated that in an unprecedented manner,
outgoing Delhi University Vice-
Chancellor has appointed over 60
teachers in about a month, contravening
the prescribed norms and conventions ;
and

(b) if so, the reaction of the
Government and whether Government
propose to conduct an inquiry in the
matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b).
According to information available, dur-
ing the months of Jan. & Feb. 1985, on
the recommendations of various Selec-
tion Committees, the University had
appointed 9 Professors, 16 Readers and
31 Lecturers in various Departments of
the University. In addition, the Uni-
versity promoted 16 Lecturers as Readers
as Professors during the same period
under the Merit Promotion Scheme.

The appointment of teachers does
not by itself warrant any enquiry, as
long as these appointments are mad
in accordance with the provisions of the
Act & the Statutes of the University.

12.00 hrs.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar) :
Sir, first I welcome your return. I
would like to draw your attention to
several notices given by us for a
thorough discussion on the terrorist
activities taking place in different parts
of the world. Today there is a
news item in the *Hindustan Times* where
Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan talks of the

historic inevitability of Shrimati Indira
Gandhi's assassination...

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEKER : We shall place it
before the Business Advisory Committee
...I have gone through it.

[*English*]

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : He has
paid tributes to the British Government
for all cooperation given to him in his
activities...

MR. SPEAKER We shall see.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Therefore,
I urge that the House should discuss
this matter.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : We shall place
this matter before the Business Advisory
Committee and take a decision after
consulting you.

[*English*]

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : It is a
very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO (Vijayawada) : Sir, the FCI is not
purchasing pandy...

MR. SPEAKER : You give in
writing, I will look into it.

PROF. MADHU DANDVATE
(Rajapur) : What about the issue which
Mr. Tewary has raised ? Today he has
raised a very sensible issue.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall see in
the Business Advisory Committee how
to discuss it.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Today
there is a deviation in Prof. Madhu
Dandavate's sense.

[*English*]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY
(Midnapore) : The DCM have issued
closure-notice last night. It will affect
the employment of more than 10,000
people. I have given notices...

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall look into it. Please see me in my Chamber.

[*English*]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, we have been giving notices, but we have not been allowed...

MR. SPEAKER : What is it about ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Burn Standard and Company, a Government of India undertaking, has given closure notice in respect of two of its units...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Everything comes according to time. The time is limited and we have to allot time. It will come up according to that...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We have been given notices of Calling-Attention Motions every week...

MR. SPEAKER : They have not been thrown away in the waste-paper basket. They will be considered.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Sir, 10,000 students under the leadership of West Bengal Chhatra Parishad, the students organization of Congress-I, took out a procession with a demand to provide free compulsory food to primary school students...

MR. SPEAKER : You give me in writing ; I will see.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Instead of allowing them to hand over their memorandum, they were brutally beaten...

MR. SPEAKER : You give in writing. Please sit down. Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : I have a small submission to make. I have given several notices concerning one matter. The whole House will agree with me on this. This is, about the closure of jute mills one after another in West Bengal. I have drawn the attention of the Commerce Minister...

MR. SPEAKER : You come to me in the Chamber. We shall discuss.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : It is reported that the International Airport Authority has given permission for construction of a five-star hotel near Sahar, International Airport Bombay, violating all rules...

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot discuss anything like this.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I have given Call Attention Notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I will see. I cannot discuss Call-Attention Notices on the floor of the House. I have to decide.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I have given notice of two privilege Motions also...

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking for their explanation. I have got your notices of privilege Motions.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara) : On the condition of the Tamils and refugees in Sri Lanka, I have been repeatedly giving Motions, and all of us are agitated...

MR. SPEAKER : You have not yet discussed that ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE : That was in the last Lok Sabha.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN ; We have been repeatedly urging you...

MR. SPEAKER : We had already decided...

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN ; There should be some sense of urgency.

MR. SPEAKER : It had already been decided in the Business Advisory Committee. It might have been postponed for some other reason. But we shall discuss it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY (Katwa) : Some days ago, the Home Minister had given a statement about

the defection of the Soviet diplomat. He told us that they were trying to ascertain the facts from the US Government. I want to know whether he got the information. So a further statement is required...

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU (Madras North): Some enforcement officers raided*

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed. This is not our job. This is a State subject.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi): The textile mills of Delhi are in a bad shape...

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this. You give notice...

SHRI LALIT MAKEN: This is a very important matter.—the closure of DCM ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. There is a calling attention notice with me. I will take a decision.

— — —

12 06 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Report and Audited Accounts of Narmada Control Authority

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): I beg to lay on the Tables a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority for the year ending the 30th June, 1984 along with Audited Accounts. [Placed in Library. *See*, No. LT—601/85].

Annual Report of and Review on Regional Engineering College, Silchar for 1983-84 and Annual Accounts of Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional College of Engineering and Technology, Surat for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): I beg to lay on the Table

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Silchar, for the year 1983-84.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Regional Engineering College, Silchar, for the year 1983-84. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—602/85]

(2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Durgapur, for the year 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—603/85].

(3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional College of Engineering and Technology, Surat, for the year 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—604/85].

Annual Report of and Review on National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta for 1982-83 and a Statement

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta, for the year 1982-83 along with Audited Accounts,

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta, for the year 1982-83.

*Not recorded.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—605/85].

Notification Under Indian Ports Act under National Highways Act and two statements re delay in laying these papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) A copy of the Madras Port (Harbour Craft) (Amendment) Rules, 1985, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 45(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 1985, under subsection 2-B of section 6 of the Indian Ports Act, 1908. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—606/85].
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956 :—
- (i) S.O. 865(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 1984, declaring road links connecting Nhava-Sheva Port Complex near Bombay to Panvel, as a National Highway.
- (ii) S.O. 868(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 1984, declaring Lucknow-Jagdishpur-Sultanpur-Jaunpur-Varanasi Road in Uttar Pradesh as a National Highways. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—607/85].
- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the notifications mentioned at (2)

above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—607/85].

Notification Amending previous Notification under Customs Act.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. G S R 287 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 141-Customs dated the 27th June, 1979 so as to delete the mode of packing specified for wet dates, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 (Placed in Library. See No. LT—608/85)

12.07 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA
SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return here with the Punjab Appropriation (Vote on account) Bill, 1985, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1985, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.
- (ii) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 189 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Punjab Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1985, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held

on the 26th March, 1985, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.

- (iii) In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 27th March, 1985, agreed without any amendment to the National Security (Amendment) Bill 1985 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1985.
- (iv) In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 27th March, 1985, agreed without any amendment to the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 1985, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1985."

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): What is your decision regarding the expunction of Prime Minister's remarks ?

MR. SPEAKER : You can come and discuss in my Chamber.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You want that we should meet you in your Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER : You are always welcome.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Kindly go through the proceedings.....

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing. It has already been decided. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

Mr. SPEAKER : The Deputy Speaker has decided it once for all.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Why do you want to raise it here ? I do not want to say anything. Whatever the Deputy Speaker has done, he has done. That is all. I stand by what the Deputy Speaker has done.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You have to go by the Rules.

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone by the Rules. Please sit down.....

(Interruption)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (RAJAPUR): We shall meet you in your Chamber and discuss it.

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ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

[English]

- (i) All India Council for Technical Education

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(Shri K. C. Pant) : I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of clause 1 (g) of paragraph 3 of the Ministry of Education Resolution No. F16-10/44-E. III, dated the 30th November, 1945 the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the All India Council for Technical Education for the term ending on the 31st July, 1985, subject to the other provisions of the said Resolution".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of clause 1 (g) of paragraph 3 of the Ministry of Education Resolution No. F16-10/44-E. III dated the 30th November, 1945, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the All India Council for Technical Education for the term ending on the 31st July, 1985,

subject to the other provisions of the said Resolution.”

The Motion was adopted.

(ii) All India Council for Technical Education

Shri K.C. Pant : I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of Section 31 (2) (k) of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council established under Section 31 (1) of the said Act.”

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of Section 31 (2) (k) of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council established under Section 31 (1) of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

(iii) Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Shri K.C. PANT : I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-clause (e) of clause 9 (1) of the Scheme for the Administration and Management of the Properties and Funds of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, read with Regulations 3.1 and 3.1.1 of the Regulations of the Institute, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the term ending on the 31st December, 1985.”

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-clause (e) of clause 9 (1) of the Scheme of the Administration

and Management of the Properties and Funds of the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore read with Regulations 3.1 and 3.1.1 of the Regulation of the Institute, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the term ending on the 31st December 1985”

The motion was adopted.

(iv) Court of the University of Delhi.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-clause (xix) of clause (1) of Statute 2 of the Statutes of the University of Delhi, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as member of the Court of the University of Delhi. The members so elected shall not be the employees of the University of Delhi or of a recognised College or Institution of that University”

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-clause (xix) of clause (1) of Statute 2 of the Statutes of the University of Delhi the member of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Court of the University of Delhi. The members so elected shall not be the employees of the University of Delhi or of a recognised College or Institution of that University”.

The motion was adopted.

(v) General Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of the provisions contained in rules 4 (ii) to (iv) and 15 of the Rules and

Regulations of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the General Council of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is : "That in pursuance of the provisions contained in rules 4 (ii) to (iv) and 15 of the Rules and Regulations of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, the member of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as members of the General Council of Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules and Regulations."

The motion was adopted

(vi) Coir Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN) : I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of sub-rule (1) (e) of rule 4 of the Coir Industry Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coir Board, for a term to be specified by the Central Government."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is : "That in pursuance of sub rule (1) (e) of rule 4 of the Coir Industry Rules, 1954 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coir Board for a term to be speci-

fied by the Central Government."

The motion was adopted

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

12.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) Need to implement properly the Employment Guarantee Scheme in Garh-Chirli (Maharashtra)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Employment Guarantee Scheme was introduced in Maharashtra in 1972 when the State was in the grip of famine in order to provide employment to everybody. Last year also Maharashtra was affected by famine, with the result that the villagers have no food to eat and the Government are not able to provide them with employment. The people are not getting work even at a daily wage of Rs. 2 and they are not being paid any unemployment allowance. Severe starvation conditions have developed there. The people of Garh-Chiroli, which is an Adivasi district, have neither clothes to wear nor food to eat. Because of their pitiable condition, they are being exploited also.

I request the Government to provide adequate funds to the Maharashtra Government so that the people may be provided with jobs or engaged in work on major irrigation schemes with a view to save them from starvation. The Employment Guarantee Scheme should also be properly implemented for the benefit of the people.

(ii) Need to provide STD facilities in Lakhimpur Kheri (U.P)

SHRIMATI USHA VERMA (Kheri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the proposal for the provision of microwave STD facilities in my district, Lakhimpur Kheri, which had been approved in 1977 by late Shri Verma, when he was himself in the Department of Communications. After conducting a survey, land was also acquired in Lakhimpur Kheri for the purpose. Some equipment had also reached there. Ever since I was elected from this area in

1980, the people of the area have constantly been making a demand in this regard. Since then I have been having correspondence in this regard and have been contacting the Ministers concerned. This work is lying incomplete for reasons unknown to this us.

I again request the hon. Minister of Communications to expedite the completion of this work so that the resentment among the local people of the area could be removed.

(lii) Demand for Environment Ministry instrecting the caustic soda Factory at karwar (karnatka) to properly treat the effluents which cause pollution by flowing into the sea.

**** SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK** (Kanara) : Karwar in Karnataka State has a factory which produces caustic soda. The effluents that come out of this factory flow to the sea. These effluents contain mercury, carbon and other poisonous materials and hence the sea water in that area is polluted. Large number of fish and other sea animals have died and the marine pollution is at a very high level. Thousands of fishermen are on the streets without jobs. Environment has been polluted and the flora and fauna are affected. Health of the people in this area has been affected. Sensing the seriousness of the health hazard, the Environment Board has oedered this factory to stop its production of caustic soda. But again the work has started. This has created great fear in the minds of the people of that area. It is very essential to remove poisonous materials from the effluents that come out of this factory. If proper and immediate steps are not taken in this regard. hundreds of people would also lose their lives. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Environment to give necessary instructions to this factory to make arrangements for properly treating the effluents.

(iv) Demand for Central Governments, directing Haryana and Rajasthan governments to keep Masani Barrage open throughout the year and not to store water in that Dam.

[English]

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : The State Government of
****The Speech was Originally delirened in Kannada.**

Haryana during the Janata Party rule at Centre forwarded to the Central Water commission for examining and approving a Project Report for construction of "Masani Dam" with "Barrage" on the Sahabi river near village Masani in district Mahendragarh of Haryana. The Project was accepted by the Planning Commission for implementation. The Government of Haryana started the construction work of "Masani Dam" in the year 1979 without obtaining permission from the State Government of Rajasthan. Central Water Commission and the Planning Commission have not kept in view the interests of the people of villages of Rajasthan State whose residential properties and agricultural lands would be submerged in the bed of "Masani Dam."

"Masani Dam" and "Barrage" will cause submergence of the *abadi* areas agricultured lands of several villages, viz., Akoli, Lalpur, Dhani Akoli, vijoli, Kaririwas, Jhokhawas, Rabadka, Bhattu Dhani, Mahesara, Jamalpur, Hajanaka, Narwas, Jatuwas, Khushkada and others. "Masani Dam" has alreedy been constructed and construction work of Barrage is in advance stage and it might be completed within a month. Residents and farmers who are owners of residential properties and agriculture lands situated in the affected villages have not been paid any compensation for being deprive of their properties.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to direct the State Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan that "Masani" Barrage" shall be kept open for all the months of the Year and no water would be stored in the Masani Dam. I also strees upon the fact that no village of Rajasthan State should be disloged because of this project.

[Translation]

(v) Need to take an early decision for the setting up of a coach factory at Gorakhpur.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Gorakhpur, the head quarters of the North-Eastern Railway is basically known as a Railway Town in U.P. On acount of its historical and industrial background, it is an important Junction Station of broad gauge and metre guage lines. Despite being the political, cul-

tural and educational centre for Deoria, Basti, Azamgarh and other neighbouring districts Gorakhpur is still industrially backward. Only a fertilizer factory could be set up there after Independence. A proposal to set up a railway coach factory in this region has been under consideration for a long time. Survey had been completed in Gorakhpur long ago. According to my information, the U.P. Government has made an offer to provide land and other facilities for the setting up of a coach factory in this district. A final decision has not so far been taken although this area is most suitable for the setting up of a coach factory. The workers, the educated unemployed and the common man of Gorakhpur are having many apprehensions in this regard. I, therefore, request the Central Government to take an early decision on the setting up of a coach factory at Gorakhpur.

[English]

(iv) Need to Convene a meeting of Chief Ministers of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh for clearing the Vamsadhara Project early.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Vamsadhara Project will be the life line for the people of the backward Srikakulam District in Andhra Pradesh. The Project report for Vamsadhara Stage II for Rs. 154.35 crores was sent to the Central Water Commission and Orissa Government during 1982-83. Late Sri Kedar Panday, the then Union Minister for Irrigation has held talks on 8-8-1982 at Visakhapatnam with the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Irrigation Minister for Orissa Government. It was broadly agreed on the outstanding issues of submission and flood discharge etc. Officers of Andhra Pradesh Government held meeting at New Delhi on 10-1-1984 with Officers of Central Water Commission and Orissa Government. Later, Project site was inspected by them on 10th and 11th February, 1984. There is urgent need for convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh by the Union Minister for irrigation and the Project report to be cleared by Central Water Commission.

So, I request the Government immediately to take necessary steps in this regard.

(vii) Demand for restoring the earlier timings of the Network Programme over the television in deference to the circles of the people of Tamil Nadu

SHRI. N. SOUNDARARAJAN (Sivakashi) : The network programme on Doordarshan is now starting from 8.30 p.m. and goes right into 10.15 p.m. The network programme is no different from the national programme. Some six months ago, the national programme also was advanced to 8.30 p.m. As this inhibited the tele-casting of programmes in Tamil, there was a widespread agitation all over Tamil Nadu for the revocation of the order of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry headed to the desire of the people of Tamil Nadu and revoked that order. Now the people of Tamil Nadu are again upset over the change of timing of Network programme. Language is very dear to the people; it is the sole force of the people. Hence, the Central Government should restore the earlier timings of network programme and respect the wishes of the people of Tamil Nadu.

(viii) Need for taking steps for clearance of accumulated stocks of handloom cloth and redressal of grievances of the weavers.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Handloom weavers are faced with serious problems due to the huge accumulation of handloom cloth without sale. Widespread suffering, unemployment and poverty prevail among the handloom weavers due to the stockpiling of stock. Immediate steps have to be taken to remove this accumulated stock. This can be done by purchase of the same by Government. The sales could be effected through cooperative institutions. Special rebate of 25 per cent has to be sanctioned. Loans at the rate of 60 per cent of production has to be given to the Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies. Specific reservation in favour of handloom has to be made by an enactment enabling produc-

tion of the ten varieties mentioned in the Textile Commissioner's reservation order under Essential Commodities Act and for prohibition of production of such varieties by mills or powerlooms. Government may be pleased to take early steps for the redressal of the grievances of the handloom weavers at the earliest.

12.22 hrs.

[English]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :
DISAPPROVAL OF REQUISITION-
ING AND ACQUISITION OF IMMO-
VABLE PROPERTY (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 1985

AND

REQUISITIONING AND ACQUI-
SITION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(AMENDMENT) BILL CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up items 13 and 14 together, namely : Further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Prof. Saif-up-Din Soz on the 27th March, 1985, namely :—

“This House disapproves of the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Ordinance, 1985 (Ordinance No. 2 of 1985) promulgated by the President on the 8th March, 1985.”

Further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Abdul Ghafoor on the 27th March, 1985, namely :

“That the Bill further to amend the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Vyas to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I was speaking on this Bill, which has particularly been brought for those properties and buildings in which

Government offices are located or which are being utilised for other Government purposes. Generally, the government requisition houses of big persons. As regards. The mode of fixation of rent after requisition, only this provision has been made that the competent authority would fix the rent. But no specific information has been given about the mode of fixation. In this respect I would like to submit that it has been the objection of the house-owners that the rents which were fixed 10 to 15 years ago, are not revised early. That is why the house-owners avoid letting out their houses. I suggest that it should be provided in the beginning that if the period of requisition is extended, the rent would also be enhanced for the extended period and the rate thereof should also be fixed so that the house-owners do not have any objection. The reason for the litigation in the courts is that if the market rent at present is Rs. 1000, the government are paying what was fixed 20 years ago. Such difficulties are being experienced in this metropolitan cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Government do not fix rents keeping in view the increase that has occurred in rents of the buildings in these cities during the past few years. The Competent authority does not fix rents according to the prevalent rate, which causes resentment.

I would like to say one thing more. The day before yesterday, I raised a question that a Government Officer takes a house building advance of Rs. 100,000 from the Government, but actually he spends Rs. 20 to 25 lakhs on the construction of his house. The Government do not make any enquiry as to how he had amassed these assets. Later on, these let out offices buildings to the government at an exorbitant rent. Higher rent is fixed for the houses of the government officers and if the house belongs to a common man, the rent is fixed at the rate which existed 10 years ago. This discrimination is causing resentment among the people. Some

clear-cut provision should be made in this regard, so that there is no resentment in the matter of requisition of houses. This is particularly true about the Metropolitan cities. Dockyards have no godowns of their own to store their goods. It is the responsibility of your department to arrange land or accommodation for them according to their needs. Similarly, in other cities, there are some revenue earning departments, like Customs and Excise. They have their own buildings at very few places. The matter of fixing the compensation or the rent for the houses taken on rent for them is very complicated. If a particular house does not come under their jurisdiction, they have to face great difficulty in acquiring it. As a result, your departments are facing difficulties at different places. Previously, you fixed a period of five years for acquiring houses. Later on, it was extended to 10 years and now you want to further extend it by 2 years. What guarantee are you proposed to give that this period would not be extended after the expiry of these 2 years? You have yourself accepted that you do not have sufficient number of buildings at your disposal. You must, therefore, bring forward a legislation within a period of 2 years, which should provide that the government can keep a particular house for as long as they need. If this is done, there will be no need to bring amendments time and again. I request you to prepare a list indicating the names of various departments which are in need of accommodation at different places. In this way, your department will be benefited and the state of uncertainty would end. It will also free the government of litigations going on in the high courts and other courts. There are some glaring short comings in this Bill, but till I support this Bill and draw your attention to all this things. I again request you to bring forward a Bill so that you may not have to face difficulties in future.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO (Berhampur : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Bill, I wish to make a few observations. The power for requisitioning and acquisition of property was given to the Government during the Second World War under the Defence of India rules. Some buildings were found necessary for certain new Government Departments which had to be opened to combat the war. So, buildings continued to be in the possession of Government and its Departments. There was no time-limit when the requisitioned building would be surrendered. It went on and in 1952 this Act was passed. It gave power to the Government to requisition and acquire land for a public purpose. where the public purpose for which a building or land was requisitioned by the Defence Ministry ceases to exist, Government continued to be in occupation of these premises, on the ground that though the public purpose originally intended was over, there was still a public purpose because they wanted the buildings for some other department. There was on time-limit in the Act, by which time the requisition would come to an end.

In 1970, the Act was amended to say that the requisitioned property should be surrendered within 15 years of the date of requisition or that it should be acquired within 15 years, under Section 7 of the Act. Then, the Act again was amended in 1980 regarding the payment of compensation. For the requisitioned building, the rent that is paid is called compensation. It is not rent, because they do not treat it as a relationship between a landlord and the tenant. So, when the premises are requisitioned, Government feels that it has become the owner of the premises; and the poor owner is driven to the streets. No principle is laid down in the Act, and there is no rule framed under

[Shri Jagannath Rao]

the Act according to which compensation is to be fixed.

As my hon. friend earlier stated, suppose a building was requisitioned, say, 30 years ago, in 1952. Government has been in possession. What is the rent payable to him? what are the circumstances that should be taken into consideration in revising the rent? The policy of revision of rent was also introduced for the first time in 1975, if I am right. So the owner is not able to get back the requisitioned premises, though he wants it for his own use. In respect of the requisitioned premises in possession of the Government, Government's position should be in the nature of a tenant; and the owner of the building should continue to be the owner. But the position has been reversed. Government feels that it has become the owner, and the poor owner has no place. These are the practical difficulties.

Now the Minister says, in the objects of the Bill, that in two years' time Government will be in a position to vacate or surrender all the requisitioned premises. I have my grave doubts. I was Minister of Works and Housing some years ago. I know the difficulties. Government is not able to construct buildings for its departments all over the country. This two year period, I think, is too short. I can never imagine that the Government would be in a position to surrender these requisitioned buildings within two years' time. I am sure it will come back again to Parliament for a further extension.

I would like to have a list of requisitioned buildings, the dates of requisition, the dates when any of them were surrendered, or when the land was acquired. I do not think the Minister would be in a position to give this, because there are so many buildings all over the country, which are in Government's possession. The poor owner applies to the Government for release.

Even after retirement when he wants his own flat so requisitioned during war time, he is not able to get possession. Therefore, Government should be in the position of a tenant, so that the provisions of the Rent control Act would apply. So, where the owner needs it for his own personal use, Government should vacate it. But those provisions do not apply because of this special Act which we have already passed.

So, this is the situation. And the compensation that is paid even after revision after five years, is so meagre that the poor owners are driven the courts. So many petitions are pending in High Courts and the Supreme Court. Therefore, Government should feel that it should, as a duty, view these cases with sympathy, so that what is due legitimately to the owner is given by way of compensation.

A large number of pending cases in the High Courts and Supreme Court are those which relate to disputes between the citizen and the State. Even where the State feels that the citizen has the right, Government does not concede it. They say: "Let the court decide", and the poor citizen has to engage lawyers and fight the litigation out.

These are circumstances which are unreasonable. At the same time, the government has been constructing so many buildings, but it does not construct them for their own purpose. I know the building in Calcutta which has come up earlier and is now under construction. I do not think it will be sufficient to house all the departments in Calcutta. So also is the case in Bombay. The principle of revision of rent every five year should be applied to cases where lease is taken by the government from the owner. This lease was taken some 20 years ago at a particular rate per sq. ft. Meanwhile, the corporation tax and the cities have increased considerably. The owners apply to the Ministry for revision

189 *Statutory Resolution Re : CHAITRA 7, 1907 (SAKA) 1985, and Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill- Contd.*

of rent at least to pay the additional levy of corporation tax that has been levied, but the Ministry does not listen to reasons what can a poor citizen do? These are difficulties which the poor owner who are citizens of this country are facing. So, this Bill, though I am inclined to support it will be a great hardship on the citizens. Therefore, I would very kindly request the Minister not to come forward again after two years but see that all the requisitioned buildings and premises are surrendered under Section 6 of the Act as also the difference is paid once you acquire a portion of the land which has been requisitioned. Then the question is when a portion of the land is acquired, what would be the value of the other portion which is not acquired? The value of the land goes down. These are the difficulties. The principle enumerated in the Land Acquisition Act should be applied in such cases so that the citizen is not at a disadvantage because the Government is all powerful. Therefore, please act as a tenant and not as a super land lord or super owner. In the circumstances mentioned in the statement of objects and Reasons, I have no option but to support the Bill I support it.

[Translations]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahababad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill, which has been introduced in the House, seeks to extend the period of 15 years for which a property can be requisitioned by another two years. In this connection I would like to submit that the property already requisitioned by them could not be put to proper use. They become owners of the land requisitioned by them and do not pay the due compensation or the compensation at the market rate on account of which landowners face great difficulty and suffer heavy loss. I am in favour of extending the period, but the properties requisitioned by them should

be put to proper use. Plots of land are acquired but no record is maintained thereof which causes great difficulties and harassment to the persons whose land is acquired.

Keeping in view all these things steps should be taken to ensure that the land owners are not put to any difficulty on this account. I have nothing more to say in this regard,

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Bill.

It is true that the rules framed regarding the requisitioning of property are not proper. The market rates increase every year and we should pay rent or compensation accordingly. During the last Session we passed a Land Acquisition Act in the Lok Sabha and a cross section of the Members had expressed their views at that time. Hon. Minister, Sir, There are a large number of complaints particularly about your Department. You do enact legislations saying that compensation would be paid at the market rates, but actually you do not pay it. You know how your Ministry are acquiring the Land of the farmers at cheap rates which is an unjust to them. They are neither paid adequate compensation nor given employment. Even plots are not allotted to these whose lands are acquired.

You have a place to construct houses on a mass scale in big cities, but the speed with which you are constructing these houses is very slow. Through this Bill, you have sought extension for two years, not beyond that. How clever your Department is! when the period of this law was about to expire, They got an ordinance promulgated. It has brought a bad name to us and it is due to the inefficiency of your Department.

You should get the quality of the material of the flats, etc., constructed

[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

through your department, checked. Your department has earned a bad name for it throughout the country. Just see the condition of the flats in which we are living. The BARSATIS constructed in these flats are substandard, No cement, etc., has been used in them. You have made the payment also for these barsatis, You have a set of contractors who are entrusted with this work I have even written to you against a contractor in this regard.

You have chalked out a plan to construct houses on a large scale in big cities. Which are the cities where you propose to construct houses expeditiously? You have constructed houses in Bombay, you are going to construct house in Calcutta which are the places where you propose to construct houses speedily? As long as the speed of the construction is not accelerated by your Department, the people would not get houses early. Therefore, of your Department must work at a faster pace.

You have a number of schemes in the Seventh Plan. You will require many buildings for that purpose. We have raised our Defence Budget by Rs. 77000 crores. We shall have to requisition buildings in big cities for the Defence Department and you have sought only two years, extension of this law. I want that you should seek extension beyond that period also.

The Bill should also have an unambiguous provision to the effect provision that compensation would be paid at the prevailing market rates.

Sir, I know that the Executives, C.M.D. and other officials of the public undertakings get a higher rent fixed for the buildings hired by the undertakings in collusion with the property dealers in big cities, and the rent actually paid is far less than that. This is happening in all the big cities including Delhi.

The rent actually paid is less than that shown to have been paid.

This is a small but important Bill. It becomes all the more important in view of the expansion of building activity in our country. Therefore, I want that there should be a provision in the Bill itself for the competent authority to pay compensation at market rates. There should be increase in the rate of compensation in proportion to the rise in the price of land in big cities.

Ours is a welfare state. We have to acquire lands in the public interest. But, acquisition does not mean exploitation. We should not allow any form of exploitation.

In the end, I would like to say that an efficient Minister has now taken charge of this Department. We are conversant with his style of functioning and with his approach. We want that he should chastise his Department a bit. The bunglings of the material going on in the matter of the quality material and price should not be allowed to continue. engineers feel lucky if they find a job in your Department. You should not allow any slackness in your Department now and should instead enforce strictness. I am sure, you will take steps in this regard.

What strictness is to be enforced? The first thing to be seen is who was responsible for getting an ordinance issued when the period of the Act was about to expire. The person who is responsible for it should be punished so that the work in this Department goes on smoothly in future

Yours is a Department which affects the vocal section of society, who criticise your Department throughout the country. Therefore this needs to be given attention to.

I conclude by saying that you should pay compensation for lands at market rates and should be found a comprehensive Bill for This purpose.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN Das MUNSI (Howrah) : I can appreciate the position of the Government that it had no other alternative but to bring the Ordinance to avoid litigation. I would like to highlight a few points because the city which is affected greatly in the extension of this Bill is the city of mine i. e. Calcutta.

During the British days, people built their houses. In those days Calcutta was the city of Calcutta lords or Calcutta babus, who, now a days, are no more babus but have their properties within the city of Calcutta. During the Second World war and after that also, most of their properties inside the city, which is called Chowrangee area, have been requisitioned by the Government. Most of the Government offices have been functioning from there. My fundamental question before the Minister is what is your actual policy and planning in regard to determining the requirement of houses for the Government departments in a particular period and how do you actually implement it? Is it that you obtain information from respective Ministries and then go for it? Or do you evolve a policy which you call a perspective plan for another five years as per the capacity of different Ministries and their expansion and how much area and space they require? I think, the Ministry has been functioning in this matter in a very *ad hoc* manner resulting in untimely requisitioning and extending the scope of the Bill has now become compulsory. I, therefore, request the Minister to explain as to how they evolve the policy for constructing houses for Government offices here and there and especially in big cities like Calcutta Bombay and Madras.

While constructing a new house for an office complex you have certain policies and framework to calculate the depreciation values as well as other cost of maintenance. Will you kindly inform

the House as to how you calculate the depreciation value of the requisitioned properties which you have requisitioned 10, 15 or 30 years ago? If you compare both, you will find that the properties which have been requisitioned 30 years ago on lease or any other term, their depreciation value and maintenance cost are not taken in that seriousness as it is done for new by constructed houses for office complex. It is in one way denying the right or legally speaking, denying justice of equality between the citizens and the Government office. I personally feel that this should also be taken care of. If some lacung is there, kindly find it out and see that when two years period is over, they are adequately compensated so far as depreciation and maintenance cost are concerned. I have seen that whenever Government do-requisition a house, it gives it back to the owner in such a condition that it does not remain habitable. And to make the house habitable or suitable for renting again, the owner has to spend a sum which he might not have accrued during the last 10 or 15 years i. e. all through the lease period. This is the great suffering of a large number of people in the city of Calcutta, who complain to us in this regard. Kindly see that they are not treated in this manner. Whenever you do-requisition a property, please see that it is handed over in a proper condition. Otherwise, what happens is that even after de-requisitioning, it takes quite a lot of time for the owner to put the house in a proper condition. The owner of the house suffers for nothing. The Government does not pay any compensation, Why should it be? If you de-requisition a house, before handing it over to the owner, put it in proper condition or pay him the compensation.

Another thing I would request the Minister to consider is about the bank buildings. I do not know the policy of the Government in this regard, he may spell it out. The banks pay a higher

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsii]

rent whenever they get a good house whereas I have seen that whenever some other Departments requisition a house, they pay very poor rent. Why should this discrimination be there? Why should there not be a uniformity of rent in the case of all Government departments whether it is a bank or Health or Defence or any other department? If you make a study, you will find that the premises requisitioned for banks fetch higher rent than the premises requisitioned for other departments, even for the Defence establishments. Long back the DGOF's office in Calcutta had requisitioned a property; that office has now been shifted from there. They used to pay more rent whereas certain other departments are paying less. I would request you to kindly find out why this disparity is there. Since you had assured the property owners last time here, on the floor of this House, that you will not trouble them after the period of requisitioning was over, accordingly they have planned certain things that after five years they will use their property either for shops or for a trade complex, and for that purpose they have invested some infrastructure and have brought some of their friends and relatives also. Now if you extend the period by another two years, in what manner are you going to compensate them? Therefore my request to you is that those who will come within the ambit of this Bill, that means, those who will have to suffer for another two years, should be adequately compensated by paying them more rent than in the past so that they get adequate compensation for the investment they have already made anticipating that they will get their property back after the expiry of five years. If you do not do it, it will be an injustice to them, and having been a student of law I tell you that if on this ground somebody goes to the court, you will be in the dock. It is a question of property. You cannot do like this.

Therefore, I request you to kindly consider all these suggestions and cover them in your reply. After two years please don't come here and say that you want to extend the period by another one year or two years. If you do so, you will yourself be requisitioned at that time. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL RASID KABLI (Srinagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that, in fact, there is nothing extraordinary in this Bill. You have sought extension only for two years. So far as this Bill is concerned, you are seeking amendment in the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act to enable you to get more time. You requisition properties and release them later. You have sought two years for this purpose. Having come into effect in 1970, it should have expired in 1985. But, you are seeking two years extension for it. I think, you should not bring piecemeal legislation. You have paid that properties worth over five crores of rupees have been requisitioned by the defence forces. I am of the view that you should examine the whole issue carefully. Thereafter, you should bring an amendment for the extension of the period at least ten or twenty years. After that, if the Government feel further need extension, the period can be extended by two to four years. The whole aspect requires a thorough study. It has been mentioned that you have been releasing properties in Calcutta no government property is being built at any place. You are releasing property at some places, whereas at other places you are acquiring. I want to know one thing which concerns Jammu and Kashmir. The State of Jammu and Kashmir touches the borders of China and Pakistan. Complaints are pouring in from the entire Jammu Sector, the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh that the Armed

Forces are in need of land. They have already acquired a lot of it. The Government needed land for the airport at Srinagar. Similarly, the army needed land at Aurentipura for airport facilities. The area of Badgaon falls in my constituency and aerodroms were constructed in that area, one each for the army and the civilians. For that purpose, they got most of the land evacuated from the people. The people around that area and the villagers were asked to vacate and move away. Anyway, if our Defence Forces need land, nobody can have any grouse in this regard, but the question is that the claims for their lands should be assessed in accordance with the prevailing market rates. The price of land in and around Srinagar has gone up to Rs. 100,000 per 'konal' and at some places, you would not get land even at this price. But this aspect is not taken into consideration while acquiring land for our Armed Forces. Then, the people whose lands were acquired are tillers, peasants who used to work on the lands to raise crops, whereby they used to get benefit and so did the State, but they are not being paid reasonable compensation for their lands. This is most regrettable. In Uri Tangdar Rajauri and Pooch, thousands of such cases are lying pending. I had been a Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly for about 11 years and during these 11 years I continuously tried to find out a solution to this, but failed because this subject does not come under the State's Jurisdiction. Therefore, I want you to pay attention to Jammu and Kashmir where not hundreds but thousands of such cases are lying pending. The poor people have been rendered homeless, they have been evacuated from their agricultural lands, but their compensation claims are still pending. Since your propose to extend that period by another two years through this Bill, I want to draw your attention to that problem. There is no doubt and nobody can grudge that our

Armed Forces need land, but the cases of compensation for these lands are still lingering on. Through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister also that the people whose lands were acquired were poor farmers, Gujars, living on the hills for centuries. Their lands were agricultural lands and now they have been rendered almost homeless, no land worth cultivating has been left with them and they are facing a critical problem. I went to bring that issue to your notice. I do not know whether the State Government have brought that matter to your notice or not, but since this matter has been raised here now, I want you to give your attention to that also. You must, take this matter up with the Ministry of Defence and see that some solution is found to the hundreds and thousands of cases lying pending for a long time. Arrangements should be made to pay them compensation and to rehabilitate them as soon as possible. For providing relief also, you will have to talk to the concerned Ministry.

In the end, I would also say that we have no objection to your extending the period by two years. But, I would again submit that, as was said yesterday also, the summons were issued, perhaps, on the 5th-it is for the Secretariat to clarify what the correct date was-but according to us, the ordinance was issued on the 8th, whereas, Parliament was due to meet from the 13th. This brief period there was not a big gap between 5th and 8th and between 8th and 13th was not that long a period which would have resulted in a revolution or created a crisis in case you had not issued the ordinance for another four or five days and brought forward this Bill formally in Parliament. I would repeat what the Members from the Treasury Benches as also the oppositor have said that for God's sake keep it in mind in future. It does not matter if there is a long gap between the issuance of an ordinance and the sitting

[Shri Abdul Rashid Kabuli]

of Parliament, but if the gap is not that long, you need not issue a separate ordinance but instead bring that forward in Parliament in the form of a Bill. I hope you will keep this in mind in future and will also throw some light on this issue.

13.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the point raised by my friend Shri Kabuli regarding the dates 5th and 8th is true, but I will explain what made us adopt this course.

Last time, when this amendment was made, its life was fixed at five year and it was to expire on the 10th March. Had we not promulgated this ordinance and had instead brought forward a Bill in Parliament, it would have taken at least some time before it could have been passed. In the meantime, all the people whose properties were requisitioned would have gone to the court praying for restoration of their properties as they could not be held any more according to the Act. That was why an ordinance was promulgated and it was decided simultaneously to have a Bill passed in this very session to provide safe guard against this lacuna.

One thing I want to make absolutely clear. Almost all the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion were of the view that nothing substantial could be achieved in two years and that we could easily extend this law by five years, instead of two years. But when the amendment was made last. Government had taken five years time and it was decided at that time that all the requisitioned properties would be restored to the owners in a phased manner many of the properties have already been restored. But about 200 properties and 8,000 acres of land, particularly with the Defence Department have not

been restored. Government also fully realise its importance, but two years extension has been sought because our conscience is clear and we would restore all the properties within two years.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : When you could not do so in five years, how do you propose to do it in two years ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : Since you are in a que Mr. Daga, please wait for some time.

You think that all this is the making of the Ministry of works and housing It is not so. You realise our difficulty, also. The Defence Department, the Posts and Telegraphs Department the Railways and the education Ministry all of them acquire properties, but I have to shoulder all their responsibility. Therefore, you should have some sympathy for me. The entire burden of answerability falls on me. Therefore, I have decided to extend it by two years and all the Departments are being asked to release the properties within this period. I hope all these properties would be released within two years, maybe before that. In case some department do not release the property, they are empowered to acquire it and pay compensation at the market rates, but it is not proper to retain it indefinitely. The state Governments have pointed out that the rents were fixed 20 years back and the payment is being made at these rates even today// There is a provision in the Act that after five years the owner of the house, whose property has been requisitioned would apply to the Government and get the rent fixed mutually and if there is disagreement between the two there is a further provision namely that both of them would jointly appoint an arbitrator and the decision of the arbitrator would be binding on both. //

My friend Shri, Priya Ranjan Das Munshi has also raised this question

that the banks hire property at high rent but the properties which were requisitioned long back, are at lower rates of rent. Therefore, we want that all these properties should be restored to their owners. As per the all India figures, which we have collected. There are hardly 200 such properties, some of which are residential and some non-residential while some of this land. Land has mostly been requisitioned by the Defence Department. If the Defence Department require land for storing purposes and for manufacturing additional equipment, they should acquire that land. They should not keep that land on rent. I am sure, like me, the owners of these properties would continue to pursue with every Department about the whole thing. They would continue to fight as long as these things do not come to an end. I hope as we shall solve this problem within two years. The entire cabinet met and discussed this matter and then only the ordinance was promulgated. Therefore, they know their responsibility. Now the Department would have to see what their requirements are. In Calcutta and Bombay, some buildings are ready after construction and many offices have been shifted. There are many others are proposed to be shifted. We seeking two years extension to undo the injustice, about which a hint has been given. We would have easily extended this law by five years, had we wanted to do so. We can of course imagine the difficulties that would be there in two years. Therefore, I would request the hon. Members to pass this Bill in order to convert this ordinance into an Act.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : I would request the hon. Minister to pay attention to the problem of Jammu and Kashmir. They have acquired most of the lands for Defence Forces. In respect of some lands, compensation should be paid at the market rates but no compensation has yet been paid. Thousands of people in our border areas are facing this

problem. I want that you should give an assurance in this regard.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : I have got the figures with me. The figure is 8,400.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : You ask our Guptaji who would vouchsafe that this problem is there in Jammu, Laddakh as also in Kashmir, but no solution seems to be in sight. The people have been rendered homeless. The people whose lands were acquired are cultivators, Gujars, the people belonging to weaker sections and they are indistress. I want you to give us an assurance that you would talk to the Defence Ministry and that the matter of compensation would be settled as soon as possible. An assurance should also be given to the effect that compensation would be given at the prevailing market rates, as the litigation has been going on for the last ten years. The problem should be solved as early as possible, because thousands of people have been affected because of negligence.

[English]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : May I ask two or three clarifications ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Only one clarification. That is all, I won't allow any speech.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I will ask only clarifications and nothing more.

I want to know whether all the Departments which have got immovable properties have given in writing that they will vacate them within two years. I think you have received applications from the various Departments stating that they will be vacating these properties within two years. Which are the Departments which have given you in writing like that ? If those properties are not returned to the owners within two years, will the Government pay compensation to them ? This is one thing which I want to know from you.

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

Secondly, suppose you have assured the House that within two years the properties will be returned to the owners. But if they are not returned, what further steps you will take ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I asked you to ask for one clarification only. That is all.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : He has not given the names of the properties. Please sit down.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I don't allow the second one.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR: Ministry of Works and Housing : 5 Residential, 34 for office and other purposes.

Ministry of Defence : 26 Residential, 5 others.
(Interruptions). 4,164 acres.

Ministry of Communications)
(Interruptions).

SHRI RAJ MANGAL PANDE : The question is different and the answer is different.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please don't interrupt. I do not allow. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruption)*

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR: He wants to know whether the other Ministries have given in writing that they would release the properties. He is, perhaps, aware that whatever work is done here is done with joint responsibility. The question comes before the Cabinet which decides whether a Bill is to be brought forward or an ordinance is to be promulgated, which names that it has been done with joint consent. Therefore, I think, Shri Daga will not have to wait for long.

On the other hand, with regard to the point which Shri Kabuli has raised, I want to tell him that I know that a lot of land was requisitioned by the Defence Department. In the ordinary

course, had it been some other Department, the lands would have been vacated within five or six months, but in the case of Defence, it will take quite time. We shall try to get it settled as soon as possible with the same view-point which have in mind.

(English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Soz, are you withdrawing the Resolution ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Bara-mulla) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that my resolution has evoked very great response from both sides of the House. I was particularly happy yesterday when Prof. Ranga congratulated me on bringing this resolution before this august House. But I am a little sorry for Mr. Abdul Ghafoor because, I don't think it is his fault that he got this ordinance before this House. Perhaps, he is answering for the evils that have accumulated throughout the administration in various Ministeries. I do not hold the Works and Housing Minister to be answerable. But since it pertains to his Department, he has to answer and reply to these queries.

The matter of requisitioning and acquisition of land is a very important one because for years together, you remain undecided whether you have to acquire a property or not. You have said that you have 200 properties only and you have requisitioned only 8,400 acres. I don't have any access to the place where the data are prepared. But I feel, roughly I have an impression, that this figure of 8,400 acres is wrong. Perhaps, it has not been properly calculated as to what is the number of acres you want to acquire or requisition. But I will raise that issue later. But at this time, apart from the fact that most of the Ministries remain undecided particularly, the Ministry of Defence as to what lands they have to acquire finally, the time lag is very long. The Ministries remain undecided. That is

a national loss. Wherever there is a piece of land, it is not cultivated, no buildings are erected there. That land is not put to any use. It is a national loss. The owner cannot sell that land.

There are places where there is extreme shortage of land. Unfortunately, I belong to a place where there is extreme shortage of land, i.e. Baramulla. Baramulla town is surrounded by mountains. There is a small valley. There is hardly any land. I invite the Works and Housing Minister to Baramulla and he can see for himself. Perhaps he had not been to Kashmir. He can visit Kashmir, the beautiful valley either in April or May. These are the beautiful months and he will see a situation where people have started construction of houses on the mountains, because the best piece of land is under the Army occupation. The rent paid is very meagre. After all, the people of Baramulla or the people of any place in India are the citizens of this great country. Defence is very important. But the freedom of citizens is also equally important. They must have a say. They fix the rent and the people have to accept it.

I may bring to the notice of the hon. Minister—let him kindly raise it with the Defence Ministry—that the rent they pay to the people of Baramulla is very meagre. They even went to the Deputy Commissioner saying that they would not accept it. But what could they do? What could the Deputy Commissioner or the Chief Minister do? What could they do because Defence is very important?

More objectionable is that Baramulla is a very small valley and half of the land is under the Army occupation. The army could have the land. But there are other pieces of land that the Army could have. But in the heart of the Baramulla city, they have the biggest chunk of land under the Army

occupation. A very meagre rent is being paid for that.

Similar situations may be existing in other places throughout the country. This is the basic flaw in the problem of requisitioning and acquisition of land and immovable property. But much more than this is the question of dignity and honour of this House.

SHRI RAJ MANGAL PANDE :
 On a point of order, Sir.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I do not think there is any point of order involved here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI RAJ MANGAL PANDE :
 This Bill applies to the whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir...

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : It is a connected problem.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN SOZ : There must be prepared to answer how the Army got that land. I have raised a major question. This is the basic flaw in the law. Baramulla is only an example. In this great country, there are many other places which suffer from the same difficulty. My question is not only relating to the inherent flaw in the law but also how they acquire property, how there is a long time—gap and how the people suffer. They do not make up their mind for decades. But much more than that is the question of promulgating an ordinance like this. My question is that the very honour and dignity of the Parliament is in jeopardy.

Yesterday, I had raised the question as to how Mr. Mavalankar thought about it. I had explained how our great Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, reacted at that time. A very long corres-

[Shri Saifuddin Soz]

pondence had ensued. I will not repeat all that today. But I would tell you how Mr. Mavalankar continued to write to the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. In 1954, he wrote a letter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You just tell the gist of that.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I will tell you the gist of that.

Before doing that, I will refer to Dr. Ambedkar's view. He was of the view that the President could have the power of issuing an Ordinance but, as to when the President can exercise that power, not every now and then, not at any time when the proposal is made before the President. Dr. Ambedkar agreed that there should be a provision in the Constitution for promulgation of an Ordinance. But he was equally convinced at the time when the Clause on Ordinances was being debated in the Constituent Assembly that such power must vest in the executive. He said :

"It is not difficult to imagine cases where the powers conferred by the ordinary law existing at any particular moment may be deficient to deal with a situation which may suddenly and immediately arise. The emergency must be dealt with and, it seems to me that the only solution is to confer on the President the power to promulgate a law which will enable the executive to deal with that particular situation."

Both the wording of the Clause in the Constitution and Dr. Ambedkar's defence of it make it clear that an ordinance must be resorted to only in the event of an emergency when immediate executive action is called for.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Therefore, I stress the point that

the first Lok Sabha had envisaged and had visualised a situation that there would be an erosion of the authority of Parliament and the dignity of Parliament would be brought into jeopardy. Therefore, before I close my speech on this resolution, I must remind this august House of what Ambedkar finally wrote to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he was the Prime Minister of this great country. Hon. Speaker Mavalankar in his letter of July, 17, 1954, to the Prime Minister said :

"The issue of an Ordinance is undemocratic."

There was a long correspondence between Shri Mavalankar and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. But this letter of 17th July, 1954 to the Prime Minister of India is a clear indication of how Shri Mavalankar finally thought on the problem of issuing Ordinances.

"The issue of an Ordinance is undemocratic and cannot be justified except in cases of extreme urgency or emergency We, as the first Lok Sabha, carry a responsibility of laying down traditions. It is not a question of present personal in the Government but a question of precedents and if this Ordinance issuing is not limited by convention only to extreme and very urgent cases, the result may be that, in future the Government may go on issuing Ordinances giving Lok Sabha no option but to rubber-stamp the Ordinance. I am invite your attention to one more aspect namely the financial aspect involved in the amendment to the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922. It is not directly a taxation measure. But is intended for the purpose of collection of taxes. Indirectly, it affects the finances and it

would be a wrong precedent to have an Ordinance for such a purpose."

It means that there can be many matters on which Government will from a habit of putting forth Ordinances before Parliament. It is just an Ordinance in the same series. So, Shri Mavlankar had cautioned this country in 1954 finally, and since Ordinances like this are going to erode the authority of the Parliament, I take it as a great affront to the dignity of this Parliament. I press this resolution wholeheartedly with all the vigour at my command. It is for you to maintain the dignity at honour of this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you withdrawing your resolution ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I am pressing my/Resolution for the sake of principle. Had they not issued Ordinance, what will happen ? Would the people go and acquire the land ?

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Ordinance too has been issued in exceptional circumstances. This Act, which was valid for a period of five years, would have expired on the 10th of this month. Even if we had introduced a Bill in this House on the 10th itself, it would have taken one month to get it passed after discussion and by that time we would have lost all the properties and there would have been litigation all over India. Therefore an Ordinance was issued to avoid this situation. The Bill has been introduced within 2 to 3 days of the commencement of the session and within two years all the things would be settled. It is not that the prestige of the House has not been taken care of. I have already stated that it is not a question of one department, but all the Government departments in India but the reply has to be given by the Housing Minister. Keeping

this contingency in mind, had the Ordinance not been issued before the 10th of this month, all the properties which were mentioned by you in the House earlier, would have gone under litigation. All the owners would have gone to the courts stating that the Government had no right any more to keep those properties under their control. Had this thing happened, there would have been commotion in the entire country, because there are certain sensitive departments like the Departments of Communication and Defence which would have been affected. That is why this Ordinance was issued. I, therefore, request that keeping the above in view, you may withdraw your Resolution.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Barmulla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the Minister of Works and Housing Shri Ghafoor, is concerned, I have no doubt about his intention. Actually, it is his Department which has created this situation which left to other option with him except to issue this Ordinance. The matter does not relate to 10th or 8th March, it relates to January when the House was in session. Why was the Bill not brought forward at that time ? If a small officer, I do not mean it salary-wise, holding a post in a Ministry shows slackness, no one holds him responsible for that and it is the Minister who has to pay for his slackness and the status of the President is affected thereby.

[English]

The President should not be prepared to sign Ordinances at any moment of time. He must take into account the dignity of the House.

[Translation]

Shri Ghafoor's point is correct that on the 10th of March this law would have expired and the Government would have had to part with a good deal of land. But the matter relates not to the 10th or the 8th March, but to January.

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

At that time the first session was being held. Why was this Bill not brought forward at that time? This means that the slackness and the carelessness in the Department should be checked and the President should also take note of this.

[English]

He does not have any Constitutional authority over the head of Parliament. Parliament is the supreme legislative authority.

[Translation]

The dignity of Parliament is in danger. Therefore, I am not withdrawing this resolution, rather I vehemently seek the support of the House for my Resolution.

[English]

My Resolution will remain. Of course, they have the power to negative it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“This House disapproves of the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment), Ordinance, 1985 (Ordinance No. 2 of 1985) promulgated by the President on the 8th March, 1985.”

The Motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill further to amend the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable property, Act, 1952, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

“That Clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill

Clause I, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : Sir, I beg to move :

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted

13.28 hrs.

HANDLOOMS (RESERVATION OF
ARTICLES FOR PRODUCTION)
BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER : The House will now take up item 15 of the agenda. The Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to
move :

“That the Bill to provide for reservation of certain articles for exclusive production by handlooms and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

This is a very important Bill. Handloom is a very important sector of the textile industry. We have about 3.5 million looms spread all over the country and it gives employment to about 10 million people. It is from this point of view that Government has been taking a special care to see that the handloom industry is protected and that the weavers of our country are also protected. During the First Five Year Plan the Central allocation for the development of handloom was only Rs. 11.10 crores and by the Sixth Five Year Plan it has gone up to Rs. 120 crores. An equal amount has also been earmarked in the State Plans. Now our handloom sector produces about 3252 million metres of cloth which is roughly 30% of the total production of cloth in the country. If we look at the export front also, the handloom industry has been doing very well and in 1983-84 the total foreign exchange earned from this sector is to the tune of Rs. 310 crores. Now, because the handloom sector is spread all over the country, it is very difficult for the sector to compete with the other two sectors of the industry, namely, the mill and the powerlooms because the mill and powerlooms have superior technology and they have also higher productivity and they are better located. Therefore, from the very beginning the Government of India had been reserving certain items for exclusive production by the handloom sector. This was done for the first time in 1950 by the Textile Commissioner under the powers conferred on him in clause 20 of the Cotton Textile Control Order, 1948. Then in 1955 it was brought under the provision of Sec. 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. But of late we have been facing some problems because some people have gone to the court challenging this very order of the Government of India. Therefore, from various forums there has been a demand that there should be a legislation which should give protection to handloom and to achieve this object, we have brought forward this Bill which has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

In the present textile policy handloom occupies a very important place.

Now you are aware we are on the formulation of a new textile policy and I can assure the House that the handloom sector will continue to occupy an important place in our new policy also...

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: (Kurnool) : Sir, he was telling of the new textile policy. But even a sketch of it he has not given.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : After the speech is over, you can ask for clarifications.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I have said that under the existing textile policy handloom has a very important place. We are now on the formulation of a new textile policy. I am saying that handloom will continue to have that place of pride in the new textile policy also. I cannot go on discussing what the new textile policy will be. I do not think it is appropriate for me, I am only given an indication that the handloom industry will occupy a special place in the new textile policy. I am sure the whole House will support this Bill unanimously. With these few comments, I commend this Bill to the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill to provide for reservation of certain articles for exclusive production by handlooms and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

There are 12 members who have given their names.

Now we have to fix the time also. Can be fix one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : 2 hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right. 2 Hours we will take.

Shri Ajit Saha.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur) : Through the Bill is

[Shri P. A. Sangma)

belated, I welcome it. While welcoming this measure, I have no illusion that it will go far enough to solve the problems of the handloom industry.

It is rightly mentioned in this Bill that there is a lack of marketing facility in the industry and as a result, the industry is facing a crisis. A committee was appointed to go into the problems of the handloom industry and the committee was of the view that the crisis in this industry is due to the poor purchasing capacity of the rural people of our country. Therefore there is a gulf in the market of the handloom industry and all our industries, especially the textile industry are in a crisis. Out nearly 800 textile mills, nearly 150 to 200 mills are either sick or have closed down. Handloom industry is next only to Agriculture. As the hon. Minister pointed out, one crore of our people are directly engaged here. More than 4 crore of our people are earning their livelihood through this industry. In the last budget a sum of Rs. 30 crore was allotted to handloom industry. A very large number of our rural people are engaged in this industry. The money allocated is very meagre. In respect of the organised sector, such as textiles and other industries, 3 or 4 lakhs of people are engaged; the sum allotted is much more than that allotted for handloom sector. Government earns lot of foreign exchange: they get Rs. 300 crores per year. So, something should be done in this sector. Many people, especially the rural poor, are engaged in this industry.

In this connection I would suggest what we should do to save this industry and help the weavers who are suffering very much. Many of the weavers are at the mercy of middlemen. This industry should be brought under cooperative societies so that it can expand and develop. Government should lay special emphasis on weeding out non-viable cooperative societies which dominated by vested interests. They should promote new cooperative societies of genuine weavers. Apart from strengthening cooperative sector of

handloom industry, Government should take special steps to supply crucial inputs required and they should provide marketing facilities to this industry. Credit facilities at nominal rate of interest should be afforded to weavers. Adequate supply of yarn should be ensured to the weavers. Proper counts of yarn required by weavers should be supplied to them in time and according to their needs.

Sir, the whole of the eastern region does not produce cotton. Our State, West Bengal, is a deficit State with respect to many raw materials which are essential for the industries there. Now the position will worsen with the hike in freight rate imposed by the Government for the coming financial year. Sir, we have to get raw cotton from far off places from Gujarat, etc. and other raw materials from Punjab. These States are at a distance of 1800 to 2000 Kms and the freight rate for transport of the raw materials from these States has progressively been increased.

Sir, a Study Team was appointed by the Commerce Ministry to go into these matters and that Team had recommended in 1981 that there should be freight equalisation for raw cotton transported to the Eastern region from other States. But nothing has been done so far in this direction. I would request the hon. Minister to give serious consideration to this point and see that something is done for the handloom industry. He should see that the constraints faced by the handloom industry and the weavers as well are removed so that the weavers are not put to difficulty. With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Bill presented here. This Bill was quite necessary and has come after a long wait. I want to thank the Commerce Minister for this. To day, in our country, in terms of the employment of labour, the handloom industry occupies next place only to agriculture, but it is unfortunate that in spite of years of efforts,

their miserable lot has not improved. Cloth is produced through three techniques in our country : through mechanised looms, through powerlooms and through handlooms. Around two and a half lakh mechanised looms are there in our country which produce 5000 million metres of cloth. There are three lakh decentralised powerlooms, which are mostly unauthorised. These powerlooms produce around 4000 million metres of cloth. We have 50 lakh handlooms which are being ruined on account of competition from the mechanised looms and powerlooms. These handlooms produce only 3000 million metres of cloth where as their production capacity is 6000 millions metres. Thus the remaining capacity of 3000 million metres of cloth remains idle. The main reason for this is the infiltration of the powerloom sector into the handloom sector. The powerloom sector is constantly encroaching upon the area of the handloom sector unhindered. Government's policy has been to protect the handloom sector. At certain places, protection was provided and Government also issued orders to this effect but today, in the entire country, unauthorised powerlooms are being installed and these unauthorised powerlooms are producing the same items which have been reserved for the handloom sector. If we look at the Bill in that background, we shall find that it provides for strict measures which is a welcome step. I think this will give sufficient protection to the people engaged in the handloom sector and they would get considerable facilities. The best thing would have been to allocate the entire domestic market to the handloom sector. The handloom industry is not of recent origin. It has been in existence since the dawn of civilization in this country. The handloom industry has been meeting the cloth requirement of the entire country. If the total domestic market of cloth is left to the handloom industry, I think it would create a lot of employment opportunities and the handloom industry would get a boost. If the powerloom sector is asked to produce long cloth, poplin, double bed sheets etc. and the textile industry is asked to

manufacture cloth with synthetic yarn or man-made fibres for export only, then it would give protection to all the three sectors. Development of the handloom sector is a very important part of our 20-Point Programme. If this sector is developed, more persons would be engaged in it. At present five crores people are engaged in it. It would be better if the domestic market is earmarked for the handloom sector. Today, the big problem is of raw material which is used in the handlooms. Many spinning mills have been set-up and are being set up in the private the cooperative as well as the public sectors. The workers and the weavers are not getting the yarn which should have been made available to them. I suggested that the spinning mills should be asked to produce that quality of yarn which is required by the workers and the weavers of the area where these mills have been set up. It has often been observed that yarn has to be purchased from other areas, because the workers of that area do not use yarn of that quality. The sale of yarn should be through handloom cooperatives or through State level handloom corporations or handloom development corporations, which should procure all the yarn and sell it to the weavers at reasonable prices. Similar is the case of silk. Silk is produced in Karnataka. Karnataka people have monopolised its production. You will be surprised to know that lakhs of cocoons are destroyed in Karnataka to keep the prices of silk very high. The maximum use of silk, which is produced at a low cost in Karnataka, is made in Benaras, U.P. It has to be purchased at high prices. The Handloom Development Corporation is a Government of India Undertaking. It should import silk and establish a silk yarn bank. If the prices go higher than the fixed price, it should release that silk to the weavers. If the prices remain less than the fixed rates, it should keep the silk in stock with it self. This way prices of silk could be stabilised. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one more point.

A big controversy has been raised in regard to the National Textile Corpora-

[Shri Zainul Basher]

tion which is providing most harmful to the handloom sector. Under the Plan expenditure only Rs. 30 crores have been earmarked for the development of the handloom sector whereas five lakhs workers are engaged in this sector. I am not referring to the non-Plan expenditure. I am talking of the Plan expenditure only. I am, therefore, not mentioning subsidy, etc. You are providing Rs. 30 crores under the Plan expenditure for handloom development, but to meet the losses incurred by the National Textile Corporation you are providing Rs. 120 crores every year simply because one and a half lakh people are engaged in it. I would like to suggest, through you, to the hon. Minister that even if you give Rs. 500 per month to each of these one and a half lakh workers, you will not be a loser rather you will stand to gain by it. On the other hand, you auction all the sick mills of the National Textile Corporation or liquidate them and you will get quite a big amount thereby. If you auction the sick mills and give Rs. 500 per worker every month, you will be saved from meeting the Rs. 120 crores loss every year and you will not be a loser, of course, the National Textile Corporation is manufacturing very good items like Janata sarees, Janata dhotis, bedsheets towels etc. but these things can be produced and are being produced by the handloom industry also the handloom industry is unable to compete in the market because of these mills. If you accept any suggestion you will get rid of all these problems and the five crore people dependent on NTC would be able to earn their livelihood.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the Handloom Development Corporation is there but it is a matter of regret that no respect has been given there to the weavers in matters concerning handlooms. The weavers have not been associated with it. This way the Handloom Development Corporation has become merely a corporation of bureaucrats. I fail to understand why you do not want to associate the representatives of the weavers with it. In this Bill also, a provision has been made for set-

ting up of an advisory body. Though you, I request the Minister to include the weavers representatives in this advisory body as well as in the Handloom Development Corporation. I am myself not a weaver, but I do represent the weavers. You must include in that body the persons who know the weaving work and are expert in this field. There are many co-operative societies, associations and organisations of the weavers. You can provide representation to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end, I would like to request the Minister, through you, that the subject of textile should be separated from the Ministry of Commerce, because textiles is a very big sector which includes mechanised industry, powerlooms and handlooms. A separate Ministry of Textiles should be created to look after all the three sectors. You have a separate Textile Commissioner, a separate Textile Secretary and a separate Textile Department, but they have been kept under the Ministry of Commerce. These items should be withdrawn from this Ministry and a separate Textile Ministry should be created. This is the only way by which there can be coordination between the three textile sectors and it can be ensured that there is no overlapping or that there is no mutual encroachment upon one another's field.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir this Bill is a good beginning for which I congratulate the Minister. I know that he takes keen interest in the textiles and the handloom industry as also in the upliftment of the weavers. I offerd my good wishes to him for this Bill and hope that the step taken by him will not only benefit the weavers but the Government also

13.55 hrs.

[English]

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHIER
in the chair]

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South); I heartily welcome this piece of legislation. I congratulate the young Minister who has piloted this Bill

This was long over-due. You should have enacted such a measure immediately after the advent of independence.

The hon. Member who has just occupied the Chair has made a very interesting speech. He complimented the young Minister who has piloted this Bill. I have also done the same. But because both of us are elders, we should advise the young Minister to switch over to Khadi. I will be happy if he comes tomorrow to the House wearing Khadi clothes. The major political parties also have already prescribed that their active members should wear Khadi, because their objective is to encourage Khadi. This shows the importance they attach to Khadi and handloom movements.

While welcoming the Bill, I should at the same time warn the Government to be cautious and see that the powerful mill lobby does not sabotage this legislation. This is very important. I am sure Government of India and the State Governments will take all necessary steps to see that this Bill is implemented not only in theory, but also in spirit and action. This is very necessary.

Just now the Minister gave an interesting statement. He gave some statistics. He said that there were 3.5 million handlooms and also that nearly 10 million people were dependent on handlooms. Of course, I cannot off-hand give correct statistics but my information is that the number of handloom is much more. I come from the State of Karnataka, where great fillip is given to the handloom industry, and where it has been thriving ever since Independence, and even before independence. In Karnataka, handloom has the pride of place. Sarees from Karnataka are popular not only in India, but all over the world.

The Minister said that we were earning Rs. 350 crores worth of foreign exchange by exporting handloom fabrics. If we give more encouragement, we will get more and more of foreign exchange. The bed-spreads manufactured in Tamil Nadu, Bihar silks and the Banaras sarees are all very attractive. India

certainly is the birth-place of handloom fabrics. In the days of Akbar, we are told, they used to manufacture sarees which could pass through a ring. It was called Dacca muslin. So, we are famous for handspun and hand-woven goods.

We were just now told that in the Plan, only Rs. 50 crores have been earmarked for the handlooms, whereas for the NTC which is running under losses, a sum of Rs. 120 crores has been earmarked. I would like to tell the Minister 'You are fighting for the cause of handlooms. You should fight to get more funds for the handloom sector'. By this piece of legislation, I am sure the generation of employment would be doubled.

Why are we not able to solve the problem of unemployment even after 38 years of Independence? It is because we have not followed the advice of Gandhiji. If only handlooms had been encouraged earlier, just as we are trying to do now, we would have solved the problem of unemployment to a very great extent. But we have failed to do it so far. I am sure that the number of ten million weavers will double within a year. So, I welcome this Bill.

I would request the Government to be very careful. We are now giving great encouragement and also monopoly to the handloom sector in the production of certain varieties of cloth. But the Minister should see that the quality is also maintained. This is very important.

It does not matter if we do not have a reservation, but the quality, the name of our country for the handloom goods should be maintained. You should have a machinery to have a check over the quality of the material; that is very important. I endorse what you suggested, Mr. Chairman, with regard to saree and janata dhoti. When the Janata Party was in power, they thought that they would try to bring forward such a legislation, but, unfortunately, they could not do so, because they did not survive for a longer period. At least, now you have got it. Then we thought that the saree should be reserved for the

[Shri V. S. Krishna Iyer]
handloom sector, that was very essential.

14.00 hrs.

My hon. friend, the CPM member, had already said in the beginning that marketing is very important. In Karnataka State, we have made a very good arrangement for marketing. We have got marketing societies, yarn distribution societies and raw-material distribution societies. We have eliminated the exploitation of the weavers. At a reasonable rates, they are given the yarn, weavers, particularly the handloom weavers. So, the Karnataka State has taken all necessary steps to see that exploitation is eliminated not only at the stage of weavers but also at every stage. We have got the branches of marketing societies and the cooperative societies all over the State. So, while welcoming this measure, I once again request, through you the Government to see that this piece of legislation, which is most progressive which is needed for our country is implemented.

We are only partially implementing Gandhiji's dream. This was one of the constructive programmes of Gandhiji. Of course, he advocated full khadi hand woven and hand spun. We have gone only one step. Of one course, a day will come when we can give more and more encouragement to khadi; khadi is a must because unless we encourage khadi our country cannot thrive. This will help lakhs and lakhs of our weavers in the country. I once again welcome this Bill.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Chairman, this is a welcome piece of legislation; and was long overdue. I represent a State where weaving is a prestige; and every bride procession should be accompanied by a loom and necessary accessories forming part of the gifts. This begins with the king followed by every body upto the lowest rung of the society.

Every family in the whole society has its weavers. I myself belong to a family of weavers. particularly, ladies in the family beginning with my mother and sister, they are all expert in weaving. Every family, therefore we should have

a loom or more. The handloom industry there has thrived not only on the economic value but also on the sentimental and traditional values. The legislation provides that the Advisory Committee while selecting items for reservation of articles should see the traditional handloom product and handloom product for the mass utilization. The emphasis on the items produced traditionally is welcome.

The hon. Minister of Commerce belongs to our part of the country, the north eastern area. He knows what is the value of a handloom piece of cloth. Every tribe, or community has got its own design of cloth, its own colourful design of cloth. Particularly when we see women folk in the traditional gatherings, and social gatherings, a person is distinguished by the cloth he or she wears.

Referring to my own State of Manipur, there are as many as 30 Scheduled Tribes and communities and in the Valley of Manipur the majority is of Maithei community. This Maithei community produces handloom cloth for mass consumption and more colourful at that. Its design and structure are not only famous in the domestic market but they also go to the foreign markets. But in the tribal sector, loin loom cloth—the name is taken from the human body, because it is used to wear round the loins—is very popular. In the tribal areas it is not only popular, but every household must have a loin loom. Invariably, the weavers are the women, because it is a necessity in their social life. In this context we see in the market other products produced by powerlooms and mills, which are imitations of the products of the handloom sector. Also, the sanctity of the handlooms, loin looms, has been completely destroyed. In order to protect this we require a number of measures. This legislation is a very welcome piece. It is a measure to protect the handloom sector, particularly the traditionally important items which do not pay economically. But, I would like to submit that legislation may not be adequate, because what is more essential apart from this legislation is, reaching the material, the raw material to the weavers.

In our part of the country the weavers are mostly poor people. They cannot afford to get the necessary quantity of yarn at a low cost. They have to depend on the local supply which is controlled by rich merchants who control the prices of the yarn. Naturally, they also control the prices of the products. So when we come to the question of exporting our cloth, the handloom cloth to foreign countries some of the designs are so popular a difficulty arises because our weavers cannot produce on such a large scale. They cannot produce a large number, to meet the demands from foreign countries. The foreign purchase order is in terms of lakhs of pieces of approved samples. They cannot produce lakhs of pieces. In order to meet such large scale demands and orders it is necessary that the handloom sector has to be managed either through the cooperative sector or through some other resourceful sector. The weavers have to meet the orders, the vast number of orders which come from the exporters.

We have been talking of viability—economic viability. Different stages of strength and weakness are and in different States. In our State particularly handloom is such a popular cottage industry that every household has a loom, and it helps them in becoming self-employed. Taking this example, I would like to suggest to the Commerce Minister that while implementing this legislation as effectively as possible we should see that raw material and other forms of assistance reaches the weavers to enable them to compete with the large scale producers who are only indulging in producing imitations. If we go to big shops, even in Delhi, we can come across shops selling mill-made Khadi. They say that this is the mill Khadi. What is the implication of this? Handloom items may not be khadi. But all khadi products must be handlooms. So, this imitation by big mills of khadi and handloom items has become ominous for the handloom industry.

The Bill provides for the constitution of the advisory board. But it has not been provided as to who should be

the members. Expertise is the guiding factor. I would suggested for the consideration of the Minister that all the States should be represented through their handloom directorates so that each State will be able to specify what are the items to be reserved. With that, the Khadi Commission, the All India Handloom Board as suggested by hon. Members on the floor of the House just now, and other experts who can provide expertise on the subject, can also be given accommodation in the Committee. The Khadi Commission and the Handloom Board are the proper authorities who know where the problem lies. The handloom sector should have protection not only on the legislation front but on the material side i.e. providing raw material on cheap rates so that the weavers are not exploited by the big merchants who control the price of yarn and subsequently the price of the products. In order to streamline the production and provide expert facilities particularly in the North-east, the Government can set up a body in the corporate sector so that we shall get the approved samples in a large scale. This will provide not only good market for handloom but employment also on a large scale to the people of North-east where virtually all the families are weaver families, who consider weaving as their prestigious profession or hobby.

With these words, I support the Bill.

BEGUM ABDULLAH (Anantnag)
It is a good Bill. Reservation of articles for production of Yarn through handlooms will give a fillip to this industry.

The idea of having an advisory committee is appreciable. But I would suggest that such of the States as have a tradition of handlooms should have proper representation on the committee. In Jammu & Kashmir States shawls, pashmina and silks have traditionally been produced by handlooms. In order to preserve the tradition, production of silks through machines should be given up. Also Kashmiri shawl weavers should be represented on the advisory committee.

[Shri Begum Abdullah]

I would also suggest that a separate Bill be brought for promotion of handi-crafts.

(Translation)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, before expressing any doubt about whether the government are firm in their objective or not, we would like to know how many persons are going to be punished under the Control order which has been issued : Please prepare a list indicating the number of persons who have been punished under this order. I have not heard so far that such and such number of persons have been convicted under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Similarly, the Government enacted Essential Commodities Act, 1954. Please tell us now many persons have been convicted there under. Mr. Chairman, Sir, government are quite adept at enacting laws. Laws are enacted when you do not intend to help the weaver. You have said that you are not formulating a wrong policy. A provision has been made in the Bill for the setting up of an advisory committee of experts, but it has not been defined. In my opinion, a village weaver, who has been doing this work right from his childhood, is more expert than a degree-holder or a Government official. But in your opinion the Government employees are more expert. The village weaver lived his entire life in his *jhonpri*. He did not get any benefit. You have issued guidelines for the setting up of the advisory committee. I feel that nobody would like to become a member of that committee. No mention has been made as to how the advisory committee would function and when it would hold its meetings. It will be their discretion to nominate anybody as its member. Degree-holders who have never wove any cloth, become experts without any know-how. The village weaver, with his grey beard, should be treated as an handloom expert.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banas-kantha) : It should be dyed with henna,

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : What will the hon. Minister do in this Bill? Ultimately, what has been given to him by the Law Department is correct. It has been said in the Bill :

[English]

The reservation of such articles or class of articles shall be made by the Central Government after considering the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you are offered the membership of this committee as a representative of the weavers, please do not accept it. They have said that they would consider my opinion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has been named as an advisory committee.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Our Minister is very honest. He may become its Chairman and the decision of the advisory committee should then be final. But it is not proper for the Government to dissociate themselves from the committee and then consider the suggestions of the advisory committee.

In India, 35 crores of people are living below the poverty line. You know the causes of poverty in the villages and you concede that it is a curse. Please tell us what articles have been reserved for weavers in the Bill. Have you defined it anywhere in the Bill? The hon. Minister comes from North East. He may please inform us about the articles reserved by Government what are the names of the persons who have been challaned under the Essential Commodities Act? You say here that articles would be reserved and those would be notified. What have you done so far?

You have provided that it would be implemented three months after the serving of the notice. A clever *Bania* like me will dispose of his goods in the three months you are giving to him. Had you given 30 days time, I would have appreciated that. I fail to understand its interpretation. Neither the

Law Department nor your people have examined properly. New laws are being enacted daily.

[English]

“Any person who attempts to contravene”

-even an attempt to contravene is covered; is it something like attempt to murder? -

“Or abets the contravention of any order made under section 3 shall be deemed to have contravened that order.”

[Translation]

Against whom will the attempt be made? So long as a person does not produce goods, he cannot be proved guilty. Try to understand minutely the clauses framed by you. I have just now submitted before you -

[English]

“.....May continue to be in force till the expiry of three months from the date of such reservation.”

[Translation]

If you issue notice in this regard and it does not reach the village, then what will be done?

[English]

“The company will not be liable, if it is proved...”

[Translation]

Now the times have changed. The people who talk of khadi do not wear it themselves. Class IV employees are asked to wear khadi. The cloth supplied to them is of inferior quality. Weavers will not be benefited in this way. If they are to be benefited, you should start wearing Khadi yourself. Charity begins at home. But if should you wear terycot and talk of giving benefit to the weavers, how will it help? Gandhiji had said that India would not be said to have attained independence as long as there are tears in the eyes of even one poor person. Today, there are tears in the eyes of crores of people in India.

They are in the grip of poverty. If you want to benefit the weavers, please make arrangements for the marketing of their goods. Is there any government agency which will purchase their goods? What arrangements have you made to ensure the supply of raw material to them? How much loan do the weavers get. You claim that we earn crores of rupees as foreign exchange but you have not stated how much foreign exchange is earned through them. Does this amount include other things or does this relate only to handlooms, and if you earn so much money through them then what have you done for the weavers? We should know all these things. It is my suggestion that the Bill should be referred to a Committee to examine all these aspects so that this legislation becomes effective.

I want to raise one more point. The punishment provided in the Bill is three months and some fine. Is it a deterrent punishment? Why not imprisonment? If you impose a fine of Rs. 5000 on a person he will pay the fine. Why do you not make the punishment mandatory? What I mean to say is that the offenders should be given deterrent punishment. The provision that the punishment will be imprisonment for a period of three months to six months or fine, will not achieve the object of the Bill. The Magistrates will only impose fines. Why do you not make the punishment mandatory? The period of imprisonment may be seven days only but it should be made mandatory.

[English]

What do you mean by cognizable offence?

[Translation]

Will the police file the challan? You may also tell us -

[English]

Whether it will be bailable or non-bailable.

[Translation]

Kindly get the Bill examined by a Committee, otherwise, the Bill will

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

be passed, your statement will be reported by the press and it will receive wide coverage.

SHRI P.A. SANGAMA : More coverage will be given to you.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : We will be given less coverage. Only this much will be reported about us -

[English]

Mr. Daga also spoke.

[Translation]

They have to do their business. They give coverage to those from whom they expect some benefit.

In the end, I would only say that it has been provided in the Bill that an advisory Committee will be constituted. You should have got some work done through it and given it a shape. I am thankful to you that you have made a beginning, but I would like to suggest that some positive work should be done. Slow work takes us nowhere. Work should be done at a fast pace and that is all I have to say.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SIIRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI (Howrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this progressive piece of legislation. This very piece of legislation identifies itself with the stand of the Indian National Congress and our Government towards the weaker sections of the society and the deprived, particularly the weavers in the handloom industries. Therefore, I would once again congratulate the Minister for bringing in this piece of legislation. But, I must, at the same time say that the Bill itself is not a fool-proof and comprehensive document. Therefore, I would like to cite certain lacunae. I shall be very grateful if the Minister finds it convenient to appropriately accommodate those suggestions.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that a piece of cloth of Khadi and a piece of cloth of handloom, these two pieces of

cloth identify our national independence struggle. When I was a student of Class IV, I used to read in Bengal school that the muslins of Manchester used to be brought in India by the Britishers to kill our indigenous industries, small-scale industries, specially the handloom weavers. At that time the torture was so extreme that in a number of villages in undivided Bengal weavers' hands and fingers were cut. And by their blood the struggle was launched and a lot of stories are there. So, whenever I feel the miseries and whenever I see the miseries of the weavers I remember those days of the national struggle. Their contribution should also be remembered. And in this Centenary of the Indian National Congress it will be my privilege to suggest to the Minister to once again look back upon the weavers of handloom industries and those of khadi also together, those who contributed to the highest degree for the national movement under the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi, and this Bill itself, if it becomes a comprehensive one, will no doubt be a definite landmark in the history of handloom industry under the Ministry of Commerce.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will highlight certain things in this Bill. Who are the people involved in the handloom industry? I have always seen that whenever any piece of legislation comes in this House, whatever be the good intention or motive of this, the ultimate benefit does not reach the weavers; the entire thing goes to the middlemen. I represent a constituency and a State where the handloom industry was established and a very traditional footing since the days of national struggle, that is West Bengal. You might have heard, and I think the Minister is also aware of the things, and if the Minister is not aware, at least Mrs. Sangma must be aware that the sarees of Tangail, Dhanikhali and Shantipur—these are the three code names of handlooms, are the sarees which are competing in the international market in export values. Even sometimes it happens that Banarsi silks are not that much liked, but the hand loom silk sarees are liked. And to manufacture one saree it takes

18 days for a weaver to constantly engage himself for the pattern, design and completion of the work and the handloom industry is such an industry, as you know, Mr. Chairman, that it is the only industry in the country where collectively the family participates. If there is a loom in one unit, the parents will participate, the housewives will participate, the children participate—someone is doing some work. In my constituency at least 5 lakhs people are involved in this handloom industry directly or indirectly. During my election campaign also I have seen their miseries. What is their misery? Their misery is that there is a loom and the people are there to work, but the yarn supplier would be a middleman who is not concerned with the plight or the sufferings of the weaver. He will say, 'I will give you yarn. Don't worry for yarn, and I will give you some wages, you have to return me these many sarees by this time.' During my election campaign I have seen, Mr. Chairman, Sir, that the whole night they are on the loom. I asked, 'Why don't you go to sleep?' They said, 'Unless we give the whole thing to the traders by tomorrow evening, they will not give us the earlier payment.' This is the kind of exploitation that is going on. How can we save the weavers from this exploitation? Now we can talk of cooperatives. I am grateful to the West Bengal Govt. that for the last several years they have established one unit called Tantuja. It is delivering goods, but we need many more Tantujas, many more cooperatives and units. Otherwise weavers will not be protected. And what do the traders, the middlemen, do? They take the advantage of the price escalation of the yarn, they take the advantage to exploit the weavers. In the textile industry you cannot compel a worker to work for more than 8 hours. If you compel him to work for more than 8 hours, he has to get overtime. You are calculating everything for the cost of production of the textile units, whether it is NTC or the private sector. But in the handloom weaving industry, right from the morning to the whole night they engage themselves to prepare only one saree or one kurta or one

lungi or one bed-sheet. Their total wage, their human power, is not counted towards the cost of production in terms of giving the payment to the weaver, but it is taken away by the middleman who brings the material and goes to the Market. So, the major thrust should be that the Minister should immediately evolve a policy involving the State Government as to how best you can form the cooperatives or direct controlling units so that the yarn at reasonable prices will reach them directly. If the banking department does not come forward, I would suggest to you consider one aspect of the thing at the appropriate time. If you come with a piece of legislation for this I will be grateful. You kindly form one handloom yarn bank for the handloom weavers throughout the country. That would be exclusively for the handloom weavers. As you are selecting a few articles for exclusive production by the handloom industry, you select exclusive handloom yarn banks from which the weavers will get the yarn and nobody else. Otherwise, I am afraid, in spite of your best intention, in spite of all the subsidies and incentives that you provide, they go only into the middlemen's pocket. I don't like to bring in any religion, caste or community. But it is a fact that the minority community, the Muslims and the village poor peasantry in the lean months engage largely in my State in this industry and it is they who suffer. In my constituency, Mr. Chairman, there is, popularly in village folk called, Hat or bazar. Once a week. In Howrah city, that is called Howrah Hat. It is the largest in the whole of India. In one morning 50,000 to 60,000 weavers come to sell their things. You will be sorry to note that the traders from Rajasthan, Calcutta, and U.P. go in trucks and literally loot the *maal* at a throw-away price and the weavers just weep. Even if weavers want to take the material to the market, the police catch them in the street and say, 'You give us money; otherwise, we will not allow it to move'. This is the plight.

This is the time, our Minister should think about it and do something. Our

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsil]

Prime Minister is telling that one should see the thing with ones eyes and then take a decision. I, therefore, request the Minister that let him pass the legislation today. There is no problem. But you kindly make a visit with your officers to Gujarat, Madias, Bengal, U.P., and Bihar and see the conditions of the weavers.

I am not with Mr. Daga when he is criticising the bureaucracy. It has become a fashion of all politicians now-a-days always to accuse the bureaucracy. After all, what can they do? I don't consider that politicians only are patriot and competent and bureaucrats are not. After all, they are our brothers. We send them for examination and training and preparation of the things. They are also learned people. They are also competent people. But the fact remains. You take them and go and see what actually is happening.

Mr. Chairman, I will now highlight two or three points about the legislation. Now, the legislation is incompetent, in the sense, it appears to be vague. Clause 4 of the Bill refers to Advisory Committee. What is this Advisory Committee? You have not said how many members will be there in the committee. Will it become a committee of a thousand people, a committee of 10 people or a committee of 5 people? If that committee is defined clearly and which section will represent in that committee is spelt out, I could understand and I could contribute to the debate meaningfully and purposefully. Regarding the committee, you say experts in this field will be nominated. Who are the experts? I would like to say only one thing about why our public sector is suffering today. In the public sector when the Durgapur Steel Plant was formed long before Mohan Kumaramangalam took over the Ministry, experts were brought in the public sector from the Tata group. They were retired in the Tata industries. They were brought in to guide the Durgapur Steel Plant. It was Billimoria and Company. They literally swallowed the whole thing. I would like to bring this matter before

our Prime Minister also. This is how you are managing.

My request is, in the advisory committee which is for handloom, please don't bring in any people who are engaged either in Modis or Phagwara or Reliance Textiles or any other textile industry. They will come here, again connive with somebody and spoil the whole thing. Please don't bring whomsoever is attached to this industry. Don't bring any one of them in this advisory committee. This is my humble suggestion. If I find any person from this industry in the advisory committee, I will bring up that issue in the House again.

My second suggestion is, in regard to weavers, how you will select weavers' representatives. In the respective States, there are some organised sections of weavers. I don't mind which Party they may belong to. But you should see that the representation comes directly from the weavers and not from the middlemen. If Mr. Narayan Choubey and myself become weavers' leaders, please don't trust us. You take a person who is doing weaving and put him in the advisory committee. Then only your legislation will be competent. Otherwise, this advisory committee means nothing.

The Advisory Committee would recommend to the Government. I wish in your reply you would say that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee will be fully accepted. If you say again, as in our Question-Answer session, recommendations have been received and the matter is being looked into, then I think you are not doing justice to the weavers. You must be very fair to them. Recommendations must be implemented by the Government. Otherwise, this legislation itself is a recommendation and not a piece of legislation.

Lastly, I would say something about the punishment. Here, I find there is a main lacuna. I do not know who drafted this legislation.

With a little knowledge of law, I can give you an idea. If you look at clause 10, it says :

“Whoever produces any article or class of articles in contravention of an order made under section 3, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees.”

Now, if I hit a man or kill a man, the degree of punishment is different, as you know. Here—your officers might have drafted it—you have to spell out the degree of punishment. If I possess articles worth Rs 1 lakh, my punishment is, six months’ imprisonment and a fine of Rs 5000 and, if I possess articles worth Rs. 1 crore, then also my punishment is, six months’ imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 5000. It is a wide open gate. The traders will jump through it. If they can use some other looms for which you are planning to exclusively select articles to produce and if they can board articles worth Rs. 1 crore, they will send their representatives to a court of law who will get a punishment of six months’ imprisonment and a fine of Rs, 5000. They will come back and their net profit will be Rs.99,95,000.

Is it a fair piece of legislation? I want to know: Who drafted it? You will have to mention the degree of punishment according to the quantity seized. This will open a flood gate. This is unfair. How can you help the weavers in this way?

I conclude by saying that you have to help the weavers of Midnapore, the target weavers’ community in West Bengal, and the weavers of Nadiad, Howrah Hooghly, Bankura, etc. You kindly see with your own eyes, involving the State Government—this is a matter in which you cannot do on your own—that the cooperative movement is strengthened and a direct liaison is made with the Handloom Yarn Bank.

I also want to ask: Whom will they complain to? What is the mechanism in the Bill? Supposing in a remote village, the weavers feel that some of the selected articles are being used by somebody else I ask to whom will they complain? Are they to complain to the Advisory Committee? What is the

mechanism? Who will operate it? Is it the Central Government agency or the State Government agency? This is also not clear. In respect of the customs and Excise matter, it is the Central Government which operates. In this matter also, you will have to define who will operate. Otherwise, it will become meaningless.

These are my suggestions. Once again I would request the hon. Minister to kindly revive the handloom industry of West Bengal which gave you the life and made a tremendous contribution to the national freedom struggle. The weavers are the most affected sufferers because of the freight equalisation policy. When you talk of national integration and you allow the weavers to suffer because of the freight equalisation policy in respect of cotton, we will say that it is hypocrisy.

With these words, I conclude and I request the hon. Minister to consider my suggestion.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also join the majority of hon. members in congratulating the hon. Minister for bringing forward this piece of legislation. But I will add a rider to my congratulation, “You shall not encash your congratulation until you issue a Notification under Clause 3 of the Bill.”

Clause 4 contemplates an Advisory committee. This Advisory Committee has to advise having regard to (a), (b), (c) and (d) mentioned in Clause 4. That means an Advisory Committee has first to be constituted; then, it has to go in to (a), (b), (c), and (d); then, it has to make a recommendation; then, the Government will have to accept the recommendation and then the Government will issue Notification specifying the articles reserved for the handloom industry.

May I know how much time the Government is going to take for issuing a Notification under Clause 3? Let the hon. Minister give us an assurance that at least within a year, after the Passing of this Bill, the Notification under

[Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy]

Clause 3 will be issued. Will he assure us that at least within a month, after we pass this Bill, an Advisory Committee will be constituted? Otherwise, the Passing of this Bill will merely give a vague protection. But nothing concrete will come to the handloom industry.

I would have been happy if the Bill contained a Schedule mentioning the articles which are reserved for the handloom industry. Certainly, the Government must have the data, the material and its policy before thinking of this piece of legislation. If it had its policy and data and material relating to the handloom industry, I do not see any reason why it did not come forward with a Schedule attached to the Bill specifying the articles which are exclusively reserved for production by the handloom industry. It is a normal practice to come forward with a Schedule and reserve the power to amend the Schedule according to the exigencies and the needs of the time. But no such Schedule is there. So, the Government is still not definite with regard to what specific items it wants to reserve for the handloom industry. This is really unfortunate because we are trying to give statutory protection to a very basic industry which is very well-known in India and throughout the world. 35 Do we remember the fact that in our freedom struggle, the protection to this basic industry was one of an article of faith? It is a pity that even after 35 years of our independence, we are merely thinking of giving statutory protection to this handloom industry.

I again respect that the hon. Minister must give us an assurance within what time they are going to constitute this Advisory Committee and within what time they are going to issue a notification under Clause 3.

I agree with the previous speaker that so far as the Advisory Committee is concerned, the qualifications to be Members of the Advisory Committee have not been specified. The only qualification is that they must be considered to be experts by the Government. That

is the subjective satisfaction of the concerned person that these are all experts. I hope this lacuna which has been pointed out by the previous speaker is filled in the rules. At least, the rules which are made in exercise of the subordinate legislation may specify the qualifications of the persons who are going to act as Members of the Advisory Committee. In this connection, I would urge the Minister not to forget that at least two Members from Lok Sabha and one Member from the Rajya Sabha are to be on the Advisory Committee which is going to be constituted under Clause 4.

Are certain articles which are well-known like sarees and dhotis to be reserved exclusively for the handloom sector? The new textile policy has not yet been spelt out. In the presidential address itself it was mentioned that the new textile policy is under consideration and the Government is going to spell it out during this Budget Session. The new textile policy has not been spelt out. In fact, my request to the hon. Minister is that at least he should give us a rough sketch of the new textile policy. He has not been able to answer that point satisfactorily.

To add to the vagueness, the Bill itself suffers from many vague clauses. Nothing specific is mentioned there. If the hon. Minister thinks that simply by reserving certain items exclusively for production by the handloom industry, the handloom industry will be saved, he is not correct. It is well and good so far as giving protection to production is concerned. But what is necessary is protection with regard to marketing also. The previous hon. Member from West Bengal said that most of the products of the weavers are accepted. It is because the middlemen come and purchase their produce at throw-away prices and their economic poverty still remains. I may say in this connection that it is left to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to give adequate protection to the handloom industry. Every year the Government of Andhra Pradesh purchases the entire stock which remains with the handloom industry and

sells it to the purchasers at a subsidised rate. I would request the Union Government to extend financial support to all such States which are going to protect the handloom industry. You extend your support financially. We will then be able really to do justice to one of the articles of faith which inspired the freedom struggle. That also may be spelt out at least in the rules or while constituting the Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee may be empowered also to make recommendations with regard to the marketing facilities that must be provided to the handloom industry.

Of course, the penal clause, which is Clause 10, imposes only a small sentence of six months' imprisonment. This is not enough. It must vary according to the degree of violation which a person commits. If it is a mere technical violation, he may escape with a fine, but if it is a wholesale fraud on the Act, he must be punished much more severely than merely sentencing him to six months imprisonment.

On the whole, we welcome this Bill. The lacunae which have been pointed out in the various Clauses may be filled up in the rules. I expect the hon. Minister to give us an assurance that the protection will materialise within at least six months after we have passed this Bill.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill, and I am glad to find that the leaders of the Opposition also are welcoming it. I am sure the whole House would be grateful to the Government for having come forward at long last with this Bill, with this first tangible, purposeful and necessary protective step, in order not only to develop but also to protect and safeguard the interests of the handloom weavers and the sellers. More than four crores of people are engaged in this industry, many times more than what are engaged in the textile industry, in the organized textile industry, in the powerlooms, and also in the unlawfully organized and functioning powerlooms.

Indeed, it is the biggest cottage and small scale industry, and most of the workers who are employed in it are self-employed people. They are their own masters, the work in their own homes, on their own looms, and unfortunately, because of that, they have not been protected as well as they should be by the governments in the country, the State Governments as well as the Central Government.

It was from the very inception of our struggle for freedom our national leaders were very keen that this industry should be protected, that these workers, the self-employed people, should be honoured and protected. Unfortunately, the British Government did not do much although it began, during the last two decades of its regime, to do something for them. It was only after we achieved freedom that the Planning Commission has paid special attention to the needs of these people on the lines that were suggested for several decades even when the British were there by the All India Handloom Weavers Congress. Initial steps were taken in the south-in Karur and in several places in Andhra and we organised what is known as the All India Handloom Weavers' Congress. We began to ask for this kind of protection that is now sought to be provided by this Bill.- reservation of certain weaves for the handloom weaving industry. Halting steps were taken. There was a Cottage Industries Board. Later on there was a Handloom Board. But not one of them could touch the fringe of the problem. After a time, two very enterprising, able and patriotic leaders arose from among the weavers themselves, the late Somappa of Yemmiganur and Pragada Kotiah who is fortunately still alive with us - these two people arising from the ranks of the handloom weavers took up the leadership of the All India Handloom Weavers' Congress and they began asking for protection - first against the textile industry and later on against the ubiquitous interpolator, the powerloom. The government somehow was hesitant as to what to do between the powerloom and the textile industry on the one hand and

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with the handloom weavers on the other. Then we had another good friend from Bihar, the late Dr. Ansari. He was a Minister there in the Congress government. He also gave us a lot of support. Recently we have been having another from Hathras, in Aligarh, Mr. Sahayogi and several others. All this time we have been asking to co-operativise this industry so that these handloom weavers working in their homes and on their own looms could be brought together and provided organised strength in order that they will be able to get all the inputs like cotton yarn, dyes and various important implements at reasonable prices. During the war we had to pay very heavy prices indeed for obtaining dyes in our country because imports were stopped and afterwards the protection that was given by the war economy was not available and weavers had to pay very high prices indeed for the yarn on the one side and for the dyes on the other and also for the implements. Not much protection was given. Yet some effort was made in order to develop the co-operative movement among these weavers. We wanted it to cover all the weavers. Even now only upto 50%, I think, of the weavers have come to be given some kind of protection by way of cheap credit and on reasonable terms and by means of supplying yarn at not reasonable prices but at prices which are not extortionate. Exploitation was going on because marketing was not organised properly. Some steps were taken for improving cotton handloom exports. Some protection was given by the Government also by way of subsidy and rebate. But all these things were not enough.

Just as in the case of industrial workers and farmers, every year their problem has got to be tackled in a very careful and consistent manner, so is the position with the weavers. Their problem cannot be solved once for all by any kind of legislation like this. Every year their interests have got to be safeguarded by the Government - by the government at the State level and the

government at the Union level also and a regular and consistent programme and policy have got to be adopted by the governments at all levels. It is being done? Is it being done but not so satisfactorily. The key thing is this reservation. This has not been done all this time. Even now my hon. friend, Mr. Reddy from the Opposition has sounded a note of warning. It has got to be implemented carefully.

15.00 hrs

Are we quite sure that it will be implemented carefully? Who is going to implement this Bill when it becomes an Act? It should be the State Governments and also at the Union level. Can we be sure that they will do it satisfactorily and effectively? Therefore, there is need for the weavers, organisation itself to be properly organised and developed. It can be done in two ways - one, by subsidising their non-official organisation; second, by giving representation on all the concerned organisations to the handloom cooperatives at all levels. In this direction also no effective steps have come to be taken till now and they have to be taken hereafter.

15.01 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

Then, Sir, what are the weaves which should be reserved for the handloom weavers? How is it to be done? It has got to be distributed between these three sectors, the big industry, the organised textile industry, the powerloom and the handloom weavers. And where are the powerlooms? How many of them? A proper survey has got to be made. But till now - it is most unfortunate, Sir, not one of the State Governments is able to make a proper and reliable survey. Secondly we have asked the State Governments as well as the Union Government not to give licences to any more powerloom. They said they were going to take some steps. What happened? Without any licence at all power looms have come into existence, or rather, have been allowed to come into existence through the

connivance of the local police and other officials and also with the help of some of the politicians of political parties. It does not matter which party it is. This has got to be stopped. And then, as between these three sectors justice has got to be done. Till today we know that organised industry is able to get yarn at whatever price it considers to be reasonable. But the handloom weavers are not assured of proper and adequate supplies at reasonable prices, Steps have got to be taken in this regard. No. satisfactory steps have come to be taken till now. Some steps are being taken, but what is the use? It is only placing at their disposal some 10% or 15% as much of the yarn that they need. For the rest of it is they are at the mercy of the market. Therefore all the yarn that they need has got to be purchased *en bloc* from time to time according to some kind of reasonable schedule from the textile mill industries. Then, secondly, Sir, some textile mills have got to be organised by the handloom weavers themselves. This policy was adopted by the Government. Some textile mills have come to be organised on cooperative lines. Also preference must be given to the weavers themselves. Some weavers are rich enough; some others can come together. They have to be encouraged to organise textile mills. Yarn is to be taken over at stated prices, at remunerative prices. True. But at the same time textile mills should not be allowed to profiteer at the expense of the handloom weavers. This sort of profiteering at the expense of the handloom weavers so far as supply of yarn is concerned is a continuous process of exploitation which is going on and it is a running sore and something very effective has got to be done in this regard. After having done that, and these weavers are given the opportunity of producing these clothes, what is to be done in regard to all these people who are employed by the weavers themselves on looms, privately owned as well as cooperatively owned? Should they not be protected also? Should they not be given the same kind of protection if not the same high level of wages as the industrial workers? They have

got to be protected, Sir, There should be a minimum wage fixed from year to year and that must be made liable to be paid to the weavers engaged on the looms owned, organised, or brought together by the cooperatives. In all these directions effective steps have got to be taken but till now not much has been done. Although a beginning has been made in every direction, great credit is due to the Congress Government, anyhow post-independence Governments. Even during those days, Janata days also, handloom weavers were sought to be given some protection, but not as effectively, not as consciously as has come to be done during the last five or six years, thanks to the 20-point programme. But this 20-point programme does not go so far enough. There are States in North-Eastern region. The whole of Assam and all the 5 or 6 States are in the North-Eastern region where it is not merely money-making industry. It is a home industry. Every woman before she gets herself married must become a good enough weaver. That is the very first qualification. Otherwise she would not find herself suited for marriage and that industry in those States has got to be provided special protection and thought has got to be given as to how far and in what manner they should be protected. So is the position also in other States like Jammu and Kashmir. They work on the production of blankets and carpets in many of the States, in many of the districts like Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh these carpets are being manufactured. They are being exploited for a very long time. They would have to be protected.

I have been suggesting, in addition to those things, that there should be a separate Department and if possible, a separate Minister for handloom weaving industry and other cottage industry at the State level, at the Union level. My hon. friend, Mr. Sangma, fortunately for us, hails from that region where it is an important industry, apart from agriculture. It is in the tribal areas. Now, I would request a Minister like him to be specially charged with this responsibility of protecting the cottage industries as a

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whole and more especially the handloom weaving industry working on cotton silk and wool and various other things which go to the making of carpets and various other decorative things. This has not been done by the Government of India. I do not know whether they have got a separate department for the handloom industry, for the textiles. If they do not have it, I would like them to initiate steps in order to have and build up an effective, knowledgeable, competent and powerful Department with a Minister to be in charge of it.

Sir, look at the cursory way in which the framers of this Bill in the Law Ministry and also in the Textiles Department have gone about it. They say that there has to be an Advisory Body. What is that Advisory Body? Who are to be its Members? How are they to be recruited? How are they to be chosen? Is it to be a representative body? Is it to be a permanent body and for how long? No details are given here at all. Not even any mention has been made. They say that the rules would be provided. As usual it is being done in an arbitrary manner by our Government here. Here they have simply put it as an Advisory Body. In fact, this kind of disability is not special to this Bill. It has come to be the special prerogative of the Law Ministry as well as other Ministries in our Government. In regard to almost all the Bills that come up here before this House, they seem to think that everything should be left to the rule-making power and those rules should be placed on the Table of the House. We do not know. We have no information. I have given notice of an amendment to this Bill and one or two Members have also supported that. Even after we have given notice of it, they do not take the trouble to call any of us and ask 'what is it that we can do in this matter'. This is not the way, my dear friends that legislation has got to be placed before us.

First, I would like to congratulate my hon. friend for having placed this Bill before the other House, got it passed and then brought it here, I hope we

would be able to pass it before we adjourn for the day. But while passing it, I would like my hon. friend to exercise resilience of mind and decision and consider the amendments that we have placed before the House and give serious thought to them. I hope they have already given, if they have not been carried away by the usual habit of taking for granted that all the amendments will either be negatived or will be withdrawn. Given some thought to it even within the few hours that are there at our disposal and try and come forward with their own amendments if they cannot accept our amendments and give necessary shape to the Advisory Committees.

Finally, I would like to pay my tribute to the crores of handloom weavers who have remained loyal to this industry in spite of this competition that they had to face from abroad in those days and from the textile magnates during the first three or four decades of our freedom and also from this nefarious organization which has shot into prominence as a terrible competitor to the handloom weavers, that is the powerloom owners.

I would also like to pay my tribute to those handloom leaders who have been fighting for these people in different parts of the country.

In the end, I thank you, Sir, for having given me this opportunity of supporting this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Many loopholes have been pointed out in this Bill. It would have been better if a comprehensive Bill could have been brought after considering all these aspects.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the handloom industry is an industry which plays a vital role in the economic life of the country. At the time when the era of industrialisation had not dawned in our country, this industry held an important place in our economy. Even at that time this industry was highly developed.

It is said that once the daughter of Aurangzeb came in the court wrapped in muslin of Dhaka and despite several layers thereof her body was clearly visible. What I mean to say is that the cloth used to be very fine at that time. If we look at the muslin of that era, we find that today we are far behind in the matter of the development of this industry. Hon. Members know how the Britishers ruined this industry. The condition of this industry in our State is peculiar. The handloom industry and the plight of the weavers are closely inter-linked. It is regrettable that the Central Government are not taking due interest in the development of this industry. So far as Bihar is concerned 60 to 70 percent of the cooperatives are fake and exist only on paper. The weavers are supplied with yarn to produce cloth and there is also a provision of rebate from the Government. But actually what happens is that the weavers do not take yarn and the production of handloom cloth is shown only on paper. In this way, that entire money is misappropriated. It is a matter of regret that on the one hand we want to ameliorate the lot of the weavers but on the other hand swindling is indulged in through the cooperatives, which gives a severe blow to the economic condition of the weavers. On record it has been shown that lakhs of metres of handloom cloth have been produced in Bihar. But what is the reality? There is so much bungling that hardly 25 percent of the cloth is actually produced. I have no information regarding the other States. But some hon. Members have mentioned here that cooperatives are running satisfactorily in their States. In Bengal the cooperatives are running well. It is good because we have been associated with the cooperatives from the very beginning. But the condition in my State has deteriorated in this regard.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : The same condition exists in U.P.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : In U.P. the condition is the same, as my friend has said. If the Central Government want some improvement in it, some action would have to be taken,

otherwise the funds released by the Centre would not be utilised properly and there would be no improvement in the lot of the weavers. The Government would have to ensure that the yarn made available to this industry reaches the actual weavers regularly and there is a proper market for their goods. Only then, the lot of the weavers would be ameliorated. The cooperatives cannot undertake the work of marketing. Today, there are weavers in our country who produce bedsheets, curtain cloth, towels and other cloth of superior quality which is in great demand in foreign countries. But according to your report, the export of handloom cloth has declined. If this is true then Government are responsible for it. Proper publicity of the handloom cloth in foreign countries is not being done and your department is not taking proper initiatives in this respect, even though this is a highly labour oriented industry in the country. If the Government could allocate more funds for the development of this industry and provide all kinds of facilities, including supervision, then the economic condition of the people would definitely improve. It would particularly be helpful in lifting the people above the poverty line, which is also a part of the 20-Point Programme. While supplying yarn to the weavers, it should be ensured that the price thereof is low enough to enable the weaver to find a ready market for his cloth and also earn reasonable wages. The Central Government have fixed Rs. 8.50 as minimum wage for an unskilled labourer but in Bihar this is not being paid. I do not know about other States, but in my State the weavers are facing acute unemployment. They are being exploited. No yarn is made available to them. Those who are able to get yarn and produce cloth face difficulty in marketing.

I shall not take more time on this subject but I want that a comprehensive Bill should be brought forward in which care should be taken of all these things. The present Bill should be passed because there is no question of opposing it. I also want to say that arrangements should be made for ensuring sufficient stock of yarn at the centres of the wea-

[Shri Vijay Kumar Yadav]

vers so that they may get guarantee of regular employment.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[*English*]

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) :
While supporting this Bill, I wish to make the following points :

The handloom industry is the oldest industry in the country. It is a cottage industry, is labour-oriented and it provides employment opportunities to the largest number of persons in the country, next only to agriculture.

The handloom industry is now facing lot of problems. Clothes produced are not sold in the market. There are huge stocks without adequate marketing. So, there is wide-spread unemployment. The people engaged in this industry live in poverty-stricken conditions, and are on the verge starvation.

The handloom weavers are spread throughout the country. Whenever they face a problem, it would spread throughout the country. So, the problems faced by the weavers should be tackled effectively and immediately. Weavers are facing difficulty in getting yarn at the proper time. Yarn is not regularly supplied. The cost of yarn is very high. Yarn should be supplied at the ex-Mill price, without taxes. Whenever the price of yarn is increased, the cost of production goes up, and the cost of cloth would also go up. There should be a proportionate increase in marketing or else it would create a lot of problems.

Now there are difficulties in marketing. That is the biggest problem facing this industry, and it has to be solved. The handloom sector has to compete with the mighty mill sector, and also the power-loom sector for its survival. So, it is highly necessary to bring in a legislation. This legislation would protect the interests of the handloom weavers. There is already reservation of some items. These measures helped in bringing about improvements in this industry. This legislation is

highly essential to protect the industry and its growth effectively and in a better way.

This legislation would not, of course, solve all the problems : but it is a very important approach for the solution of many of the problems faced by the handloom weavers. It would give relief to the industry and also to the weavers.

Government attaches a lot of importance to this industry. In the revised 20-Point Programme of the late Prime Minister, item 18 is for the promotion of this industry. In recent years, there is a lot of improvement, and increase in the export of handloom clothes. Due importance is given to the promotion of this industry.

I would like to make the following suggestions for the solution of certain problems faced by the weavers :

Weavers are finding it difficult to get yarn. My request is that steps be taken so as to enable them to get yarn at a cheaper rate regularly.

Marketing—domestic and export—has to be increased.

Steps have to be taken for the modernisation of equipments and also improvement in the quality of design and also in the quality of cloth produced by the handloom weavers.

Regarding credit, now the handloom weavers are facing a lot of difficulty ; they should be provided with adequate credit facilities at nominal interest. Steps have to be taken to form more and more weavers co-operative societies wherever there is no society.

At certain places, the required count of yarn is not supplied ; that has to be looked into and it has to be supplied.

There is lot of cotton in the market. There is ghut in the market. The price is also low. But the price of yarn is going up. This conflicting circumstance has to be examined and remedial measures have to be taken to protect growers of cotton as well as weavers.

The hon. Minister has stated that a new textile policy would be evolved soon. I would request the hon. Minister that the solution of these and other problems of weavers should find a place in the new textile policy and in the Seventh Five Year Plan also.

A system of rebate for the sale of handloom product was introduced. There is accumulation of huge arrears of rebate to be paid to Tamilnadu from the Centre—an amount of Rs. 7 crores are overdue. This has to be paid back immediately.

The products manufactured by powerloom are marketed as handloom and are marketed and sold as such. This malpractice has to be curbed. Thank you.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI (Banas-kantha): Although practically one would not like to speak against the powerloom, when we think of protecting the handloom, then among the three sectors, that is textile industry, powerloom and handloom, I think powerloom has unauthorisedly come up and is eating into the vitals of both the sectors—handloom as well as textile industry; and it is difficult for government even to check the irregular growth of the unauthorised powerloom sector. I am sorry to say that even the Textile Commissioner, who is supposed to regulate them, has failed to do so.

The Report of the Estimates Committee also on this matter is before the House. Therefore, now what has happened is that even the Textile Industries where there are better chances of safeguarding the interests of the workers—some of the major textile industries—are getting their cloth manufactured through powerlooms and branding them as cloth manufactured by them. It is a man-made fibre. It is also in the sphere of cotton. And, therefore, when it has been declared that a new textile policy is to be formulated, I would be happy if Government takes a comprehensive view about the role of the powerlooms, irregular growth, unauthorised growth eating away, eating into the vitals of those handlooms as

well as into the vitals of the textile industry. So far as the handlooms are concerned, they have a glorious history and the accusation is rightly made against the Britishers that our handloom and cottage industries in the villages were totally killed by them. Perhaps this is the only industry where singly it employs the second largest number of workers or people, after agriculture. The figures given here show that four crores of people are employed in them. I would say that more than two crores of families are employed because not only the workers are engaged, but right from the child, the entire family works on the handlooms.

This Bill contemplates reservation of certain articles for exclusive production by handlooms. I am afraid, that on this count a very unified effort will have to be made by the Government, because we have got experience that many articles which can be manufactured in the small scale sector and the cottage industries, are being manufactured by the MRTP companies. We know that tooth paste, tooth brush, shaving soap, bathing soap are all manufactured by Tatas and Godrej, which are M R T.P. companies. And, we cannot do anything about it. So, when the Advisory Committee takes up the question of demarcating the articles to be produced in the handloom sector, I hope that the Government would not be yielding to pressure—because pressure will be built up against it. There are very powerful lobbies against such demarcation, which want that those articles should not be exclusively earmarked for the handloom sector only. Therefore, a view has been expressed by very senior Members of this House, including our Deputy leader, Prof. Ranga that the formation of the Advisory Committee is of the greatest importance. Because, otherwise that Committee's recommendations would be of very vital importance for compartmentalising the articles and reserving them exclusively for the handloom sector. If that Committee is not given strong powers and if it is not represented properly, then that Committee would be

[Shri B. K. Gadhvi]

only a nominal committee. Therefore, on this count, I share the views expressed by the other Members and I also urge upon the Government to give a serious thought to the formulation of this Advisory Committee.

Secondly, about the availability, although steps are being taken at a slow speed to help out this sector subsidies are given, rebates are given, Rs. 30 crores have been allotted for development of this industry, but still, this industry is in need of help. It is there in silk weaving, it is also there in cotton weaving, and in wool weaving also it is there. And this handloom sector produces articles which have got a great potential market abroad. Therefore, my submission is that some urgent efforts to have this handloom sector in an organised way need to be made. Of course, there are cooperatives. But unfortunately, now the cooperatives also do not come upto the expectations. In Gujarat we have tried our best with regard to this sector, but cooperatives have not come upto the expectations. Therefore, it is all right that we will go on forming cooperatives but some device will have to be thought out so that weavers get better facilities regarding availability of raw materials like silk, yarn, even starch and implements and marketing. The crux of the problem is that middle-men usurp the profit. Today, even though cooperatives are selling their products, more profit is going to the middlemen. Therefore, the share which should devolve on the workers is not coming. So, under distress they are continuing with this profession. Therefore, we should relieve them of this distress.

This industry employs about two crores of families in the country all over right from south to north and from east to west. I hope that a more comprehensive measure will be thought out by the Government. I am sure, even after passing this Bill, Government will not stop paying attention to this sector for getting more remunerative prices and other facilities for the development of this sector.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI K. R. NATARAJAN (Dindigul) : On behalf of AIADMK I welcome this Bill. I would like to speak a few words on the handloom industry.

It is a well-known fact that after agriculture, handloom is the second largest industry in India. Most of the weavers are living in rural parts without having minimum facilities like safe drinking water, etc. They do not have any housing facility at all. They are living almost below the poverty line. The reason is that there is a stiff competition from the mill sector. Their daily income is meagre. It should be increased. The handloom products remain stagnant because of lack of marketing facilities. So, subsidy should be given for marketing of handloom products. Marketing facilities for their goods should be developed as much as are there for mill goods. Handloom products should be exported without the interference of the middleman. They are taking a sizeable part of the profit. So the intervention by the middleman should be eliminated.

Some representatives of weavers told me that their delegation met the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, and she promised them that the Government would provide them loans for houses. But nothing has been done uptill now. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and see that loans are provided to them for building houses.

Whenever a licence is sanctioned for the powerloom, it should be made compulsory by the Government that the powerlooms should be operated only by the weavers and not by any middle-men so that the benefit could go to the weavers.

They have very poor educational facilities. So, I request the Government that proper educational facilities should be provided to them. I mean technical education. Fifty per cent of the textile seats in textile courses in colleges and other institutions may be allocated for the children of the weavers. The health

scheme and other welfare measures may be provided to the weavers and they may be given all facilities. The conditions of the weavers in Tamil Nadu, especially in Madurai and Dharmapuri districts, are very miserable and should be improved. In order to obviate their difficulties, one spinning mill in Usilampatty in Dindigul constituency and another cooperative mill in Dharmapuri district may be started...*(Interruptions)*.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Already there is one mill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is adding one more, why are you stopping him? He is interested in giving one more mill to the Dharmapuri district and you are telling him that already one mill is there. Let there be another mill.

SHRI K. R. NATARAJAN : Since Tamil Nadu is a backward State and the Dharmapuri district is the most backward district, therefore, another mill may be started in that district. Since the great freedom fighter Subramania Siva lived in Papparapatty village in Dharmapuri district, I suggest that the new mill to be started may be named after him.

The Tamil Nadu Government have been taking special interest in handlooms and have created a separate department known as Handlooms Department which is under the charge of a senior IAS officer. The Government of India is taking utmost interest in handlooms and is holding a handlooms fair every year. I request the hon. Minister to hold such fairs twice a year and the handloom weavers should be given subsidy.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill as a step for protecting the handloom industry. At the outset, I would like to state that I hope that this Bill would not become a sword which is used to ensure that there is no progress in future. In other words, I hope that this Bill would not be used to tell the handloom weavers that thus far and no further, and that all that they have to do is only handlooms and they cannot think of any more progress in

life. The reason why I am stating this is that I hope that we are not aiming at protecting the industry but the weaver. I hope the hon. Minister does understand it and, I am sure, he appreciates when I say that it is the weaver whom we are interested in and not the industry. The industry comes in only because of the weaver and not independent of the weaver and, therefore, let this Bill not become such that it tells the handloom weaver that he shall for ever only be a handloom weaver and will not progress any more in life. It is a well-known fact that powerloom—specially in my constituency I have seen it—is nothing but handloom, with the motor fixed to it. Actually there are various types of powerlooms, the Minister would understand it. There are powerlooms which are almost mills, and there are powerlooms which are almost handlooms. It ranges from the smallest powerlooms to huge multi-loomed powerlooms which are very close to mills.

Unfortunately, when the word "powerloom" is used, invariably, everybody looks for a huge powerloom where multi-loomed are linked to one source of power, there is one capitalist employing the unfortunate poor labour and exploiting them. There are actually, at the same time, weavers individual weavers, who with a single loom and power attached to it are trying to improve their productivity. This is a fact, because in my constituency there are nearly 30,000 such powerlooms, which I have gone and seen myself, where they have attached motors to existing handlooms and nothing more, and also illegally attached, because they have not got the permission.

The reason why they have adopted it, or resorted to it, is very simple. The economics of handloom weaving, however much subsidy the Government gives, however much effort is taken for their marketing, is not sufficient with today's cost of living. This is a reality which we all must face. The handloom weavers are not able to earn enough. In fact, as Shri Das Murshi was saying, they work for 24 hours, round the clock, and still they are not able to earn enough. The reason is very simple.

[Shri P. R. Kumarmangalam]

With the coming in of large textile mills, with the coming in of money in capital investment and higher productivity, the cost per metre for labour is going down. The handloom industry, except in certain selected varieties, where artistic work is involved, is becoming uneconomical from the labour point of view.

I am stating this because, whatever reservations we may do, we cannot get away from one factor, and that is we have to think of the future of the weavers. In this connection, I have a proposal, which I hope the Minister would take into consideration. In order to ensure that powerlooms are not misused, the terminology 'powerloom' is not misused by these large textile mills, by having *benami* powerlooms, putting their trade mark stamp and selling it, in future at least all powerlooms should be restrained, permitting only handloom weavers, traditional handloom weavers so that, if the handloom weavers upgrade their technology by growing into powerlooms, it should be welcomed and not discouraged. We cannot, on the one hand, definitely talk of moving into the 21st century and, on the other, discourage the traditional handloom weavers from going forward technologically and moving up into powerlooms.

Of course, there is this fear that the MRTP companies, or non-MRTP companies but who are really MRTP companies, may be exploiting the name of powerlooms. Therefore, it is necessary not only just to reserve certain articles for the handloom sector, but also to reserve certain sectors in the textile industry itself for the handloom weavers, the original weavers.

It is an admitted fact, and I think every body here has said it, that next to agriculture, handloom industry is one of the industries which has got the largest employment potential. Why is it that we cannot create technology and high productive equipment, which is available really to the small powerlooms by adding a fly wheel, as my

hon. friend has said? Putting a fly wheel and a motor is all that is required. If you do that, your productivity improves, you get better remuneration and you survive better. This is a truth which I think it is necessary to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister.

There is a lot of illegal powerloom units set up and they still survive. With the best of efforts of the Tamil Nadu Government, they could not ensure that the illegal powerloom units do not come up and crush the handloom industry. The illegal powerlooms are surviving because, with the same amount of labour which is put in the handloom sector, with higher capital investment & better productivity, they are able to get much better advantage from these powerloom units. Here I do notice as a lawyer that there are certain defects in the Bill. If we have to really implement this, we would have to remove these defects.

The first is that in Section 4 the word 'article' is used but there is no definition of it. Naturally, in a court it would be interpreted as a normal trade meaning. So, Dhoti would become an article. The weave count would be irrelevant. Therefore, I would suggest that instead of the word 'article', a better term known as 'textile product' should be used so that you can actually fix weave count etc. for different articles that are produced and genuine protection can be given.

Secondly, in Section 10 throughout you speak of six months. As a matter of experience as a lawyer I know that when you say 'punishable with a term of six months or with fine or both,' invariably it is only fine. Therefore, rich men will be willing to pay Rs. 5,000/- per loom. Why not? They will get more money and would not mind paying fine. Therefore, please drop the word 'or' and put 'and' instead. And you would find better results.

I would like to end only by saying let it not be an attitude of the Government that 'we have moved a Bill for

handloom and we have protected the weavers and that is all we will do'. I would request the Hon. Minister to look at this seriously from the point of view of making it remunerative for the handloom weaver or whatever loom weaver you may call him to survive and to come up economically.

[*Translation*]

*SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Bill, 1985 wholeheartedly. If we go through the history of handlooms we will find that the Indian Silks and Muslin clothes were very popular in the country. The foreigners also had great liking for Indian handlooms. Indian silks and muslin clothes were weaved in nice designs. The purpose of this Bill is to improve the working conditions of the weavers. At the same time this Bill will go a long way in finding a permanent solution of the weavers in getting the yarn for their industry. Therefore I welcome this Bill.

Sir, handloom is an ancient industry. So it is necessary to develop this industry. While speaking on this Bill I remember my old association with our late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi. During the last two days of her life she had visited Orissa. While she was touring in a village called Nuapatna near Tigiria she personally paid her visit to a handloom exhibition organised by the Government of Orissa. She was very happy to see the handloom clothes. She had also purchased a few sarees. But it is unfortunate that she could not use those sarees. She met many weavers and shared their difficulties. She herself remarked that the conditions of the weavers in our country is not satisfactory and requires a lot of improvement. We must raise their economic status. I still remember her comments. The growth of handloom industry was very much in her mind. Therefore, she had included the growth of handloom industry in her 20-point economic programme. The handloom play very important role

in our every day life. It is an important sector in textile industry. After agriculture handloom industry takes next place in our country. This industry provides direct employment of about one crore people and about 4 crores are engaged in this industry indirectly. But it is regrettable that the condition of the weavers have not been improved so far. At many places they are working around the clock. But still they are very poor. So it is our first and foremost duty to improve their living condition.

The year 1984 was declared as the year of handlooms. It was decided to make all round progress in handloom industry. It was also the plan of the Government to improve the condition of the workers engaged in this industry. Sir, out of the total requirement of the clothes in the country we get 30% of them from handloom. In view of this I would like to know from the Minister whether any review has been made as to how far we have been able to encourage the handloom industry during the year of handloom. I hope the hon. Minister will enlighten the House how far the conditions of weavers have been improved. Sir, there are as many as 30 lakhs looms working in the country. The total production of handloom clothes is 3400 million metres per year in our country. Therefore the growth of handloom industry should be given top priority. We export handloom clothes to earn foreign exchange. In the year 1971 the country had earned 25.16 crores of foreign exchange whereas in the year 1983-84 we exported handloom clothes worth Rs. 309 crores. So there has been increase in our foreign exchange earnings by exporting handloom clothes.

Now I would like to give some suggestions for the growth of handloom industry. While speaking on the growth of handloom industry we must take into account the difficulties faced by weavers. Sir, there is severe scarcity of yarn at many places. The weavers do not get required quantity of yarns when they need. Therefore I suggest that a handloom yarn bank be set up through which the weavers can buy yarns. Fair price

*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

[Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik]

shops should be opened to supply yarn to the weavers at reasonable prices. In this connection I would like to suggest the Government to open co-operative spinning mills. The weavers should be allowed to sell their products directly. Of course there are some co-operatives societies organised by the weaver in some States but I feel that there should be many more cooperative societies for the weavers in our country.

Sir, storage facilities available in the rural areas are quite inadequate. Therefore I request the Government to expand the storage facilities. The weavers are facing a great difficulty due to lack of marketing facilities. The middlemen take the advantages in such places. They exploit the poor weavers. Due to the huge stock of clothes in the market, the weavers find no other way than selling those clothes to the middlemen at throw away prices. Therefore, adequate marketing facilities should be created if we really think to improve the conditions of the weavers.

Then I would like to suggest the Government to set up some training centres for the weavers where they can learn modern technology. Adequate training should be provided to them to modernise their traditional technique. Necessary incentives should be provided to weavers at the time of training. Sir, the handlooms made in India is in great demand in international market. Therefore it is necessary to give due publicity to our handloom clothes in international spheres. Our embassies should be given necessary directions in this regard.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, I would like to make a mention of Shivraman Committee. This Committee had recommended that 20% of the total clothes required by the State Government should be purchased from handloom sector. This recommendation should be implemented where it is not done so far. Lastly, I agree with Prof. N.G. Ranga about the points

raised by him in regard to the constitution of advisory committee. I suggest that a woman member may be included in that Committee. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my DMK Party, I welcome this Bill. There are millions of weavers in Tamil Nadu. Our party DMK is championing the cause for the handloom weavers right from 1953. When handloom cloth worth crores of rupees was not sold and was accumulating our leader Dr. Karunanidhi and other leaders carried bundles of cloth on their shoulders and sold them by singing a song.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: It was under the guidance of Anna.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU: I am thankful to Prof. Ranga. Yes, it was under the guidance of late Anna also. At that time, Anna gave the statement, Kalainger Karunanidhi and other leaders sold the cloth by singing a song. My respective submission to Mr. Deputy-Speaker is, at that time in 1950s, the Congress Party was ruling the State. I will just read the song. I will also translate it in English:

“VARUDAM ORU MURAI
MARGAZHI MATHAM VAI-
KUNDAM KATTUTHU
EKADASI

IPPO MATHAM DHORUM
NESAVALAR VEETIL VAI-
KUNDAM KATTUTHU
PASI PASI

INTHA KASHTATTHAI THE-
ERKKA GOVERNMENT-KU
NERAM ILLAI ROMBA
BUSY BUSY

INTHA KAVALAIYAI THE-
ERTHU KANNAL PARKKA
DMK-KU ROMBA KUSHI
KUSHI.”

The English translation is:

Ekadasi will show Swarga once in a year. But now in Weavers' family Ekadasi shows Swarga

every month. The Government has no time to solve this. But our Party wants to redress the grievances of the Weavers and see them happy.

As Prof. Ranga earlier mentioned, our late lamented leader Aringer Anna said that cloth which had borders should be reserved to handloom sector alone. Our Party General Council also resolved several times that manufacture of dhotis and sarees should be allotted to handloom industry alone. If I may say so, the hon. Minister may know well about our Kancheepuram sarees and our old famous Arani sarees. Now, the mill goods are making a stiff competition to the handloom industry. Mr. Rajaji also while he was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, emphasised that bordered cloth should be allotted to handloom sector alone. I want to bring to the notice of this hon. House that mill cloth is making a lot of competition to the handloom industry. If the handloom industry is to be saved, certain articles should be solely allotted to handloom sector alone. Even many leaders outside this august House have expressed the feeling that dhotis and sarees should be allotted to the exclusive manufacture of handloom industry. Then only the handloom industry will survive.

In Tamil Nadu and in Andhra Pradesh and in our neighbouring States, there are millions of people who are shedding their tears even now, particularly in Arani which is very near to Madras city, there is one quality by name 'Bleeding Madras' which was even appreciated in U.S.A. That quality is gradually diminishing because there is no encouragement either from the State Government or the Union Government to the handloom industry.

Prof. Ranga rightly said that there should be a separate Ministry for Handlooms. This should be the theme of this Bill.

Then, the Bill speaks about the appointment of an Advisory Committee. There is no use appointing Members

of Parliament alone on the Advisory Committee. I would say that experts throughout the country must find a place in this Committee. Then only the experts will be in a position to give a proper advice, not only a philosophical advice but a practical advice, how the grievances of handloom weavers should be redressed.

During our regime, in Tamil Nadu, we started so many co-operative institutions in the handloom industry. My learned brothers may not get angry if I say that during the last 7 or 8 years, the cooperative institutions in Tamil Nadu are looked after only by a special officer. There are no elections. The plight of handloom weavers cannot be described in words.

One hon Member said about the rebate problem. In Tamil Nadu, only during the festival time, the rebate is given. If the handloom industry is to flourish, I request that by any method the rebate should be given all through the year. In Tamil Nadu, Pongal festival is there; Christmas is there; Tamil New Year's day is celebrated; Telugu New Year's day is celebrated; Anna's birthday is celebrated, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday is celebrated. So, right through the year, each and every month, there is one festival or other in Tamil Nadu and, by that name, the rebate can be given all through the year, the rebate can be given so that the handloom industry may flourish.

In conclusion, while welcoming this Bill, I would like to say that it should be specified in the Bill that dhotis and saris should be exclusively allotted to the handloom industry.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The Bill provides for the reservation of certain articles for production in the handloom sector. The way the provisions have been made in the Bill deserves commendation but there are certain lacunae in the provisions regarding maintenance of the system.

[Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas]

The first flaw is in regard to the constitution of the Advisory Committee, which has not been defined in the Bill. In all the Bills introduced in the House hitherto, it used to be invariably mentioned who the members would be and what their status would be. With a view to promoting the handloom industry, only those persons who are engaged in this industry should be associated with this Committee. The handloom industry exists in every state but it varies in size from State to State. The people of those areas where handlooms are in vogue, on a larger scale should, in particular, find a place in the Advisory Committee. The experts in the khadi and village industries should be given representation on this Committee. Each state has its own Handloom Board and the members of that Board should also be given representation on the Committee so that they may be able to decide which items should be entrusted to the handloom sector.

Clause 4 (2) of the Bill provides for the mode of production. An Advisory Committee will be constituted which would decide which articles should be entrusted to the handloom sector. Besides, a provision has also been made that the concerns which are producing these articles, shall stop producing them within a period of three months. This provision will provide them with an opportunity to produce that article for quite some time and to take advantage of it. It should be amended so that a proper system could be brought about as early as possible.

So far as the penal clause is concerned, as has been said by an hon. Member, you have made a provision for six months' imprisonment or a fine of Rs. 5000. In courts it is generally seen that if big persons are involved, they are not awarded punishment. They are released after realising the penalty from them. A provision should be made that if big persons are involved, maybe textile or powerloom capitalists, they must be given punishment even if it is one day's imprisonment. Such a provision would have a very good impact.

Hence in the penal clause, the word 'or' may be substituted by the word 'and'.

You have provided for an exemption in Clause 18(1). If the handloom sector is not in a position to supply the articles to be exported abroad, the powerloom or the textile sector will be authorised to manufacture those articles. The big people will take undue advantage of this provision and will manufacture those articles after obtaining your permission. Such a provision defeats the very purpose of this Bill and the handloom industry will be hit hard as a result thereof. We have seen it in Bhiwani where the Birla Mill laid-off thousands of workers and started producing those articles which could be manufactured in the handloom sector, with a view to earning maximum profit. Such things should be stopped.

Textile industry in the country is in a very bad shape. Our exports of textiles produced through mills, powerlooms, or handlooms, have declined considerably during the last few years. What are the reasons for it? Only the Ministry can state the reasons. A demand has been made that there should be a separate department or a separate Ministry for it. You should give serious thought to it. A separate department for textiles will be in a position to ascertain the reasons for low production for textiles and also why several mills are getting sick. The Commerce Ministry is overworked. It has to look after the imports and the exports. That is why they are not able to pay the required attention to textiles. In a way the textile industry has been ruined while under the charge of Commerce Ministry. Today, several mills are lying closed in Bombay, Ahmedabad and other places. The reason is that this Department is not paying due attention. Our financial institutions like I.D.B.I. at Calcutta etc. are also not extending full co-operation. Our Finance Minister had said in his Budget speech that the sick industries, which had become sick due to mismanagement, would definitely be revived.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that I.D.B.I. is not prepared to give loan to the Mewar Textile Mill, which has become a sick mill. It has become sick due to mismanagement and the Rajasthan Government have been asked to revive it, but the financial institution located at Calcutta is not willing to give loan. You should pay attention to this aspect also. These things happen due to the negligence of your Department. Hence, you should pay personal attention towards it and ensure that loans or advances are granted by the financial institutions to those industries which have become sick due to mismanagement. The facilities necessary to revive them should be made available. Financial institutions should provide loans etc. to the Mewar Textile Mill so that the workers, who have been without job for the last two and a half years, can earn their livelihood.

As I said earlier, there should be a separate Ministry for the textiles so that we can revive the industry and restore to it the degree of development which existed earlier when India was leading in this field. The situation is deteriorating day by day and if remedial steps are not taken, it will further deteriorate. I, therefore, suggest that there should be a separate department for it. There is no coordination between the Commerce Department and the Textile Department. So, there should be a separate department to promote the textile industry, whether it is textile mill or powerlooms or handlooms. In the absence of such an arrangement, they may not get full protection and they may not be able to develop to the required extent.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Bill, particularly reservation of some articles for production exclusively in the handloom sector has arisen out of the Study Group formed by the Government of India. Previously, whatever reservation was made for this sector was made

under the Essential Commodities Act or some other Acts which were there, but that was contested in the court of law and a lot of problems were created by the middle sector, that is, the powerloom as well as the textile mills.

This is a very progressive Bill, a non-controversial and a very simple Bill. The intention of the Bill is to make some reservation for the handloom sector, to earmark some articles for production exclusively in the handloom sector, so that the other sectors do not encroach on that.

Some of my colleagues here have given their views with regard to Clause 4 of this Bill, that is, about the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee reminds me of another instance. When the textile mills and other allied industries were in a bad shape, the Indian National Trade Union Congress had taken up the matter with the Government of India and we had pleaded for appointment of an expert committee to go into the matter and added that whatever they suggested should be implemented in order to save the industry. But do you know what happened? The Government had appointed an expert committee consisting of Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Secretary--as though these people were the experts in the textile industry--ignoring the trade union side or the textile management side. That should not happen now in this matter.

Those people who are very much aware of the malady, of the situation in the handloom industry: should be members of the Advisory Committee.

Another point is this. Some of my friends have mentioned about the composition of the Committee and about the time schedule. Clause 19 of the Bill provides for power to make rules and place them before Parliament. I expect that the Government, after this Bill is passed, will frame the rules expeditiously. Another point, particularly in Tamil Nadu, is that Tamil Nadu is having more than 1600 co-operatives of

[Shri K. Ramamurthy]

handloom weavers. But now all of them are on the verge of closure. I am sorry to bring to your kind notice that now there is more than Rs. 100 crores worth of accumulated handloom goods which are lying in the godowns of these 1600 co-operative societies. A number of representations were made to the State Government as also to the Central Government, to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Commerce Minister in this respect. After that I had an opportunity of having a discussion with the Handloom Directors of different States like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. They were all telling that in other States this sort of accumulation of stocks was not there. They have pointed out one thing. Particularly in the Tamil Nadu co-operative sector, as hon. Mr. N.V.N. Somu has just now pointed out, the long-pending democratic elections have created special officers. Wherever the Board is already existing, it ought to be re-appointed every year. This re-appointment of the Board of Directors for the society is completely under the mercy of the Special Officers or the Directorate of Handlooms. What happens? Corruption breeds. For his reappointment or if he wants to continue on the Board he should pay some money to the Handloom Directorate or to the special officers and get that appointment. Ultimately whatever money is paid is also going to add to the cost of production of cloth. So that way the cost of cloth has gone up so much when compared with the other States' products and co-optex fabrics, and that is why this accumulation in Tamil Nadu. This is one of the valid reasons these people are giving me.

Whatever it is, now the reality is that more than Rs. 100 crores worth of handloom stocks have accumulated in the hands of the co-operatives in Tamil Nadu. So the Government of India should come forward and give them whatever assistance is necessary. Some of our friends have suggested that throughout the year the rebate should be given and special exhibitions should be organised to see that these goods are sold out and by this

way only you can save the weavers, particularly the handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu.

Another problem which is confronting the handloom weavers is that there is no proper Act to regularise their employment, to give security of employment and also governing other welfare measures for the handloom weavers. Sometime ago the Tamil Nadu Government passed some legislation in regard to working hours, Provident Fund, gratuity and other welfare measures to the handloom weavers. But the middle sector—the powerloom as well as the textile mills in my state of Tamil Nadu have gone to the High Court and obtained a stay. So what I am suggesting and submitting to the hon. House is that the Centre should bring out a comprehensive legislation to govern these matters and particularly in regard to handloom weavers.

This sector is the second largest. Everybody has said it. Not only the second largest but it is a tiny, inarticulate and unfortunate sector on which we have not so far concentrated our attention. So I insist that there should be a Central legislation to govern the employment, security of employment and other welfare measures for the handloom weavers of this country.

The other point my other friends have mentioned and my colleague Mr. Rangarajan Kumaramangalam has also mentioned it. He propounded a new philosophy that handloom weavers should be brought to the powerloom sector with more sophisticated technology and other things. These are all very civilised ways of putting that the powerloom should govern. I am totally objecting to it. This powerloom sector is exploiting not only the labour but also the general public for their ulterior motive of getting more profit. This new philosophy suggests that handloom weavers should own powerlooms. I am not objecting to that. But which handloom weaver is going to possess that powerloom by spending not less than Rs 10,000? In our State the powerloom association is headed by a textile mill magnate. So propounding

this sort of philosophy or some motivated new theory is not at all going to help the handloom weavers. In the matter of powerlooms also, we are ashamed that whatever licensed capacity, whatever we have given so far, has been doubled by way of irregular or unlicensed powerlooms. And moreover the unlicensed powerlooms are creating a very effective lobby here that they want to be regularised. What is the guarantee that they will stop within this number? So, the Government should think on these lines. For protecting the handloom industry they should give more thinking on these lines; they should see that this mushroom growth of powerloom should be curbed at one stage and at the other stage we should see what all encouragement we can give to the handloom industry. Now we are giving more than Rs. 7,000 crores by way of subsidy to agriculture. This is regarding manure and implements and other things. Why can we not extend at least one-fourth of this to the handloom industry for rebate? This is next to agriculture. More than 4 crores of our poor people are involved in this very ancient and cultural industry. So I suggest, number one, that they should extend as much as possible, rebate and other concessions to this industry. Number two, a comprehensive legislation should be brought out by Government of India to regularise the employment and security of these handloom weavers.

With these words I welcome this Bill.

16.27 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH
in the Chair]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : This Bill indicates that Government is not aware of the real problems of the handloom weavers. This Bill intends to reserve certain items of production. The present case of the handloom weavers in the country is that the stock is piling up and marketability is not there: they are in financial crisis. If the Government has really thought over the problem, then, reservation is to be done not on production

but on distribution. My question to Government is this : Is the Government prepared to reserve certain area for distributing these articles? This is like controlled cloth; this is an item to be distributed by Government for the weaker sections of society. Will the Government consider my suggestion of procuring this handloom cloth which is manufactured by the weavers of this country for the purpose of distribution to weaker sections of society? A large sum of money is invested; it is given as subsidy for manufacture of controlled cloth. Therefore, if handloom sector is to be supported, Government has to think in terms of financing this industry in an indirect manner. Also, will the Government consider my suggestion to distribute the handloom uniform cloth to the various sectors in the Government like Police, Military, and in general Government use? It is admitted that about 30% textile production in the country belongs to handloom sector. If Government intends to help handloom weavers in the country, first priority is to be given for distribution and marketing. In my State the handloom cloth that is produced by these poor people is stockpiled in the godowns; this was once exported to foreign countries. Trivandrum and Cannanore have been very famous in this respect. These areas were exporting handloom cloth to the western world. Now the stocks are getting piled up in the godowns. So, I would like the hon. Minister to answer my question : What is the Government's view for reserving certain areas for the purposes of distribution? The Government has got such avenues. Will the Government do that? Instead of reserving for production, I would say that there should be reservation for distribution. That should be the Government's idea. I do welcome this Bill to the extent that it gives protection from overlapping and unhealthy competition. But more than the protection, what is required to be done for this industry is the promotional activity rather than punitive or preventive measures like those proposed in this Bill. Therefore, as a way of promotional activity, the Government should come forward to see that reservation is made

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

for the purpose of distribution of handloom cloth.

My second point is regarding the credit facility. The Government is aware of this facility. If a survey is conducted it would reveal that most of the weavers in this country before they go in for production, they pledge all their final goods, that is, the end products to the middlemen. They go to the middlemen for financial help and they enter into a contract with the middlemen saying that they would surrender their final produce at a fixed price. This kind of contract is entered into even before goods are produced. I had been to Banaras sometime back and I found that the weavers there were wholly depending on the middlemen. They produce such fine Banaras saris and they sell those saris to these middlemen much lower than the production cost.

Sir, there is another important point. It is of social justice. There are about 10 million people engaged in this ancient industry in this country. These people go to the middlemen for financial help by pledging their final product. Ultimately, they are tied up with the middlemen. If the Government come forward to extend financial facility to this unorganised sector, that will go a long way in reviving the industry. In this context, I would like to inform the House that the total number of people engaged in this industry is more than the total number of people working in the organised sector in this country. Sir, this sector, consisting of these poor weavers, is completely unorganised and most of the people working in this unorganised sector are still in the clutches of exploitation by the middlemen. Unless the Government takes steps to get rid of these poor weavers from the middlemen and give them all the help they need, this industry cannot survive for years to come. This has to be viewed with perspective and social justice and equity.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SALAHUDDIN (Godda) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, while welcoming

this Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards certain basic problems. You have introduced this Bill with a view to protect the handloom industry but, I feel that its full benefit will not reach the weavers directly.

The handloom industry can be divided broadly into two parts. The first part is related to the production side and the other is related to the distribution side. In my view, this Bill relates to the distribution aspect and not the production aspect. So far as reservation is concerned, it tantamounts to avoiding competitions because reservation has no direct connection with the weavers but with the middlemen. This Bill will protect the interests of the distributors only. The hidden intention of this Bill clearly indicates that it would benefit the middlemen instead of the weavers. I want that a provision should be made in the Bill to ensure that the weavers and not the middlemen benefit by it, because the existing provisions are vague and solution to the basic problems of the weavers have not been highlighted therein.

So far as the basic problems of the weavers are concerned, broadly speaking, a weaver cannot weave more than three metres of cloth per day. The other question before us is to see how much profit he gets on weaving one metre of cloth. According to my information, no weaver gets a profit of more than Rs. 2 per metre and he does not earn more than Rs. 6 as wages in a day. Hence, I request the Minister that in this Bill more attention should be paid towards the production side rather than the distribution side.

The handloom industry is related to the lowest strata of our society and earlier it was brought under the Commerce Production Programme and a wall was created between the textile industry and the handloom industry. The hon. Minister must be aware of the scheme formulated under the Commerce Production Programme and the same has been repeated in this Bill. If you want to benefit and protect the weavers

in the real sense, the handloom industry should be brought under NREP. If you do this, it will directly benefit the weavers. I feel, this Bill will give benefit more to the middlemen rather than to the weavers. The weavers are connected with the production side but in this Bill it is the distribution side which has received attention, which will directly benefit the middlemen. If you want to give more benefit to the weavers, if you want to protect the interests of the weavers, I suggest that more attention be paid towards the production side as compared to the distribution side. Besides the handloom industry should be brought under NREP. Only then the weavers would be benefited.

Moreover, the problems of this industry as also the basic problems faced by our weavers have not been dealt with in the Bill.

It is a social industry and a social process. It is not an economic process. We would have to keep this in our view. I consider the handloom industry a social process, and therefore in place of the financial aspect, the other aspect should have been given more consideration. The social aspect has not been touched in this Bill.

Besides, neither yarn is supplied to the weavers nor is marketing facility provided to them. A middleman has emerged who not only supplies yarn to the weaver but purchases their products also. The weavers would be benefited only when the middlemen are eliminated. I do not think through this Bill we can eliminate the middleman, who is proving to be a hurdle for the weavers.

I would again request the hon. Minister that in this Bill more attention should be paid to the production side and not to the distribution side so that the weavers could be benefited directly.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

This Bill has been supported by both the sides the Ruling party as well as the Opposition. I also support this Bill wholeheartedly and I am thankful to the young Minister for drawing the attention of this House towards the millions of families neglected for so many years since he has decided to do something for them.

It is correct that the handloom industry in India is a traditional industry and even before Independence this industry was at its peak. The designs and quality of the Indian handloom products used to be appreciated not only in India but in other countries of the world as well and the handloom products have been exported for long. As Prof. Ranga had pointed out it was a matter of regret that this industry was completely ruined by the Britishers during the rule and particularly during the last 30 years of their rule. This damage was done especially through the textile industry and the powerloom industry.

It was necessary to bring forward this important Bill, but I would like to tell the hon. Minister that whereas you have brought forward this Bill for providing protection to the weavers and there is a provision in the Bill to reserve certain items for this sector only, you would also have to see the condition of this industry as at present.

Our friends from both the sides have thrown much light on this point that the number of workers in this industry is more than that in the organised sector and this industry has not so far been provided with adequate facilities in regard to the raw material or with any financial help. The co-operatives have, of course, been started in some of the states, but, as my friend from Bihar was saying, in most of the states no worthwhile help has been provided to this industry in the co-operative sector. I would, therefore, request that you should make arrangements for providing them with adequate funds and if need be, funds should be arranged by the Centre and the State Governments should also provide help.

[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

Sir, as you are aware, the unemployment problem in the country is very acute. This is a sector which has vast employment potential and by helping the growth of this industry employment opportunities can be generated in the villages where the Harijans and the tribal people can also get employment.

The handloom industry has been famous for its designs since its inception not only in India, but in all the progressive countries of the world. The handloom products have also been exported extensively. The handloom products are important from the point of view of art also. In the State to which the hon. Minister belongs the people decorate their drawing rooms with art objects produced by the handloom sector. Even in U.P. and Bihar, the people engaged in this industry produce art objects which cannot be produced even by the most modern textile mills of today. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister that training centres should be opened to impart them the necessary training. Such training centres should be opened in the Harijan dominated areas and the tribal areas because in district Chhattisgarh of Madhya Pradesh as well as in Orissa and Bengal, wherever you go, you would find that most of the people of these communities are engaged in this industry and are producing cloth. I would also urge the hon. Minister to form a committee in which one third of the members should be representatives of the weavers.

I welcome this Bill which has been brought but a comprehensive Bill should be brought forward incorporating the suggestions made by the hon. Members. It would be better if you consider the suggestions of the Members of Parliament of the areas where you propose to set up this industry, before you bring forward such a Bill. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while welcoming this Bill, I would

like to put forward certain suggestions. The handloom industry is the oldest industry of our country. It is not an industry which has developed in the modern times. But when big textile mills and large scale industries were set up the handloom industry was stifled by those big industries, rendering the workers engaged in this industry jobless. When our country achieved independence, government paid their attention to revive the handloom industry and spent huge amount of money for this purpose, and with the help of 'Sahyog Samitis' this industry was set up at many places in the countryside. These 'Sahyog Samitis' are known as Co-operative Societies. Through the instrument of those societies we could have accomplished many big tasks. These co-operative Societies have become very popular in Gujarat. But in Bihar, these societies have become a pasture-land for a few. The weavers do not get any benefit out of these co-operative societies. Due to unholy alliance of office-bearers or their agents with the officials, the money granted by Government for their welfare is usured by them.

If you are interested in their development, the functioning of the societies would have to be set right first. Some persons in Bihar have become multi-millionaires by usurping the funds of these societies and with their money-power they are not only elected to Lok Sabha, but they lead a very luxurious life also. The societies which run this industry have weavers as their members, but the top office-bearers in collusion with top officials side-track the weavers. I would like to say that if you want to develop this industry, you will have to consider the suggestions put forward by the Members. It has been suggested just now that the production side should be given more attention than the distribution side. But you know that this industry involves hard labour and a large number of workers are engaged in it. As a result, the cloth produced in the handloom sector becomes costlier in comparison with that produced in the modern mills. Nobody is readily prepared to purchase them. Government should, therefore, make arrange-

ments for purchasing their products. Government themselves should purchase the handloom products at remunerative prices and distribute them at controlled prices. Only then it would be possible to develop this industry because the producers do not get the reasonable price when they themselves sell their products in the market.

Thirdly, the workers engaged in this industry are not organised. If they could also be organised, like other trade unions, then these workers could be benefited through their organisations.

Fourthly, a lot of inconvenience is being experienced by them in procuring yarn. Government should fix a monthly quota of yarn for them, and good quality yarn should be supplied to them. Good quality silk items are produced by them, but they have to sell them at a loss. You are aware, Sir, that the muslin produced by our weavers previously, used to be so fine that a complete roll of muslin could pass through the hollow of a bamboo stick. I would, therefore, request that good quality yarn should be supplied to them on a monthly quota basis. The workers should also be given training. But they can be benefited a lot if honest people are kept in the co-operative societies. Under clause 4, you propose to constitute an Advisory Committee. More representation should be given on that committee to the representatives of the people, who are going to be the beneficiaries. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Mr. Chairman, I congratulate the government for bringing forward this Bill. In fact, it is very late, I should say, because this is the sector where next to agriculture the largest number of people are working; and people working in this handloom sector are almost self-employed; they stand on their own legs. Nearly 60 lakh people are working in this sector.

In fact, several people know that the Father of the Nation, Mahatma

Gandhi, was always insisting on *Charkha*. In fact, the Congress of those days was having a tri-colour flag with a *Charkha* in it. But, unfortunately, recently we find only a hand in the tri-colour flag making a lot of deviation from the original ideals or the goals for which the party is committed. I am happy that at least a new rethinking has come in the ruling party and again they are remembering Mahatma Gandhi and giving consideration to what he told us.

A country like India where there are 69 crore people and resources are limited, capital is limited, thousands of crores of rupees are brought from other countries at a higher rate of interest and loan is brought to pay back the interest, I think this is the only way or one of the important ways in which for a large number of rural people who are under-employed for a considerable part of the year, we can increase the employment opportunities, in this handloom sector.

Even at current prices, the *per capita* final consumption expenditure is only Rs. 1475 per year, that is less than Rs. 4 per day; and if we consider it at 1970-71 prices, it is hardly Rs. 591, that is less than Rs. 2 per day. Nearly 48 per cent of the people are below the poverty line. Under these circumstances, while very precious capital is invested—hundreds of crores of rupees—by these various very big industrialists, giants and monopoly houses, which manufacture cloth, textile, which is Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 per metre, I only bring to the notice of our government that if the needs of the people are to be served through the handloom sector, certainly many more people can be employed in this sector.

Mr. Chairman, in the report of the Textile Enquiry Committee, which was submitted in September 1984, it was mentioned that the organised industry gave opportunities to 2,50,000 people to work in it, whereas the handloom sector gave opportunity to 15 lakh people. While the production of cloth in the mill sector was only 5800 million

[Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

yards, in the handloom sector 1500 million yards of cloth was produced. That is, Mr. Chairman, for a production three and a half times larger, the mill industry employed only one-sixth of the people that worked in the handloom sector ! So, I request the Government to do something for the handloom sector, not half-heartedly. Apart from passing this Bill the Government should implement it with all spirit and devotion and in this context I would only like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the Government of Andhra Pradesh, with all its financial difficulties because of its commitment to its welfare measures for the people of Andhra Pradesh, had to spend thirty crores of rupees for giving subsidy, in addition to the amount which is being paid by the Government of India for the supply of cloth to the poor people. Because of this, it was able to give clothes, dhotis and sarees at 50 per cent of price to the poor people of our State, by which it helped the handloom weavers to clear all their production, the stocks lying with them for years together and at the same time helping the poor people.

I once again congratulate the Government for bringing this Bill. I request that it should be implemented with all sincerity so that a large number of handloom workers as well as the rural people can be benefited and this nation may go ahead in the direction shown by *Poojya Bapuji*.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):
Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to all the hon. Members for having welcomed and wholeheartedly supported this Bill. I must admit that every hon. Member of this House, who has participated in this debate, has made very relevant and important points. They have also made lot of valuable suggestions and I can only assure this august House that all the suggestions that have been made will be kept in mind, when we frame our rules under this act and when we go ahead with the implementation of

the various projects towards the development of handlooms.

One thing has to be kept in mind as a background and that is that handloom is a State subject. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to develop the handloom industry. In fact, till 1976 the Central Government had practically nothing to do with handlooms. But the Central Government felt the importance of the handloom sector in this country and therefore a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sivaraman to go into those areas where the Central Government could be involved towards the development of handloom sector and on the basis of the recommendations of that Committee a separate department was created in the Government of India and a post of Development Commissioner, Handlooms, was created. Since then, the Government of India has been trying to help the various State Governments in various ways.

Many hon. Members have raised the question whether it will be possible for the Government of India to set up a separate Ministry or a Department to look after the handlooms. I am afraid that this proposal may not be acceptable to the State Governments.

17.00 hrs.

Practically all the hon. Members have mentioned that this particular Bill will not solve all the problems of the handloom industry. I agree with them on this point. But I am sure that this Bill will go a long way in solving many of the problems of the handloom industry.

When we talk about handloom industry, it is not a question of merely reserving certain items for production in the handloom sector. The hon. Members have rightly pointed out that the Government should give attention towards supplying essential inputs to the weavers, modernisation of the looms and also providing them marketing network. All these things are very very important. Unless and until we can provide them marketing network,

help them to modernise their looms, make the inputs readily available to them within the reasonable price, the lot of these people will remain the same. We are fully aware of that fact. I am sure the House remembers that 1984 was declared as the year of the handlooms. We have taken a number of steps towards helping the State Governments to help the weavers. I myself had gone round the country and met corporations, apex societies, weavers, Directors of Handlooms and also the Ministers incharge of Handlooms. I had separate meetings with them. As a result of that, Government of India had, in fact, brought out a number of schemes for the development of the handloom sector. I can only assure the hon. Members once again that we have made an indepth exercise as to what more should be done for the handloom sector during the Seventh Five Year Plan. We are committed to do that.

If we discuss about various aspects of development of handloom industry, I think, it will take a lot of time. What is more important is supply of inputs particularly, yarn to the handloom sector, which has always been a very very controversial subject, because sometimes the prices go up very high and even if the prices are low, weavers do not get the benefit. The Government of India has taken a number of steps to overcome this problem. For example, the Government of India has made it compulsory for the spinning and composite mills to prepare not less than 50 per cent of their total marketable yarn in the form of hank yarn. Out of that 50 per cent, it is also made compulsory for them that 85 per cent should be below forty counts which is primarily required for the handloom sector. This is one step which the Government has taken and already enforced. Also as a long-term policy, we had decided initially to set up 25 weavers' cooperative spinning mills with a capacity of 25 lakh spindles, during the Sixth Five Year Plan. We had also decided to expand six spinning mills under the weavers' cooperative sector so that the weavers themselves can look after their requirements. A sum of Rs. 32 crores

was earmarked for this purpose. Later on, when we found that the money we had earmarked was not enough and the number of units that were to come up could not come up--in fact, instead of 25, the number came down to 13 - we went to the Planning Commission and got about Rs. 10 crores as additional allocation for that purpose and ultimately we could raise the number from 13 to 20 spread all over with an additional capacity of 5.84 lakh spindles. I am sure that now that all these new units are under various stages of implementation, once they come into operation, most of the problems of yarn scarcity will be solved.

In order to meet the minimum requirements of yarn for the weavers, we have also thought of setting up yarn banks. Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsri made a strong plea for that. In fact, the National Handlooms Development Corporation which we have set up recently, has been working on that and so far we have been able to establish one such bank at Gauhati for the entire North-Eastern region, two have already been opened in the State of Kerala and very soon we are going to open one more in Bihar..... (*Interruptions*).

PROF. N.G. RANGA : What about Andhra Pradesh ? What about Tamil Nadu ? What about U.P. ? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : What about the four new spinning mills which our Government has recommended to the Central Government ?

SHRI. P.A. SANGMA : Well, in the meantime, the policy of the Government in regard to the spinning mills has changed because we have already achieved the full capacity of spindles in our country. We have the highest installed capacity of spindles in the world. Therefore, we have removed it from the delicensed list to the licensed list. It is not banned but I think in future the spinning mills will have to be located on merits and we are trying to confine it to a category of districts.

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

As far as the other States are concerned, we have said that the State Governments are free to set up their yarn banks and whatever assistance we can give, we are ready to give. In fact, the State Government of Kerala has taken an initiative at their own. I have been impressing upon the State Governments that they should immediately go in for these. Our Commerce Minister has actually decided that the yarn which we produce in our National Textiles Corporation, will be made available to the Yarn Banks which would be set up by the respective State Governments, at mill rate. We are not going to charge anything more... (*Interruptions*).

PROF. N.G. RANGA : What about giving credit to the cooperative societies? Separate bank has to be set up in every State with an apex organisation at all-India level so that they can be supplied with credit for production and for maintenance of themselves.

SHRI P A. SANGMA : In fact, we give very liberal bank credits to the apex cooperative societies and I may inform this House that in 1976-77, the credit limit for the apex societies was Rs. 24 crores, in 1982-83 it was raised to Rs. 153 crores and now in 1983-84 we have further raised it to Rs. 198 crores. We are also giving interest subsidy to the respective State Governments. Therefore, it is not a fact that the handloom sector is not getting credit. Credit is available. It all depends upon how active the respective co-operative or apex societies are.

Some of the hon. Members have very rightly raised the question of the middlemen making money. It was also suggested that the handloom sector should be brought under the co-operative societies. This has been the deliberate policy of the Government of India. In fact, during the Sixth Plan, our target is to bring 60 per cent of the handloom sector into the co-operative fold. I am happy to inform the hon. House that we will be able to achieve the target of 60 per cent under the co-operative fold.

Processing is another area, which the hon. Members have not mentioned. But I want to mention it, Pre-loom and Post-loom are very important parts of the handloom. We have been advancing a lot of money for this also. I do not want to quote the figures about the money we have given to the various State Governments for the establishment of dye-houses at various levels. I can assure the House that if, in future, the State Governments come for assistance, we are ready to give it. I am not boasting, but it is a fact that I have gone to some States and pressed that they should take some money, instead of allowing it to lapse.

Marketing is a very important sector, which was very rightly and very ably stressed and members expressed concern about it. Unless we give a marketing network to the handloom weavers, it is very difficult for them even to survive, what to speak of progress. I do not know how we will be able to solve this problem. At the moment, we have a system of organising national handloom depots at different cities, or different places in the country, where we give 20 per cent rebate on the handloom cloth. Apparently, it looks as if it is working very well. I do not know whether it is really working well, because some hon. Members have made some complaints. The hon. Member from Tamilnadu was saying that we are not paying enough money for reimbursement. I may inform him that recently we have released about Rs. 5 crores as rebate to the Government of Tamil Nadu. So, we have been trying to help them.

I have been personally thinking—I am not expressing this as the decision of Government—what is important in the handloom sector firstly is to make the inputs, particularly the yarn, available to the weaver regularly and at reasonable prices. I have been personally trying to see how best it can be done. During the Seventh Plan we should be able to come out with some formula about this.

Shri Reddy raised a very valid point as to why we did not have a Schedule, where we could have mentioned a number of items which we are thinking of

reserving for the handloom sector. We did not deliberately do it for two reasons. As I said in the beginning, while introducing the Bill, Government is at the moment formulating a new textile policy, where we are looking at the very structure of the textile industry. Therefore, we thought it better that we do it later on.

Secondly, if we have a Schedule and put it as an appendix then, if we have to revise any item at any time, Government have to come to Parliament for the amendment of the Act, which may be a time-consuming process. That is why we have deliberately kept it open so that, if and when we think it necessary to revise the list, we can immediately do it. I can assure Mr. Reddy and the House that we really mean business and I will ensure that no delay is there in implementing this Bill. We will certainly implement this Bill as early as possible.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : As early as possible.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Yes, as early as possible.

Well, Mr. Daga has raised a very interesting point. I was forgetting you Mr. Daga.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Can we expect the notification under Clause 3, 'within six months' ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I would not promise you, but I will try my best.

Mr. Daga, of course is a very interesting Member of the House. I have been observing him for the last five years and now for the last three months. Every time a Bill is discussed in the House, he says that this Bill is not necessary, there is no point in bringing such Bills, these laws are not implemented and therefore, this Bill should not have been introduced and that this Bill should not have been brought at all. I think Mr. Daga is by mistake in this House.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I said it requires certain amendments. You see the points I have raised. I said

what you have done under the Essential Commodities Act, which you have said in your own statement of objects.

The second thing I said that we want to know the figures.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Therefore, you cannot rule out the relevance of laws and enactments in the country. That is what you have been advocating against. After all, what is the function of the Parliament? It is a legislative body of the Government.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Yes, but they should not be kept in almirahs.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Another point which Mr. Daga again, and I think an hon. Member from Karnataka, has raised is about Khadi.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar) : You mean to put Mr. Daga in almirah.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Mr. Daga forgets that he comes from a desert area and I come from a Himalayan area. If Mr. Daga were to come to my place with his khadi shirt, he will not survive there for two hours; and if I were to go with my Himalayan dress to the desert area, I will not survive there for two hours. So, I think the dress of a person should be left to the taste and requirements of the person of the area to which he belongs.

After all, if we talk of Khadi, in my personal view, I would say we should think about the concept of Khadi when Khadi was propagated during the Independence movement. Gandhiji had given a call for every one of us to wear Khadi, to spin Khadi for ourselves only because at that particular time the textile industry under the control of the British Government was not acceptable to us. Therefore there was an incident of bonfire and Gandhiji gave a call that we should not wear clothes produced by the British textile mills. And what was the alternative? The alternative was that we should go in for Khadi and weave our own clothes.

Now, is it relevant today? Now, if today we have to say that everybody

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

has to wear Khadi, I think the textile industry which has grown in the last thirtyfive years...

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Mr. Sangma, you are a Congressman and for a Congressman Khadi is a must. We cannot change our constitution.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I am not against Khadi.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Anything scientific fits the Congress.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : For Congressmen Khadi is a must.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, I must respectfully submit that I am not against Khadi. Khadi has to be there. Khadi is a national dress. It has been accepted, but I am only saying that at this stage it may not be good for us to say that everybody should wear Khadi. That is not possible. I for one, if I do not like to wear it, *(Interruptions)* I am giving my personal opinion.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, what he has spoken is scientific.

PROF N. G. RANGA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I suggest to the hon. Minister that we are not discussing khadi ; he need not go and step on a ground which is entirely new to him and foreign to him, and it is a very dangerous thing for a Minister like him who is wedded to the 20-point programme and who is wedded to the Congress way of life to be talking in the manner in which he is talking. There is no need for him to talk with regard to the relevance or otherwise of khadi. Please, for God's sake step on to other subjects.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, with due respect I was only responding to an hon. Member who said that I, at the moment, am against khadi.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : You must talk not as a Minister, but as a Congressman.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, I would like to make a submission...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Sobhanadreeswara Rao, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : My simple submission to the hon. Minister, through you, is that it will be better and proper if he withdraws his observation that Gandhi is not relevant today. He is all the more relevant today.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I must humbly submit, I mean no disrespect to khadi. Khadi has to be there ; I am not disputing it at all, and in fact when I say that I am not used to it, I must tell you that I do wear khadi sometimes, but I don't wear it every time. I am giving my personal explanation, that is all.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Every active Congress Member should wear khadi.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : The other points which have been raised by the hon. Members include constitution of the Advisory Committee. And on the other points I can only assure you that while constituting this Committee the Government will certainly keep all the suggestions which have been made in this House in mind.

There was one particular point of penalty which, I think, a few hon. Members have raised and that is that the penalty of six months and Rs. 5000 is very small. I think you have read it partially. It is Rs. 5000 per loom. The penalty prescribed is Rs. 5000 per loom.

Another Member has raised the question that there is no provision for making rules. Actually, Section 19 empowered the Government to make rules.

With these few words, I request that the Bill be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That the Bill to provide for reservation of certain articles for exclusive production by handlooms and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. clauses 2 and 3.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 4-(Constitution of Advisory Committee)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Ranga. do you want to move your amendment?

PROF. N G. RANGA : Yes. I beg to move :

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after line 35, insert—

“(IA) The Advisory Committee shall be a Standing Committee to be constituted once every two years by the Central Government.

(IB) The Advisory Committee shall include three members from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, two

each from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Gujarat and one each from Kerala, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and three from North Eastern States including Assam to be selected by the Central Government and three from the All India Handloom Weavers Congress and Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies.”

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : We support this amendment wholeheartedly.

(Interruptions).

PROF. N G. RANGA : Mr. Chairman, I thought that the hon. Minister was going to refer to this point. But then he got into an unnecessary row about *Khuddar*. So, he forgot to make any reference to the suggestion which I have made in my amendment, i.e. in regard to the constitution of the advisory committee. I thought he was going to either accept it or say that on some such lines, they were going to organise this advisory committee. I would like him to bestow some thought to the suggestions that we have made here.

Secondly, coming to the question of *Khadi*. I can assure the House that as far as I understand, I cannot speak for the Government, the Congress as such even today is committed to khadi as a national programme and I would like the Ministers as well as other Members of my Party to be very well aware of this commitment of the Congress. I do not want them unnecessarily to go into these economic arguments which were being doled out to us by the British and other colonial masters some 50 or 60 or 70 years ago.

Thirdly, I would like to add one more word in regard to one argument advanced by one of our friends. He said, give all importance and support

[Shri N. G. Ranga]

to all handloom weavers but not necessarily to their looms, when the loom as it is, even if it is improved, does not serve the purpose of production and does not yield so much of income as is needed. Then, we need not bother about handloom any more even when it is improved. We should have no objection to shift to powerloom and so on. This is his argument. But Sir, I am strongly opposed to that argument. This is an argument which the British economists used to propagate. If we had accepted it, then there would have been no need at all first of all for any kind of industry in India so far as textiles are concerned. It is because at that time, the British textile industry was serving the rest of the world and it was considered to be the most efficient one. But nevertheless in this country, the capitalists pleaded for protection for their textile industry here, although the British used to say "Your Indian textile industry is not as efficient as the British textile industry". Therefore, under protection, we encouraged our textile industry and built it up. In the same way, later on, the same argument was used in regard to handlooms. I need not go into it in great detail.

The most important thing is, even if I were to give more importance to human beings, it is the handloom weavers who are behind the looms. As has been stated here in this House, 40 million people are engaged in this handloom weaving industry. If we are to go in for these powerlooms, how would it be possible for this Government or any Government to come in the next 10 or 15 years, to provide employment for all those millions of people who would be thrown out of employment. Today, the most important thing is to provide employment. Why are we financing the sick textile industries? Not because we are in love with the machinery but because we are love with the people who are working in the textile industry and who are being thrown out of employment when the industry becomes sick. Therefore, the Government is pouring money down the drain as it were. So many crores of rupees every

month and every year are spent in order to see that employment is provided there. So is the argument for the renovation and for the protection of jute mill workers and various other people. Therefore, the most important thing is the question of employment. That employment also is not so much of wage earning employment but self-employment. Now, that employment is being provided by the handloom industry to the handloom weavers. The most important consideration should be given to this particular aspect of it. It is because of that powerlooms have had to be controlled. That is why the licensing was introduced. Those people in their own interest have been playing ducks and drakes with the law so much so that we have got so many of these unlicensed powerlooms. There can be powerlooms and powerlooms. clusters of them or one by one. If they are only one by one, then a different consideration may have to be shown to them. But, generally speaking, the powerlooms are the enemies of the handlooms and the handloom weavers. Therefore, the powerlooms have got to be controlled and their sphere has got to be restricted. The handlooms have got to be protected. So long as you are not in a position to provide employment for these people, you have got to be extremely careful as to which approach you are going to make towards the organised textile industry, the powerlooms and the handlooms.

Coming back to khadi, it would be as well for him and others on my side and the rest of the House to realise one thing. If you want cottage industry, small-scale industry, medium-scale industry and all these things in this country, why do you have these distinctions? Let me tell my hon. friend as to what has happened in his own area, in the north-eastern region. In every house, there is a handloom. If the handloom is using mill yarn, we have no objection. It can also use yarn that is spun in the home itself. Therefore, the first preference has got to be given to Khadi; then to handloom; then to powerloom and then to the textile industry. I hope, my hon.

friend would keep these simple things, these axioms, what are known as Indian economics, the economics of the third world, very predominantly in his mind in applying his mind to the revision of the textile industry. The way in which he seems to be thinking is not likely to be conducive to the evolution of that kind of a progressive textile policy for this country as would be conducive to increasing the employment potential in our country which is the most important thing for which we have got to give the highest possible priority.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me say a word on the amendment moved by Prof. Ranga. We wholeheartedly support the amendment to Clause 4. The amendment contemplates the constitution of an Advisory Committee. It reads :

“The Advisory Committee shall be a Standing Committee to be constituted once every two years by the Central Government.

The Advisory Committee shall include three members each from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, two each from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Gujarat and one each from Kerala, West Bengal Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and three from North Eastern States including Assam to be selected by the Central Government and three from the All India Handloom Weavers Congress and Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies.”

This is a very reasonable and appropriate amendment to the Bill. Unless this amendment is incorporated, Clause 4 will become very vague. We would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to accept the amendment.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I have replied to this point while I was replying to the debate. I should like to point out that Clause 19 of the Bill empowers the Government to frame rules, as to in

what manner the Advisory Committee will be constituted. Clause 19 also clearly provides that all these rules, after these have been framed, will be laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament and, if the Parliament so desires it can discuss the rules and make recommendations for changes in the rules.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : We want an assurance that these rules will incorporate the spirit behind this amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has replied that the rules will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : That is not an assurance. An assurance must be that the spirit behind the amendment will be incorporated in the rules to be framed.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I can add that while constituting the Advisory Committee, we shall certainly keep the interests of the weavers in view, as I have promised...

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : What about representation to various States ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : And also the representation to various States,

MR. CHAIRMAN : In view of the reply of the hon. Minister, will Prof. N.G. Ranga withdraw his amendment ?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : I am not inclined to withdraw. I am not inclined to take the vote of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Either the amendment is to be withdrawn or it will be put to vote.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : I hope the Government would give effect to the spirit behind this amendment. In that hope, I would like to withdraw my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House's that the amendment moved by Prof. N.G. Ranga be withdrawn.

*The Amendment No. 1 was, by leave,
withdrawn*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :
"That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:
"That Clause 5 to 15 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 5 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 16

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Clause 16. Is Prof. N.G. Ranga moving his amendment ?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : No. I am not moving.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is Shri Ram Pyare Panika moving his amendment ?

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : No. I am not moving my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:
"That Clause 16 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clause 17

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, clause 17. The question is :

"That Clause 17 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

Clause 18

MR. CHAIRMAN : Clause 18. Is Prof. N.G. Ranga moving his amendment ?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : No. I am not moving my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is Shri Ram Pyare Panika moving his amendment ?

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : No, I am not moving my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is
"That Clause 18 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18 was added to the Bill.

Clause 19

MR. CHAIRMAN : Clause 19. The question is :

"That Clause 19 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

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17.41 hrs.

DISCUSSION ON THIRTY-SECOND AND THIRTY-THIRD REPORTS OF THE UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ALONG WITH GOVERNMENT'S MEMORANDUM ON CASES OF NON-ACCEPTANCE OF COMMISSION'S ADVICE MENTIONED THEREIN

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we go to the next item. Mr. K.P. Singh Deo.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House takes note of the Thirtysecond and Thirty-third Reports of the Union Public Service Commission for the periods from 1st April, 1981 to 31st March, 1982, and 1st April, 1982 to 31st March, 1983

along with the Government's Memorandum on the cases of non-acceptance of the Commission's advice mentioned therein, laid on the Table of the House on 2nd March, 1983 and 2nd May, 1984, respectively.'

As the House is aware, the Union Public Service Commission is required under article 323 (1) of the Constitution to present annually to the President a report on the work done by the Commission. These reports are placed by the Government on the Table along with memoranda explaining the reasons in respect of cases, if any, where the advice of the Commission was not accepted by the Government. It is also customary to take up for discussion the report of the Commission both to highlight the performance of the Commission and to elicit the esteemed views of the hon. Members on the overall policies on recruitment and management of public services.

As the hon. Members are aware, the Union Public Service Commission performs a key role in recruitment to higher services and renders independent advice to the Government on several matters concerning public personnel administration, and utmost consideration is given to the judgement of the Commission in these matters.

In the reports under consideration, the Commission had tendered advice on over 10,071 and 12,936 cases concerning appointments, promotions, disciplinary cases, etc. except four of which Government had accepted the recommendations of the Commission.

During the period from April 1982 to March 1983, 2,74,746 candidates applied for various examinations and selections conducted by the Commission and 8,039 candidates were recommended for appointment to various services and posts. The Commission were associated with Selection Committees constituted in each State to consider cases of promotion of 1,158 State Service officers to the three All India Services, viz, the Indian Administrative Service, the Indian Police Service and the Indian

Forest Service. A total of 439 State Service officers were included in Select Lists for the three Services during the period covered by the Report. In regard to promotions in Central Services, cases of 16,172 officers were considered by the Departmental Promotion Committees with which the Commission were associated and 3,793 officers were included in the panels drawn up for promotion to higher posts.

The hon. Members would be glad to notice from the 32nd & 33rd Reports of the Commission that there is a welcome trend in the performance of the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In the years under report, the Commission were able to recommend candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes against all vacancies reserved for them in the examinations requiring academic qualifications such as degree of a recognised University or equivalent as in the Civil Services Examination, Indian Forest Service Examination, the Indian Economic Service and Indian Statistical Service Examination and the Assistant Grade Examination. There was appreciable improvement in the recruitment of Scheduled Caste candidates in some of the examinations requiring technical/professional qualifications and candidates to the full extent of reservation could be recommended in the case of combined Medical Examination for recruitment to medical posts under the Central Government and Municipal Corporation of Delhi and also the Special Class Railway Apprentices Examination. The performance of Scheduled Caste candidates at the Geological Examination and the Stenographers' Examination was also much better in the years under report as compared to previous years.

As regards the Scheduled Tribes candidates, the Commission were also able to recommend during the years under report candidates against all vacancies reserved for them in the examinations requiring general academic qualifications. In the case of examinations requiring technical or professional qualifications, however, the Commission

[Shri K. P. Singh Deo]

could not recommend the required number of candidates to fill up all the reserved vacancies. I would, however, like to assure the Members that Government is continuing its efforts to improve the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services under the Government so that they can find their appropriate place in the mainstream of national life. For this purpose, Government have opened a large number of coaching centres in various parts of the country so as to give pre-examination coaching to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in order to improve their performance in the examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission. There are at present over 65 coaching centres under operation. Special coaching classes in the various universities and in private institutions have also been arranged. I am glad to inform this House that the full quota of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being fulfilled in the case of higher Civil Services for which recruitment is made through the Civil Services Examinations. The Government have also taken up the question of opening new examination centres for the conduct of examinations by the Union Public Service Commission so that persons in the rural areas may not have to travel long distances to appear at such examination. As on date, there are 37 centres for the Examinations including 19 for the Civil Services (Main) Examination held by the UPSC of which three — namely, the Centres at Raipur, Tirupati and Visakhapatnam, were opened recently to cater for large concentration of tribal population round these centres. Widest possible publicity is also given to the recruitment being made by the Union Public Service Commission so that advantage can be derived by eligible persons living in rural areas. In order to facilitate better performance of persons coming from rural areas, with effect from the Civil Services Examination held from 1982 onwards, candidates are also allowed to indicate the language medium for interview test. Moreover, to overcome the handicap, if any, experien-

ced by the candidates from the North-Eastern region, they have also been exempted from appearing in the compulsory Indian Language paper in the Civil Services Examination upto the Examination to be held in 1985.

As the House is aware, the Government decided in October, 1983, on the recommendations of the UPSC, National Training Conference on Training of Civil Servants in India and the Director, Sardar Vallabhbhai National Police Academy of Hyderabad to reduce the upper age limit from 28 to 26 years for appearing at the Civil Services Examination, Indian Forest Service Examination and Indian Economic Service and Indian Statistical Service Examination to be held in 1985 and onwards, with usual relaxation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates and certain specified categories notified from time to time. The Kothari Committee has also recommended upper age limit of 26 years for the Civil Services Examination. The upper age limit of 28 years had adversely affected the moulding of candidates according to the requirements of the Services and also the element of competitiveness of the examination.

The upper age limit was also likely to help urban candidates rather than rural candidates who could ill afford to get educated indefinitely. However, keeping in view the representations received on this subject, the Government have decided to give effect to that decision from the examinations to be conducted in 1986 and onwards.

I would also like to mention the following salient features of the Civil Services Examination which are expected to help candidates with rural background as well as those belonging to less affluent class of society :—

- (i) The Paper on English is of Matriculation or equivalent standard and qualifying in nature. The marks in this Paper are not counted for competitive ranking.
- (ii) Option to answer the subject papers either in English or in

any of the Indian Languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution has been given to the candidates.

- (iii) Marks allotted for optional papers have sought to reduce the weightage of papers in General Studies. Optional papers now carry 1200 marks while General Studies papers carry 600 marks.
- (iv) Less weightage has been given to the Interview Test which carries 250 marks only. The Interview Board can allow the candidates to answer in an Indian Language if the candidate so desires, because of his inability to express adequately in English.
- (v) Additional papers of post-graduation level for IAS/Indian Forest Service included in the old scheme of examination have been dispensed with in the new system of examination.

I may take this opportunity to assure the Members that the various suggestions which have been made from time to time in this august House have in the past, while considering the earlier reports of the Commission, been given the highest consideration. And I am sure when the hon. Members do take part in today's deliberations, their considered opinions and observations and their views on this subject will also be given the highest consideration. We would like to incorporate them for improving procedure for recruitment to the Civil Services, which is a continuing process and we would like to keep on improving on it, we are not resting on our oars. It is a continuous process, we would like to benefit from the advice and the counsel of the Hon. Members. With these words, I conclude.

MR CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

“That this House takes note of the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Reports of the Union Public Service Commission for

the periods from 1st April, 1981 to 31st March, 1982 and 1st April, 1982 to 31st March, 1983, along with the Government's Memorandum on the cases of non-acceptance of the Commission's advice mentioned therein, laid on the Table of the House on 2nd March, 1983 and 2nd May, 1984 respectively.”

Now, Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Indian Constitution has brought the Union Public Service Commission into existence to perform certain salutary functions.

The functions which the Commission is expected to perform have been enunciated in Article 320 of the Constitution.

The Commission is expected to recruit suitable candidates for appointments in the various Ministries and Departments, consider the question of Departmental Promotions, Deputations, etc. In order to do these functions, the Commission has come into existence.

The Ministries and departments are expected to inform the Commission about the position of the vacancies: They should tell the UPSC how many vacancies are there in the Departments, what are the promotion lists, who are all to be promoted, what are the criteria to be adopted, etc. These functions are expected from the Ministries and also from the Departments.

But what happens is this : The Ministries and Departments whatever Ministry or Department it might be—do not like the interference of the Commission. They would like to exclude the interference of the Commission as far as possible. That is why they resort to what is known as *ad hocism*. These Government Departments would like to appoint their own people, people who could influence them, people who are very near and dear to them. In order to see that those people are appointed and the purview of the Commission is excluded, they make these *ad hoc* appoint-

[Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy]

ments. This sort of *ad hocism* is very rampant in the Central Medical Services, Railway Medical Services, Engineering cadres of the Central Electricity Authority, Central Water Commission, Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking and many other Departments. Now, such departments without making any reference to UPSC make a number of appointments on *ad hoc* basis and also indulge in promotions resulting in indefinite prolongation of services. Such indifferent prolongation of services on *ad hoc* basis is undesirable both to the appointees and the employee organisation. In such circumstances, *ad hocism* has to be reduced to a minimum. To delay final recruitment, *ad hocism* is resorted to. The Government should take firm steps to stop this *ad hocism* in recruitment and promotions. Of course, it may not be possible to completely eliminate appointments on *ad hoc* basis. But one thing must be borne in mind that this kind of *ad hoc* appointments should be made to the barest minimum as contemplated in Rule 4(1) of the UPSC.

Now, Sir, the Departmental Promotions Committees should sit every year once or twice and decide about the promotees and send up a list of promotions to the UPSC for approval. Even here the Committees are not in a position to submit their lists for various reasons. They should be made to submit their lists for approval promptly.

Now, Sir, regarding reforms in Testing method and Examinations, I would like to point out that the recruitment policies and practices are socially relevant and are to be in consonance with the Constitutional provisions. New norms and techniques of assessment have to be worked out. Objective type of tests are to be held as an important adjunct to the selection process. Now, the UPSC conducts written examinations and oral tests in English or Hindi. Therefore, lot of difficulties are experienced by the candidates who are not in a position to express themselves adequately either in English or in Hindi.

This results in a lot of handicap for the candidates who do not know English or Hindi. Hence it is desirable the Committee should decide that the answers can be given in any of the regional languages and necessary option may be given for answering examinations and oral tests in any regional languages so that these candidates may stand on par with the candidates who answer in English or in Hindi. Now, in regard to the oral interviews and *viva voce* tests candidates answering in regional languages must be treated on par with those answering in English or Hindi.

Sir, it is now a common experience that out of lakhs and lakhs of candidates appearing for the examinations, only a very little percentage is selected. Those who have not been selected are very much disappointed. These candidates have to travel to the examination centres which are far off from their residence and write the examinations. After writing the examinations, they have to go to the far off centres for appearing for oral tests or interviews. For these purposes they have to incur a lot of expenditure, put in a lot of labour and face a lot of difficulties, etc. The present number of centres, that is 30 or 40, all over the country is hardly sufficient to enable the candidates take up the examinations from their places. There should be as many centres as possible so that the candidates do not face any difficulty in reaching the examination centres and also they spend minimum amount for this purpose. They should be provided with the facilities of appearing for the examinations, as far as possible, in their own area, near their residential places.

Now, in regard to the relaxation of upper age limit, I would like to bring to your kind notice that the number of people who register in the Employment Exchanges is on the increase every year and these people are not able to find any employment even after ten or fifteen years after such registration with the Employment

Exchanges. Lakhs and lakhs of people have got themselves registered with the Employment Exchanges in various cities and towns. In order to facilitate appointment of such people, it is desirable that the upper age limit is relaxed from 28 to 34 years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Reddy, you can continue tomorrow.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 29, 1985/Chaitra 8, 1907 (Saka)