

# LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Second Session  
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



*(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 20)*

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

## Statement

Tuesday, June 11, 1998/Jyaistha 21, 1920 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### International Mining Companies

222. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved some proposals received from international mining companies for prospecting and exploration in the mineral sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) (a) and (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b): Prospecting and mining rights are granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder. As per the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, prospecting and mining rights can be granted only to an Indian national or to a company registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956. The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 also provides that in respect of any mineral specified in the First Schedule of the Act, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

The Government of India had, on 30.10.1996, issued guidelines for grant of large areas for aerial prospecting under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. In pursuance of these guidelines, the Government has approved 36 such proposals received from the State Governments of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Bihar. These prospecting licences have been given to Indian subsidiaries/joint ventures of foreign mining companies and to Indian companies having technical collaboration with foreign companies, details of which are given in the enclosed Annexure.

### ANNEXURE

DETAILS OF APPROVALS GIVEN FOR AREAL PROSPECTING OVER LARGE AREAS IN PURSUANCE OF GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON 30TH OCT., 1996.

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Minerals	Area/Distt./State	Date of Approval by the Central Govt.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	M/s BHP Mineral India (P) Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold & associated minerals	2532.14 Sq. Kms. Distts. Tonk, Ajmer, Bundi, Bhilwara (Rajasthan)	3.6.1997
2.	M/s BHP Minerals India (P) Ltd. Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold & associated minerals	2637.58 Sq. Kms. Distts. Tonk, Sawai Madhopur & Bundi (Rajasthan)	3 6.1997

1	2	3	4	5
3.	M/s. BHP Minerals India (P) Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold & associated Minerals	2305.64 Sq. Kms. Distts. Jaipur, Tonk, Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan)	3.6.1997
4.	M/s. BHP Minerals India (P) Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold & associated minerals	903.84 Sq. Kms. Distt. Bhilwara, (Rajasthan)	3.6.1997
5.	M/s CRA Exploration India Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold & associated minerals	1915.52 Sq. Kms. Distt. Ajmer, (Rajasthan)	3.6.1997
6.	M/s Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	Copper, lead, Zinc, gold, silver & associated minerals	2777.30 Sq. Kms. Distt. Bhilwara (Rajasthan)	30.6.1997
7.	M/s Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver & associated minerals	2339.58 Sq. Kms. Distts. Ajmer & Tonk (Rajasthan)	30.6.1997
8.	M/s Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver & associated minerals	2329.31 Sq. Kms. Distts. Tonk & Jaipur (Rajasthan)	30.6.1997
9.	M/s Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	Copper, lead zinc, gold, silver & associated Minerals	2344.37 Sq. Kms. Distt. Ajmer (Rajasthan)	30.6.1997
10.	M/s Metmin Finance & Holding Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, Nickel, gold, silver & associated minerals	181.47 Sq. Kms. Distt. Sirohi (Rajasthan)	11.8.1997
11.	M/s Metmin Finance & Holding Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, Nickel, gold, silver & associated minerals	44.00 Sq. Kms. Distt. Dungarpur (Rajasthan)	11.8.1997
12.	M/s Metmin Finance & Holdings Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, Nickel, gold, silver & associated minerals	138.62 Sq. Kms. distt. Dungarpur (Rajasthan)	11.8.1997
13.	M/s ACC-CRA Exploration (India) (P) Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver, bismuch, cadmium & associated minerlas.	517.00 Sq. Kms. Distts. Sikar & Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan)	11.8.1997
14.	M/s Meridian Minerals India (P) Ltd.	Lead, Zinc, Copper, Gold Silver, Cadmium, Bismuth and associated minerals	670.985 Sq. Kms. Distt. Banswara (Rajasthan)	29.8.1997

1	2	3	4	5
15.	M/s Meridian Minerals India (P) Ltd.	Lead, Zinc, Copper, Gold, Silver, Cadmium, Bismuth and associated minerals	632.84 Sq. Kms. Distt. Bharatpur (Rajasthan)	29.8.1997
16.	M/s Metmin Finance & Holdings Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, Nickel, gold, silver and associated minerals	300 Sq. Kms. Distt. Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan)	9.9.1997
17.	M/s Metmin Finance & Holdings Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, Nickel, gold, silver and associated minerals	348.40 Sq. Kms. Distt. Sirohi (Rajasthan)	9.9.1997
18.	M/s Metmin Finance & Holdings Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, Nickel, gold, silver and associated minerals	106.00 Sq. Kms. Distt. Sirohi (Rajasthan)	9.9.1997
19.	M/s Metmin Finance & Holdings Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, Nickel, gold, silver and associated minerals	71.00 Sq. Kms. Distt. Sirohi (Rajasthan)	9.9.1997
20.	M/s Metmin Finance & Holdings Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, Nickel, gold, silver and associated minerals	1350 Sq. Kms. Distts. Sikar & Nagaur (Rajasthan)	9.9.1997
21.	M/s Meridian Minerals India (P) Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold, Silver, cadmium, bismuth and associated minerals	2812.50 Sq. Kms. Distts. Alwar and Dausa (Rajasthan)	25.9.1997
22.	M/s. BHP Minerals India (P) Ltd	Copper, lead, zinc, gold and associated minerals	1310 Sq. Kms. Distts. Bhilwara & Ajmer (Rajasthan)	23.2.1998
23.	M/s BHP Minerals India (P) Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold and associated minerals	1486 Sq. Kms. Distts. Bhilwara, Rajasamand & Ajmer (Rajasthan)	23.2.1998
24.	M/s Metmin Finance & Holdings Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc gold, Silver, nickel and Associated minerals	236.00 Sq. Kms. Distt. Sirohi (Rajasthan)	30.4.1998
25.	M/s Metimin Finance & Holdings Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc gold, Silver, nickel and associated minerals	50.25 Sq. Kms. Distt. Banaskantha (Gujarat)	30.4.1998
26.	M/s. Metmin Finance & Holdings Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc gold, Silver, nickel and Associated minerals	156.00 Sq. Kms. Distt. Banaskantha (Gujarat)	30.4.1998

1	2	3	4	5
27.	M/s Meridian Minerals India (P) Ltd.	Lead, zinc, copper, gold, Nickel, silver, bismith, cadmium & associated minerals	3162.50 Sq. Kms. Distt. Udaipur (Rajasthan)	30.4.1998
28.	M/s Meridian Minerals India (P) Ltd.	Lead, zinc, copper, gold & associated minerals	2100.00 Sq. Kms. Distts. Nagaur & Churu (Rajasthan)	30.4.1998
29.	M/s Meridian Minerals India (P) Ltd.	Lead, zinc, copper, gold, Bismith, cadmium, silver and associated minerals	311.125 Sq. Kms. Distt. Ajmer (Rajasthan)	30.4.1998
30.	M/s RBW Minerals Industries Ltd.	Lead, zinc, copper, gold, Nickel, silver, cadmium and associated minerals	100.87 Sq. Kms. Distt. Pali (Rajasthan)	30.4.1998
31.	M/s RBW Minerals Industries Ltd.	Lead, zinc, copper, gold, Cadmium, silver and associated minerals	3875.00 Sq. Kms. Distts. Bundi, Tonk, Bhilwara and Chittorgarh (Rajasthan)	30.4.1998
32.	M/s RBW Minerals Industries Ltd.	Lead, zinc, copper, gold, Nickel, bismith, cadmium, silver and associated minerals	3000.00 Sq. Kms. Distts. Pali & Rajasamand (Rajasthan)	30.4.1998
33.	M/s Geomysore Services (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold, Molybdenum, diamond, nickle and platinum	3490.00 Sq. Kms. Distts. Nagpur, Bhandara & Gadchiroli (Maharashtra)	30.4.1998
34.	M/s Phelps Dodge Exploration India Pvt. Ltd.	Copper and associated Minerals	2472 Sq. Kms. Distts. Sirighbhum (East) and Singhbhum (West), Bihar	13.5.1998
35.	M/s WSIL Minerals Sands India Pvt. Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold, Silver & associated minerals	1709.05 Sq. Kms. Bhilwara, Ajmer, Pali & Raiasamand (Rajasthan)	5.6.1998
36.	M/s WSIL Minerals Sands India Pvt. Ltd.	Copper, lead, zinc, gold, Silver & associated minerals	1200.00 Sq.Kms. Distt. Udaipur (Rajasthan)	5.6.1998
<b>Total</b>			<b>51917.55 Sq. Kms.</b>	

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, all together, in 32 places, the mining rights were granted to various Indian and foreign companies. I find that out of 32 companies, only one company belongs to the public sector unit, and all the other companies belong to either foreign or Indian private sector. Has there any other offer from public sector companies and, if so, what was the ground for not granting these mining rights to them?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the liberalisation policy of the Government of India in 1991, the foreign companies were allowed to hold 48 per cent of equity in mining companies. In answer to the hon. Member's question, I would like to say that no other proposal from any other public sector company has been received.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the conditionalities are for giving these rights for mining of gold, silver, copper, zinc and other associated minerals. After the exploration is completed and if sufficient deposits are found, I would like to know whether these companies will be given licences for productive exploitation also. So, may I know the conditionalities for granting these rights?

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have a request. The answer to the question was not available till 10.45 a.m. I waited in the Notice Office all along, but the answer was not available. If the answer is not available in time, how can we prepare the supplementary questions? Please look into it.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please see that the answers are supplied to the Members in advance.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Sir, I will see to it. There are six companies that have requested for mining rights, but they have to apply separately. An important aspect of the new mineral policy of 1993, which was announced by the Congress Government headed by Shri Narasimha Rao, is the basic structural reforms initiated by the Government of India in July 1991 in fiscal, industrial and trade regimes for the globalisation of economy. The National Mineral Policy was announced in March 1993.

Some of the salient features of the MP are as under:—

Thirteen minerals namely, iron-ores, manganese ore, chrome, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, ores, nickel and platinum group of metals were exclusively reserved for the public sector. Exploitation was thrown open to private sector. Thus the entire mining sector is now open for private investment including foreign direct investment. Induction of foreign

technology and foreign participation in the exploration and mining for higher value scarce minerals is allowed. Foreign equity investment in joint ventures in mining promoted by Indian companies is to be encouraged. Foreign investment in equity would normally be limited to 50 per cent. But this limitation would not apply to captive mines of any mineral processing industry. Enhanced equity holdings can also be considered on case to case basis. In short, the National Mineral Policy of 1993 recognises the need for encouraging private investment including foreign direct investment and state of the art technology in the mineral sector.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: What are the conditionalities while giving licences to companies, especially to foreign companies? That is my simple question.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Prior to 1993, only 40 per cent of foreign equity was allowed. The present policy, from 1993 onwards is foreign companies can have 100 per cent equity in mining companies in India subject to Foreign Investment Promotion Board's clearance. In January, 1997 automatic clearance up to 50 per cent foreign equity was allowed in respect of mining of iron, manganese ore, bauxite, copper, lead and zinc ores etc. Similarly, for services incidental to mining like drilling, shafting etc., certain alloy and metallurgical industries, automatic foreign equity permission up to 74 per cent allowed since January, 1997.

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked about the conditionalities.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: I am giving the policy.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: What is the guarantee?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Large areas given for prospecting subject to conditions of schemes and relinquishment and achievement of physical and financial targets.

SHRI C. GOPAL: The Government of India had issued guidelines for grant of large areas for aerial prospecting under the provisions of Mines and Minerals Act. I want to know from the hon. Minister what are the ingredients in the guidelines, whether any preference has been given for the companies putting licence from the backward areas during the periods 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 and whether any licence applications were received from Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri C. Gopal, please understand that it is a question relating to international mining companies, not Tamil Nadu companies.

SHRI C. GOPAL: I want to know what are the ingredients of guidelines.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The hon. Member's question is what are the guidelines for backward areas. The hon. Minister should answer that.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know whether there is any proposal from Tamil Nadu.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: That is the second part. Firstly, he asked about the guidelines for backward areas. What is wrong in it?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: I would reply to his first question. No application was received from Tamil Nadu. The question which the hon. Member Shri V.V. Raghavan asked was this. Will the Minister for Steel and Mines be pleased to state whether the Government has approved some proposals received from international mining companies for prospecting and exploration in the mineral sector? If the hon. Member would like to have a reply on that, he could send me a separate notice. I would be very happy to reply.

If the hon. Member would like to have a reply on that, he can send me a separate notice. I will be very happy to provide the information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI: This question comes out of the main question. How can the Minister say that he needs a separate notice?...*(Interruptions)* The Minister is not telling anything as to what are the guidelines for the backward areas. It is a simple question. If the Minister is not replying, it means that he has not come prepared. He has come totally unprepared. He is reading from the papers. He should come prepared to answer the questions...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: he is replying.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI: He is not mentioning what are the guidelines for the backward areas. This is a simple question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is replying. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: I will reply to that question. These policies were formulated by the Government, a part of the Members of that Government are sitting opposite, for economic liberalisation etc. As far as the question of the hon. Member was concerned, there is no

separate policy for backward area. Wherever there is a likelihood of availability of mineral resources, there a licence is given. If there is a likelihood of availability of resources in backward areas, licences can be recommended by the State Government. All the recommendations come from the State Governments. The State Governments have to give the recommendations.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Mr. Speaker, sir, recently aerial survey was conducted by Hindustan Zinc and one Australian company in Rajasthan. I would like to know which metals were found there alongwith the names of places where these were found? I would also like to know whether mining rights will be granted to Australian company also? What would be your policy in regard to these two companies? Just now the hon'ble Minister has said that previous government had privatised mining sector but at present your government is in power so what would be your policy now? You are requested to give reply to all these questions.

*[English]*

The data of steel is being processed by the Australian Company.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. He was talking about the conditionalities. I would like to know that as per the Mineral Policy of 1993 whether these private companies, whether they are international companies, MNCs or Indian Companies, have to be sponsored by the State Governments to get the mines.

The second part of my question is this. What has been the performance of the State Governments? I want to know about two State Governments specifically. One is Orissa and the other is Rajasthan where we find most of the minerals in this country. What has been the performance of the State Government of Orissa and Rajasthan as far as processing of applications goes?

The third part of my question is this. Has any foreign company shown any interest in mining in Orissa? If the answer is 'yes', then, what minerals do they propose to mine? Does the Government of India know of the amount of deposit of those minerals in Orissa?

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in answer to the hon. Member's question, prospecting licences for large areas are granted by the State Governments and only approval is being given by the Central government.

If proposals for grant of prospecting licences over large areas are not received from the state Governments, nothing can be done by the Central Government.

So far, no proposal has been received by the Central Government for grant of prospecting licence over large areas of the State of Orissa. The Central Government has made all efforts to sensitise the State Governments including Orissa to send proposals for grant of prospecting licence over large areas to catalyze investment in mining sector in India.

Letters were sent on the 31st May, 1997 and June, 1997 of the level of Secretary, Ministry of Mines to the Secretary, Mines and Geology, Orissa and on the 12th July, 1997 by the then Minister of Steel and Mines, that is, my predecessor, Shri Baishya to the Chief Minister of Orissa. Tripartite meetings were also organised by the Ministry of Mines between prospectors, foreign investors and the State Government officials including officers from Orissa and the Ministry of Mines on the 12th July, 1997 and the 15th of May, 1998. The then Minister of Steel and Mines also met the Chief Minister of Orissa on the 10th July, 1997...(*Interruptions*)... the Secretary, Ministry of Mines also met the Chief Secretary of Orissa on 1st July, 1997...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I do not want to know this. What I want to know is whether any foreign company...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. He has already categorically replied to your question. Please take your seat. I have called Shri Ajit Jogi now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I want to know about Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied about Orissa also.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I want to know about the foreign companies which are prospecting and which are investing in mining. If that is so, which are the companies and what are the minerals they are interested in? Does the Union Government have any idea about it?...(*Interruptions*)...They have found large deposits of diamond in Orissa along the Mahanadi basin. I want to know whether the Union Government is aware of it or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to response?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Sir, a Paper has been laid on the Table of the House... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not like that. Hon. Member, please take your seat.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Sir, in regard to the query of the hon. Member of Parliament from Dhenkanal, Orissa, we can collect information from the State Government of Orissa and send it to him.

In reply to hon. Member's next question...

MR. SPEAKER: No, I have not allowed him that. So, you need not reply. Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question pertains to search of diamond in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh. Fortunately, diamonds have been found in Devbhog and adjacent areas of tribal region. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister through you whether the Central Government approves of giving these diamond mines to multinational companies? If this is done then 90% of country's valuable asset will be taken outside the country by these multinational companies because the Royalty is only 10% in the case of diamonds. I want that Hon'ble Minister should give an assurance that the mines which have been found in the tribal region of Chhattisgarh in respect of which tenders and quotations have been invited, will not be handed over to multinational companies so that valuable asset of our country should remain with us.

[*English*]

I understand English, please reply in English.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK: Foreign equity is allowed even in mining of diamonds subject to FIPB approval. The Government of India has not yet received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in this regard.

SHRI AJIT JOGI: that is wrong. The proposal of DBS has been recommended by the Madhya Pradesh and sent to the Government of India.

[*Translation*]

#### Foreign Investments

\*224. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:



(a) whether the Government propose to allow foreign investments in the development of basic infrastructure and construction of dwelling units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) (a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

Government is actively considering the proposal to allow foreign investment (FDI) in the housing sector. Detailed proposal is being formulated by this Ministry, which will be placed before the Union Cabinet, and after the Cabinet has approved the proposal, appropriate orders will be issued.

As per the existing NRI scheme, formulated by this Ministry, non-residents of Indian nationality/origin and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) which are owned directly or indirectly to the extent of at least 60% by NRI/ People of Indian Origin (PIO) are allowed to invest in housing and urban development sector. The scheme permits existing or new companies, both private and public limited, to issue equity shares/convertible debentures to non-residents of Indian nationality/origin upto 100% with repatriation benefits after a lock-in-period of 3 years with 16% cap on repatriation of profits and no cap on dividend and interest earned for OCB, if the company is engaged in development of serviced plots or construction of residential, commercial premises including business centres and offices, development of townships, city and region level urban infrastructural facilities, including roads and bridges, manufacturing of building materials and financing of housing development.

*[Translation]*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister through you whether there is any proposal of foreign investment for NRIs and Multinational companies also in housing sector? If this proposal is for multinational companies also then whether you have accepted to provide 16% profit to them for infrastructure, electricity and roads? Is the same criteria applicable for housing also? Secondly, I would like to know what is the maximum limit fixed for this purpose and what is the criteria laid down in this regard? Today those people are facing difficulty in the

country who do not have houses or have smaller houses or those who can spend only 2-3 lakhs or can make payment in instalments. I would like to know as to what criteria are you going to fix with regard to lakhs of such persons?

*[English]*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I am afraid, the questions posed by the hon. Member really do not arise out of the main question that has been asked. The main question was whether the Government is really permitting foreign direct investment in the housing sector. The answer is that we are still at the consideration stage. It is being very seriously considered.

Since we have not arrived at a final decision which I can communicate to this hon. House, if this House permits, I may take a few minutes to share a few inconvenient facts with the House and in fact invite the opinion of the House which will enable us to formulate our policy finally. The hon. Member has asked whether there are NRIs. In the Annexure you will find that the NRI investment schemes already exist. Kindly look at Annexure-I. In 1992 we inaugurated the first part of the NRI scheme. Then in 1993 there was another scheme which related to individual NRIs. Then in 1994 we added to it again by allowing companies registered abroad to come and invest in the housing sector. The result is that in spite of these investments allowed to these NRIs, OCBs and so on, the net result has been that we have been able to get a princely sum of about Rs. 500 crore. I think it is less. It is only Rs. 365 crore. That is all that has arrived in India in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997. In five years time Rs. 365 crore has come when the country needs Rs. 1,50,000 crore which is almost one-fourth of our entire national savings. It is for this reason that even the NRI investment has failed in its purpose. It is a trickle, it is a drop in the ocean.

Therefore, we are seriously considering whether foreign direct investment should be allowed. I want to let this house into a secret that even the Government of Singapore wanted to directly come and invest here in the housing sector. But under our own policy we had to tell them that they have to get an NRI front before we allow them to come in. They said that they wanted complete transparency and that they want no front of NRI and so on. We are still considering it. But I must confess that at the present advice we are in favour of allowing FDI. So, no formal decision has been taken.

But when we do allow foreign direct investment, be sure that the national purpose and our national interests will be borne in mind. The least that we will do is to insist upon a five-year lock-in period. For NRIs and others,

we have a three-year lock-in period. But for this types of an investment at least a five-year lock-in period will be insisted upon. We will see to it that this investment is channelled into the rural areas because in the rural areas we have to build 13 lakh houses in the rural areas in a year whereas in the urban areas it is a little less as we have to build only 7 lakh houses in a year.

If hon. Members have any contribution to our thinking processes, we will welcome it. But at the same time, no final decision has yet been taken. *(Interruptions)* I will welcome it, if the House so desires.

*[Translation]*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Hon'ble Minister, Sir, you have not given reply to part 'B' and 'C' of the question. In part 'B' I had asked this also .

*[English]*

If so, the details thereof.

*[Translation]*

In part (c) I wanted to know that

*[English]*

The time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard.

*[Translation]*

I would like to know what criteria you have laid for this? The problem is not of those people who are living in bigger houses but of those who are living in smaller houses. What criteria you have laid for those people who are living in smaller houses or those who are shelterless? What is the maximum limit which you have fixed because they do not have sufficient money to buy a house. The houses constructed by DDA in Delhi are lying vacant. The reason is that rich people don't want to buy them and the poor people can't afford those houses. What criteria you have fixed for them if foreign investment is allowed. This is very important issue. You are going to provide houses to 20 lakh people every year but what criteria you have fixed for small houses? I want to know whether houses will be provided to those people who cannot make payment in lumpsum and can make payment only in instalments and whether foreign investors will accept it at 16%?

*[English]*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: May I request the hon. Member to hold his inquisitiveness for a few more days. The Prime Minister has already announced as far back as the 27th April that within sixty days the National Housing Policy will be announced. That period of sixty days comes to an end on the 27th of this month. Before the 27th of this month, a comprehensive National housing Policy will be declared and there will be enough time to debate it. In fact, we wanted to place on the Table of this House our Policy by tomorrow, the last day of the first phase of this Session so that hon. Members can, during the recess, think over it and say what they want to say about it. But it could not be done because our Cabinet meeting had to be postponed because of the natural disasters which have taken place recently. Therefore, I am afraid, we will have to wait for a few more days. All the answers which the hon. Member is seeking will be found in the National housing Policy and he will have no more questions to ask.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE: Hon. Speaker, Sir, till now the development of infrastructure and construction of dwelling houses in the country was within the direct Government control and yet some years ago some questions of scam in this sector were raised and the concerned Minister was forced to leave her chair. The case is still pending.

In this scenario, when you are allowing foreign investors in this sector, there shall be every possibility of converting them into promoters and it will be a profitable sector for foreign investors and promoters. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there shall be direct control of the Government in respect of distribution of houses or the private investors would distribute the houses.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: The detailed provisions will depend upon individual contracts with individual developers at different places. By and large the thrust of the Policy is that the rich will be allowed to build for profits but they will have to plough back their profits into housing for the poor people. As the House knows, as far as my Ministry is concerned, my requirement runs into thousands and thousands of crores of rupees but I have not got a single rupee in the Budget directly for housing.

All that I have been able to get from the hon. Finance Minister in the Budget which has been announced and which is still under discussion here is the princely sum of Rs. 131 crore which also will be merely by way of addition to the equity of HUDCO. Now, I am supposed to perform miracle of building seven lakh houses in the urban area

without the slightest budgetary support of even a rupee...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, we have to invite the private sector participation in a big way and the details will have to be worked out when we actually embark on the process of construction. I cannot tell you the terms and conditions of every contract that we will enter into with every kind of a developer. It depends upon the area; it depends upon the town.

But I must tell you that the concentration is on building houses which are not bigger than 225 square feet which no rich man is going to occupy. They are all going to be for the poor people of this country...*(Interruptions)*...

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: You have not given accommodation to M.Ps. till now. They are living on roads...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not so.

*[English]*

Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, sir, I must accept that my question is going to be beyond the scope of this question. But it arises out of the supplementary answer of the hon. Minister. So, I must express that it is beyond the scope.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Normally I do not stand on these technicalities. Whatever information that is available with me, I will give it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I must accept it. He is a competent Minister and he can answer that also.

Sir, the hon. Minister has said that he got Rs. 131 crore out of the budgetary allocation of the Ministry. But the development authorities under the Ministry of urban development are making crores and crores of rupees out of the interest on loan to the farmers. May I know from the hon. Minister, before he brings in a National Housing Policy on this issue, whether he would consider this: Whenever they acquire the land of the farmers, they take it at a throw away prices; but when they allot those plots, they allot them at a price which is hundred times more than the price at which they acquired from them; and they charge heavy amount from the citizens.

Will the hon. Minister make sure that they pay to the farmers the cost of the plot minus the development charges so that the farmers would also share the loot which the development authorities are doing on behalf of the farmers?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, my good friend started with an excellent promise that he would ask me a question which arises out of the main question. Now unfortunately he is asking me to trespass into the jurisdiction of the Minister for Rural Development. I am only a Minister for Urban Development...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It is not coming under Rural Development. DDA is coming under him.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Since he has made an allegation that crore of rupees are being made, I am almost inclined to plead guilty to the charge which he has levelled. It is true that there is a lot of corruption. The whole thing is a cess pool of corruption. But be sure that so long as I have the last bit of energy in me, I will try and deal with that state of corruption and clean it up...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, he misunderstood me. It is not corruption. It is the question of policy; he has to change the policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to respond, Mr. Minister?

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: We need your protection. The Minister has to reply to the question. Sir, you have to protect the Members and not the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am protecting. At the same time, you also have to protect the Chair. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I can assure him that whenever any land is taken from the farmers, adequate compensation is being paid and will be paid. Ultimately, that is a judicial function. The district Judge has to decide finally as to what compensation is to be paid. We are doing it under the Land Acquisition Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: But they are taking a lot of time to decide. They remain hanging in the courts of the District Magistrates for a long time.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I entirely agree that judicial machinery is vitiated by delays. But please give me a little breathing time to do something about it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not yet formulated any clear Housing Policy. He has admitted that Hon'ble Prime Minister will announce housing policy at the earliest. Today, in the country the

problem is of those people who are living in jhuggi-jhonpris and slums in villages and towns. Only today, you have expressed your intension to introduce a bill relating to Urban Land ceiling, that means you want to protect land owners by removing ceiling. Thus the poor people living in cities and slum areas will move out of the cities. Whether you are going to make some arrangements for them in your policy? Your Department is giving funds for slum upgradation. Your Department is helping them by providing houses and other facilities. You have mentioned that 20 lakh houses will be given to poor people ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: you ask question.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You have mentioned in your Agenda that 20 lakh houses will be built for the poor people. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had launched one housing scheme which is now called as Indira Awas Yojana. Are 20 lakh houses for the poor which the hon'ble Minister is mentioning under that scheme. In order to help the countrymen in meeting their basic needs, whether the government...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Lалуji, you please ask the question.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I would like to ask for how long we will depend on foreigners? Whether only foreigners will construct houses here and provide basic facilities? What is your policy in this regard? Will you increase the number of houses being provided to people under Indira Awas Yojana and withdraw urban land ceiling Bill? Only then this government will be successful in getting houses constructed by giving funds to HUDCO or some other Agency for poor people. What is the intension of the government in this regard? You will depend on foreigners or depend on our countrymen?

[*English*]

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I hope the hon. Member will have the patience to hear a very brief answer to the very long question that he has asked.

First of all, I appreciate the hon. Member's concern for the poor people of this country but what I object to is that you claim the monopoly of concern for the poor people. I do not accept it. We are equally concerned and we are more concerned about them. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, this is not fair on his part ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Secondly, we are all appreciative of the Indira Awas Yojana which had been started some years ago but the hon. Member should

know that uptill now, a sum of Rs. 1100 crore alone had been allocated to the Indira Awas Yojana.

It is totally inadequate for the purpose of solving the problem of the rural poor. But please given us the credit that for the first time we have reversed the trend. The trend was to decrease the contribution to Indira Awas Yojana. In this Budget, we have increased it from Rs. 1,100 crore to Rs. 1,600 crore. ...(*Interruptions*)

Let us answer the last part of your question. The last part of your question needs only one answer that if the poor man in this country has not got the benefit of what is intended for him, if the things, which are intended for him, have not trickled down into his pocket, the major problem of this country is corruption. ...(*Interruptions*). There are people who have swallowed the pills. We are doing our best to clean up the system and to see that every rupee that is meant for the poor person trickles into his pocket without a single paisa being stolen in the process of distribution.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 225. Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: This is a very important issue. Therefore, let us have a discussion in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, I have no objection for half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Please take consensus of the House. Let there be a discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[*Translation*]

#### **Decline in Passengers of I.A.**

\*225. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether due to the emergence of air taxi operators, the number of passengers of Indian Airlines has declined sharply;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANNANTH KUMAR) (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

(a) and (b): Due to the emergence of air taxi operators, one number of passengers carried by Indian Airlines on the domestic sector had initially declined. The main reasons were:—

- (i) The private operators, in the absence of level playing field, pressed aircraft capacity on the lucrative trunk routes which were adequately served by Indian airlines. This resulted in passenger gain to the private operators primarily at the cost of Indian Airlines.
- (ii) Shortage of Commanders and qualified engineers due to their exodus to the private operators who offered much higher emoluments. As a result, aircraft utilization came down to all time low.

(c) The following remedial steps have been taken to increase the passenger carriage by Indian Airlines.—

- (i) Increased utilization of aircraft through:—
  - Increased productivity of Commanders.
  - Increased availability of commanders.
  - Increased availability of aircraft per day as a result of increased productivity of Engineers.
  - Launching of Alliance Air.
- ii) Attracting passengers by:—
  - Product improvement.
  - Innovative and aggressive marketing strategies.
  - Improved on-time performance.
  - Dissemination of information about the strengths of the Company.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Rawatji, now you speak.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can ask question only when silence is restored.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: My request is that the Air Taxi Service which was earlier private service...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: My reply has not yet come.

MR. SPEAKER: Laluji, reply has already come, you please sit down.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: An amount of 150 crores is outstanding against the Air Taxi Service which was a private service. In spite of this, as compared to services of Indian Airlines, Air Taxi service earned profit. What are the reasons therefor? Reasons have not been mentioned in the reply. Second part of my question is that I would like to know that taxi operators were to operate on deficit routes also... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this should be discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't do like this, reply has already been given, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered the question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good on your part, Shri Ramdas Athawale. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed half-an-hour discussion on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: I will give you time. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. I have already allowed half-an-hour discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Sir, Government dues to the taxi operators amount to more than Rs. 150 crore. Why government has done this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, have you given your ruling?

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given time for half-an-hour discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Later on, they were engaged for certain routes but money has not been recovered from them? On top of that, the Union Government says that Indian airlines lagged behind in competition on lucrative routes. I would like to know as to why it lagged behind? I would also like to know that it was decided in the agreement that one percent of flights will operate on non-lucrative routes in North-East but why Air Taxi Services were not forced to operate on deficit routes? I want to know why government has done this and in future what is their plan in this regard?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow half-an-hour discussion on this issue...*(Interruptions)* Discussion should be held over this... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Laluji, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Please allow discussion on this... *(Interruption)* We will expose them... *(Interruptions)* We want to see... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No cross talk please.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker. Sir, I have already mentioned in the statement that has been laid on the Table of the House that operations of the Indian airlines flights dripped because of allowing the private taxi operators. Now again it is picking up.

Sir, regarding the question asked by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat about Route Dispersal instructions, I would like to submit that we have formulated Route dispersal instructions. We have categorised the air routes into three sectors. The prize routes have been identified as category one routes; the routes especially in the North-East, have been identified as Category-II routes; and the other routes, that is in the sub-regional places other than those falling under Categories I and II, have been identified as Category III routes. That is the Route Dispersal guideline.

According to this Route Dispersal Guideline, every operator, Indian Airlines as well as other private air taxi operators, would have to mandatorily fly at a required specific ratio of 51%:10%:1%. This has been adhered to. Wherever the air taxi operators have not complied with this requirement, punitive actions have been taken against them and it has been set rights.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, my second question is whether the government have admitted that the Indian Airlines lags behind in the competition with Air Taxi Services? However, the hon'ble Minister has not mentioned any reasons therefor. I had asked the reasons therefor. Let us presume that Indian Airlines has lost out to the private operators in the competition and it will lag behind. There are routes where there is no air service at present like Agra-Delhi-Jaipur which is one of the triangular route and there are similar other tourist routes also. Has the Government any proposal to handover such new routes to air taxi operators so that the Indian airlines does not run into losses and its services could be expanded further?

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Speaker, Sir, at the outset I disagree with the hon. Member that after the emergence of private air taxi operators in the country, the share of Indian airlines in the market is declining. Actually, as of today, the Indian airlines has 65 per cent of the total market share and air taxi operators have only 34 per cent of the total market of the Civil Aviation. Out of 11 scheduled air taxi operators, there are now only two private air taxi operators. If we go back, in 1992 when there was a complete monopoly, the Indian airlines had 95.18 per cent of the total share. But, as he rightly said, when we opened the domestic sky for private operators, it started declining because of the competition. It came down to 76 per cent, 65 per cent, 59 per cent in 1995 and 58 per cent in 1996. But again in 1997 it went up to 64 per cent. Therefore, we have not lost the market. We are regaining the market. To regain the market, the Indian airlines are constantly taking up all sorts of

improvement activities especially, product improvement, innovative and aggressive marketing strategy and improved all time performance. We are engaged into all these things.

The hon. Member has given a suggestion regarding Agra-Jaipur-Delhi air connection. We will examine the whole thing and consider it favourably.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: At present, in India we have air taxis. The State Governments also are flying aircraft to different places. Indian Airlines is also there. Vayudoot has stopped working. The result is that we are not flying to the areas where the facility to fly was most needed. We are not flying to the North-Eastern States. Flights have been stopped to various districts because of which we are now suffering. Air travel is not a luxury in the present day time. It is a facility to take the industry to the backward and undeveloped areas. If you have the air facility, then the industry can go to any part of the country. In views of this, what is the policy of the Government to see that we continue flying to the North-Eastern States: we continue to fly to the places where we were flying in the past and what kind of policy we are going to adopt with respect to air taxis, the State flying the aircraft, Indian Airlines, Vayudoot and other corporations which the Civil aviation is having? Are they going to have any concrete long-term perspective and planning for this purposes so that the facility is provided, dispersal of industry becomes possible and all the districts in the country are connected by aircraft?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I entirely share the view expressed by my esteemed colleague, who is a former Speaker of this august House and my predecessor also. To answer his question, the Civil Aviation Ministry is working out a concept of democratization of Civil Aviation.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: It is a dangerous concept. Please do not democratise it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: When I say democratization of Civil Aviation, I mean that we require a much more wider air cover to this country of 550 million people. I entirely agree with him that the present infrastructure and the aviation links are not at all adequate. There is much scope for improvement.

When we speak of democratisation of civil aviation, there are two specific aspects to it. I would respect the indulgence of Prof. Kurien on this. The two specific issues are: (1) the reach of the civil aviation and (2) the viability. The reach is created by two things: (1) the airport infrastructure and (2) the aircraft. We have 120 airports in the country now. Out of these 120 airports, 55 are functional and the others are quasi-functional. I am visiting

all the airports. I have visited 10 airports throughout the country till today. We are trying to upgrade the facilities of different airports. Regarding the aircraft, neither Indian Airlines nor the private operators, except one or two regional operators as the hon. Member has pointed out, have smaller aircraft on their fleets. If we do not purchase smaller aircraft, these sub-regional routes cannot be made commercially viable. I entirely agree with this.

We have got air link up to the regional headquarters now. However, in each State in the country, there are three-four places which are equivalent to regional headquarters in their importance which have to be air-linked. For that we have to acquire 30-seater aircraft and 50-seater aircraft. The Government is actively considering acquiring of these aircraft. Six 50-seater aircraft by Indian airlines and another sixteen 50-seater aircraft by private operators are going to be acquired in total in the next few days. I am very happy to inform this august House that in the next few days we will be giving clearance to acquire twenty-two 50-seater aircraft by which we can link all the sub-regional areas in the country. Once we do it, we can reach the sub-regional areas also by air.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, the whole object of bringing private operators into domestic airlines was to create competition and improve the quality of service of Indian Airlines. The child is buried now and, unfortunately, high-sounding words are being used by the young Minister here. The hon. Minister should not simply go by the answers of bureaucrats.

I want a specific answer as to what is being done in regard to cleanliness in the aircraft. They are absolutely filthy. What about giving good food to passengers? The aircraft are not being maintained at all as a result of which they have become absolutely dirty. What about the bad condition of the domestic airports? A fire accident took place two years ago in Delhi airport. Nothing has been done to improve that international airport which was named after Shrimati Indira Gandhi. The Minister should answer as to what has been done in this regard. He should not go by the terms like product improvement, innovative strategy and aggressive movement. These are all high-sounding words signifying nothing. The Minister should answer each of these questions one by one.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have already launched a programme called 'Access' through which we are getting the feedback of the commuters. If the hon. Members goes through our performance chart, he will find that it is okay. Regarding the situation of the terminal at Indira Gandhi Airport in New Delhi, it got burnt down one and a half years back. Yesterday I inspected the entire thing. Within one month we are going to inaugurate and commission an entirely new terminal

which can cater to more than two and a quarter thousand of passenger with all basic and modern facilities.

**SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:** Sir, by introducing air taxis in Andhra Pradesh, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has completely ruined the air traffic there. For example, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams have given Rs. 7 crore for improvement of the airport and air terminal.

12.00 hrs.

After assuming offices, the hon. Speaker has visited Tirupati. I do not know what he has promised to Lord Venkateshwara. Those who neglected Tirupati have not survived so far. Alliance Airlines are flying only two days a week. Will the hon. Minister look into the matter to improve traffic, irrespective of the losses? Lord Venkateshwara is there to take care of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. I want a specific answer from the hon. Minister?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. Minister may send a written reply.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

##### Production Cost of Steel

\*223. **SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Alloy Steel Plants of Steel Authority of India are fighting a survival battle owing to high production-cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK)** (a) and (b): Performance of Alloy/Special Steel Plants of SAIL is affected mainly due to lower sales realisation emerging out of competition, slow-down in demand and continuous increase in input prices.

(c) SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis, to improve the performance of these plants, which include reduction in cost by improving the techno-economic parameters, demands oriented production, improving quality of products and increasing sales through aggressive and customer oriented marketing etc.

##### Increase in Domestic Air Fare

\*226. **SHRI HARIN PATHAK:** Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to increase domestic air fare;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor and the criteria being followed in this regard;

(c) the accumulated loss of the Indian Airlines till date; and

(d) the steps that are being taken by the Government to make up the losses?

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):** (a) and (b): Domestic air fares are not being regulated by the Government.

(c) the accumulated loss of Indian Airlines since the year 1989-90 to 1996-97 is Rs. 1045.60 crores.

(d) Indian airlines has taken/proposes to take the following steps to make up the losses:—

(i) Restructuring of routes; (ii) Creation of profit centres; (iii) Increase in international operations; (iv) Change in training pattern of pilots; (v) Creation of Alliance Air; (vi) Improvement in customer services; (vii) Improvement in corporate image by disseminating information about Company's strengths; (viii) Aggressive marketing strategies to improve market share; (ix) Strict control on recruitment and on capital expenditure; (x) Turn-around strategies suggested by the Kelkar Committee.

[Translation]

##### Inadequate Facilities Provided by Air India

\*227. **SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air India has been running at loss continuously during the last three years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Air India does not provide the facilities which are provided in International flights by other Airlines;

(d) whether it has resulted in under-utilisations of the capacity;

(e) if so, the facts thereof; and



(f) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (f): The details of losses incurred by Air India in the last three years are as under:—

Year	Loss (Rs. In crores)
1995-96	271.84
1996-97	296.94
1997-98 (Provisional)	280.43

Facilities provided differ from airline to airline. Air India, however, endeavours to provide quality services on its flights. Passenger amenities provided by Air India include the following:—

- (i) Improved audio and video system.
- (ii) Personal television provided in First Class and Executive Class of B747-400 and Executive Class of A310.
- (iii) Inflight telephone system provided on B747-400 aircraft.
- (iv) Inflight facsimile system provided on B747-400 aircraft.

The seat factors for all international airlines depend on the seasonality and the prevalent competition. However, to improve its seat factors, Air India is continuously providing new service concepts on its flights such as:—

- (i) Tele Check-in for First and Executive Class passengers.
- (ii) Multi Check-in at Mumbai and Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- (iii) Interactive computer flight information system.
- (iv) Upgrading of aircraft interior.

[English]

#### **Panchayat Elections**

\*228. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:  
SHRI ANIL BASU:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the elections to Panchayati Raj bodies are held regularly in all the States;
- (b) if not, the States where elections are not held regularly;
- (c) whether some States have not given necessary financial and administrative Powers to Panchayati Raj Bodies;
- (d) if no, the names of such States together with reasons thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to take steps to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions throughout the country, and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUA PATIL): (a) to (f): Article 243-E of this Constitution specifies that all Panchayats unless sooner dissolved under any law for the time being in force, shall continue for 5 years and that elections to constitute Panchayats shall be completed before the expiration of its duration of 5 years or before the expiration of a period of 6 months from the date of its dissolution. According to information available with the date of its dissolution. According to information available with the Government elections are being held as laid down in Article 243-E of the Constitution in all States, except in Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Pondicherry, Zilla Parisads of Goa and Assam.

2. Some States have not yet given necessary financial powers to Panchayati Raj Bodies for want of reports of the State Finance Commissions (SFC). SFCs of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have submitted their reports to the respective State Government. The States of Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and west Bengal have accepted most of the recommendations of the SFCs. Gujarat, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have received Interim Reports of the SFC on which States/UTs have yet to take action. SFCs of Bihar, Goa and Sikkim have yet to submit their reports. Acceptance of the recommendations of the SFCs will considerably strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

3. Article 243-G of the Constitution enables the State Governments to endow the Panchayats with necessary powers, functions and responsibilities so as to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. A

Conference of the Chief Ministers on Panchayati Raj was held on 2nd August, 1997 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister to review the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions where the outstanding issues like devolution of powers/functions and responsibilities upon PRIs were discussed. The Conference recommended that (a) detailed executive instructions devolving executive powers upon PRIs, specifying functions and demarcating responsibilities in unambiguous terms be issued; (b) States to devolve financial powers to panchayats and also prepare technical manuals for works so that panchayats at various levels are able to execute development works on the basis of transparent guidelines in these manuals; (c) Departmentally functionaries appropriate to the levels be made available to the PRIs alongwith powers of control over these functionaries; (d) Steps be taken to ensure transparency in the working of panchayats; (e) State Government to request their SFCs to expedite reports. Further, the Conference recommended setting up of a Committee of the Chief Ministers under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to examine the issues regarding the devolution of powers, functions and responsibilities upon PRIs and to recommend measures to streamline the Panchayati Raj system. The Committee recommended to the States to make the Panchayats effective by taking steps, such as —

1. Leaving selection of beneficiaries to Gram Sabha.
2. Waiving the requirement of technical sanction for works upto Rs. 10,000.
3. Innovation to provide adequate manpower support to the Gram Panchayats.
4. Delegation of total control over such manpower to Gram Panchayats.
5. Zilla Parishad Chairpersons to be made the Chairpersons of DRDAs.
6. Providing reasonable opportunity of hearing to the PRIs before suspension/dismissal.
7. Gram Panchyat President to be accountable solely to Gram Sabha.
8. Expeditious constitution of District Planning Committee.

Devolution of powers is a continuing process. The States/UTs have been delegating powers gradually which would give Panchayats time to develop their capabilities in discharging their functions effectively. Regular monitoring is being done by the Government through meetings with

State Officials and letters to State Governments. Recently a meeting of State Ministers incharge of Panchayati Raj was held on 13.5.1998 to review the position. The draft resolutions adopted during the meeting have been circulated to all States/UTs for their comments. Comments from 13 States have been received. On receipt of comments from the remaining States/ UTs, these resolutions would be finalised and sent to all States/UTs for necessary follow up action.

#### **Advanced Instruments Landing system at Delhi and Mumbai**

\*229 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India had decided to instal the advanced instrument landing system supplied by M/s. Raytheon of USA for Delhi and Mumbai airports to improve air safety;

(b) whether the equipment has failed to meet the international standards of safe landing facilities laid down by ICAO;

(c) if so, whether the agreement has been rescinded; and

(d) the steps taken to procure equipment conforming to the ICAO specifications?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a): Airports Authority of India has undertaken the work of upgradation/modernisation of the Air Traffic Control Systems at Delhi and Mumbai airports at an estimated cost of Rs. 423.89 crores. Installation of Instrument Landing Systems is a part of modernisation work being done by M/s. Raytheon, the turnkey contractor.

(b) to (d): The Category II Instrument Landing System installed at Delhi airport in May, 1995 is being operated as Category I because the equipment does not meet ICAO specifications. Airports Authority of India had taken up with the supplier the need to resolve the anomaly and make the system operational for Category II operations. M/s. Raytheon have agreed to instal the Category II system free of cost, within the next 6 months.

[Translation]

**Ticketless Passengers**

\*230. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:  
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers apprehended for travelling without tickets during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the total amount of fine charged from the said passengers during the above period;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated to deal with the Ticketless travellers sternly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b): During 1996-97, a total of 80.23 lakhs persons were apprehended travelling without ticket or with improper ticket and a sum of Rs. 81.44 crores was realised from them as railway dues including penalty. During 1997-98, 93.47 lakhs of such persons were apprehended and Rs. 106.11 crores were realised from them as railway dues including penalty registering an increase of 16.5% in persons apprehended and 30.3% in amount recovered respectively over the corresponding period of previous year i.e. 1996-97.

(c) and (d): Regular and surprise checks are conducted frequently by the Railways to check ticketless/irregular travel in association with the Railway Magistrates, Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection force (RPF). An Action Plan is also drawn every month and circulated to all the Zonal Railways directing them to conduct various types of checks on specific dates and periods at various places and sections that are prone to ticketless travel. An Incentive Scheme has also been introduced for the ticket checking staff to encourage them to detect and apprehend more and more ticketless passengers.

[English]

**Summer Rush of Passengers**

\*231. DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant rise in the number of railway passengers every year during Summer Season for the last some years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have estimated the number of the additional passengers;

(c) if so, the estimate of the average increase registered every year;

(d) whether the Government also make necessary arrangements to provide additional train in view of the increase in the number of passengers; and

(e) if so, the additional arrangements made during 1995, 1996 and 1997 and for the current year separately?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): During the peak summer month the passenger traffic increases by nearly 12% as compared to monthly average traffic. As compared to the lean month, the demand increases in the peak month by nearly 22%. This trend has been noticed in the recent years.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) To cater to the extra rush of traffic, Railways run special trains and augment loads of the trains to the extent feasible and commercially justified. The year-wise arrangements made are as under:

Year	No. of Specials	Augmentation of loads
1995	1155	35 pairs of trains
1996	1214	33 pairs of trains
1997	1347	53 pairs of trains
1998	1959	75 pairs of trains

**Houses for Poor People**

\*232. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:—

(a) the details of allocation of funds made to various States for building houses for the poor and weaker sections during the last three years;

(b) the details of Schemes of building houses for the poor under implementation at present;

(c) whether the Government proposes to involve N.G.Os in the construction of such houses;

(d) whether CAPART has been allowed participation in this venture; and

(e) if so, the name of States where CAPART is involved in the house building activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b): Indira Awas Yojana which is a centrally sponsored scheme is being implemented all over the country with the objective to provide assistance for construction of houses to members

of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers and also to non-SC/ST rural poor below the poverty line in rural areas.

State-wise allocation of funds under Indira Awas Yojana during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir.

(e) Showing the name of the States is enclosed.

**Statement-I**

*Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)*

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Name of the State	Allocation		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	8764.21	8870.30	8970.34
Arunachal Pradesh	79.71	79.71	80.71
Assam	2555.95	2919.68	2952.83
Bihar	17079.31	17398.92	17597.09
Goa	86.12	86.12	87.63
Gujarat	3450.09	3255.70	3292.97
Haryana	1084.63	782.14	790.96
Himachal Pradesh	273.65	273.65	276.72
Jammu & Kashmir	1056.07	556.07	562.66
Karnataka	5213.33	5956.29	6024.43
Kerala	1896.68	2167.06	2191.85

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1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	11338.39	11240.56	11368.58
Maharashtra	9064.06	9669.47	9779.75
Manipur	102.16	192.16	103.77
Meghalaya	119.54	119.54	121.07
Mizoram	50.36	50.36	50.73
Nagaland	128.13	128.13	129.14
Orissa	6298.60	7195.91	7277.74
Punjab	486.85	556.24	562.65
Rajasthan	5087.49	4670.13	4723.84
Sikkim	166.65	46.65	47.27
Tamil Nadu	7488.73	8018.92	8110.20
Tripura	132.69	132.82	134.90
Uttar Pradesh	20400.14	21616.11	21863.19
West Bengal	6967.87	7949.67	8039.87
A & N Islands	47.17	47.17	47.27
D & N Haveli	25.61	25.61	25.37
Daman & Diu	15.08	15.08	14.99
Lakshadweep	23.65	23.65	24.21
Pondicherry	46.18	46.18	47.27
Total	109499.00	114000.80	115300.00

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**Statement-II**

Name of the State
Andhra Pradesh
Assam
Bihar
Gujarat
Haryana
Himachal Pradesh
Karnataka
kerala
Madhya Pradesh
Manipur
Mizoram
Orissa
Punjab
Rajasthan
Tamil Nadu
Uttar Pradesh
West Bengal

**Operation of Pawan Hans**

\*233. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA:  
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pawan Hans Ltd. Has any Plan to expand its operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas which are likely to be covered by this expansion?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expansion plans of Pawan Hans helicopters Limited include the following areas:

- (i) Services to places of pilgrimages such as Vaishno Devi, Kedamath/Badrinath,
- (ii) Services in North-Eastern States,
- (iii) Intra-city and medical/emergency services,
- (iv) provision of dedicated helicopters to State Governments of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh,
- (v) Support services for Antarctica expedition.

**Complimentary Rail Passes**

\*234. DR. SANJAY SINH:  
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that complimentary passes issued by his Ministry are being misused;

(b) if so, the number of such persons who have been detected in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any norms and ceiling on the issue of maximum number of free Railway Passes as per decision of the Delhi High Court; and

(d) if so, the number of passes issued during the last two months?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98, 15 cases of misuse of complimentary passes for monetary gains have been detected.

(c) Norms for issue of complimentary passes already exist and the question of laying down some ceiling on the number of complimentary passes is under examination.

(d) Only nine single use complimentary Cheque passes have been issued during the last two months under discretionary powers as compared to 4,018 and 6,161 passes issued in 1997-98 and 1996-97 respectively.

### **Panchayati Raj**

\*235. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Grants being allocated under the Panchayati Raj System are inadequate to meet the requirement;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the amount of grants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (d) The Panchayats receive grants from different sources. First, the State Finance Commissions (SFCs) constituted as per the provisions under Article 24-I of the Constitution are required to review the financial position of Panchayats and to make recommendations to the Governor regarding the principles which should govern the distribution between the State and the Panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the State and grants-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund of the States. The SFCs have also to recommend measures needed to improve the financial position of the Panchayats. Secondly, Panchayats receive grants on the recommendations of the Central Finance Commission. In addition to the above, funds under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana are distributed among DRDAs/Zilla Parishads, Intermediate Panchayats and Village Panchayats in a district in the ratio of 15:15:70. Funds under other programmes of the Ministry, namely, Million Wells Scheme, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Indira Awaas Yojana, Drought Prone Areas Programme etc. are also given to the Panchayats.

However, these grants would not be sufficient for the Panchayats to fulfill their responsibilities if all the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution are transferred to the Panchayats without concomitant finances from the concerned line Ministries/Departments. The Government have urged the States to devolve

adequate financial powers to panchayats and also to prepare technical manuals for works so that panchayats at various levels are able to execute development works on the basis of transparent guidelines in these manuals.

2. Article 280 (bb) specifies that the Central Finance Commission make recommendations to the President as to the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State. The Eleventh Finance Commission would recommend on the devolution of resources to panchayats for five years commencing from 1st April, 2000. The Eleventh Finance Commission is expected to take into account the recommendations of the SFCs and recommend suitable financial arrangements in respect of the panchayats.

### **IDSMT Schemes**

\*236. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU:  
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:

Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from various States for Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals received and approved by the Government separately; and

(d) the amount released during 1997-98 therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): Under the IDSMT Scheme guidelines, in force since August, 1995, proposals in respect of 224 towns, recommended by the State Level Sanctioning Committee, have been received out of which proposals in respect of 171 towns were approved by Government of India till March 31, 1998 as per Statewise details given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) : During 1997-98, in respect of aforesaid schemes, total Central share amounting to Rs. 9.85 crores has been released. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*Statewise Number of Proposals Received and Approved by Government of India Under the Existing Guidelines of IDSMT Scheme and the Amount Released Therefor During 1997-98.*

(Rs. In Crores)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Towns		Amount Released therefor during 1997-98
		Proposed	Approved	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	15	0.9564
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	0.0800
3.	Assam	3	3	0.2100
4.	Bihar	14	10	0.0000
5.	Goa	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	11	10	2.1300
7.	Haryana	4	4	0.2200
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	3	0.1500
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	—
10.	Karnataka	21	15	0.5400
11.	Kerala	8	5	0.8241
12.	Madhya Pradesh	21	14	0.7490
13.	Maharashtra	16	12	0.2900
14.	Manipur	2	2	0.0900
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—



1	2	3	4	5
16.	Mizoram	1	1	0.1200
17.	Nagaland	2	2	0.9000
18.	Orissa	8	5	0.3600
19.	Punjab	11	6	0.3900
20.	Rajasthan	9	9	0.0000
21.	Sikkim	1	1	0.1200
22.	Tamil Nadu	17	14	—
23.	Tripura	4	2	0.1600
24.	Uttar Pradesh	32	20	1.1600
25.	West Bengal	10	10	0.3000
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	—
27.	Daman & Diu	1	1	0.1080
28.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
Total		224	171	9.8525

**Central Grants for Konkan Railway Project**

\*237. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the borrowed capital for the Konkan Railway Project by the Konkan Railway corporation;

(b) the time by which the Konkan Railway Corporation have to repay it;

(c) whether Konkan Railway Corporation had sought grants from Centre as well as beneficiary States to pay back the borrowed capital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) (a) Rs. 2472 crores.

(b) Konkan Railway Corporation is expected to discharge the liabilities by the year 2006-07.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) does not arise.

**Restructuring of Indian Airlines**

\*238. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Finance have reached an agreement for the package of 325 crore for the restructuring of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, whether this amount is over and above the Rs. 525 crore allocation made in the Ninth Plan period;

(c) if so, the details of the restructuring planning of Indian Airlines; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A provision of Rs. 125 crores out of Rs. 475 crores recommended by Kelkar Committee has been made for additional equity investment in Indian Airlines in the budget of Ministry of Civil Aviation for 1998-99 which is a part of the total requirement projected for the Ninth Plan.

(c) and (d) The important recommendations of the Kelkar Committee relate to:—

- (i) Financial restructuring, which includes capital injection of Rs. 922 crores in the form of compensation, subordinated loan, equity and contribution by Indian Airlines and its employees. Of this, Rs. 475 crores is to be provided by the Government.
- (ii) Fleet Planning.
- (iii) Route Rationalisation.
- (iv) Human Resources Management.

The recommendations are still under consideration of the Government.

**Development of Domestic Airports**

\*239. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic airports in the country,

(b) how many of these airports are being used now;

(c) whether adequate attention has not been paid for the development of many of these airports;

(d) if so, the details of airports which require urgent attention;

(e) whether any financial provision has been made for the development of these airports during 1998-99; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There are 87 domestic airports in the country owned and maintained by Airports Authority of India. In addition, there are 28 civil enclaves at Defence airports. Out of the above, 50 civil airports and 20 civil enclaves are in operation, which are being served by the flights operated by various airlines.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Development and upgradation of airports is a continuous process and development works are taken up as and when necessary.

(e) and (f) Airports Authority of India has made a budget provision of Rs. 346.07 crores towards expansion and construction of terminal buildings and other operational works during the year 1998-99. In addition, Rs. 104.96 crores has been budgetted for the development of aeronautical communications services and Rs. 98.05 crores towards upgradation of ground and safety services.

**Report of Committee on Preventing Air Accidents**

\*240. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee headed by Mr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on Aircraft accident has recommended a comprehensive Action Plan to bring the accident rate to half of the present level in the next ten years;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the recommendations thereof;

(d) the details of the recommendations accepted/rejected by the Government separately; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Committee has made 84 recommendations. Implementation of these recommendations would need changes in organisational structure, procedures, training, design, technology etc. While some of the recommendations are an in-hour exercise involving negligible financial implications and can be effected by the organisations concerned without much loss of time, implementation/processing of other recommendations will take time and also involve expenditure. A Task Team under the Chairmanship of Defence Secretary has recently been constituted to ensure time bound implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

#### **Flights of Private Airlines**

\*241. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the private airlines are operating commercial flights to and from the remote places of the country as per the schedule;

(b) if so, names of those airlines that are operating flights from the remote places of the country; and

(c) if not, the steps to be taken against those private airlines.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) With a view to achieving better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions in the country particularly the remote places of the country, the Government has laid down the Route Dispersal Guidelines. Accordingly, every operator operating any scheduled air transport services within the country is required to provide at least 10% of the capacity deployed on trunk routes (category-I) to stations connecting the North-East region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep (category-II). Of the three private

airlines only Archana Airways does not operate on Category-I and Category-II routes. While Jet Airways connects a few stations in the North-Eastern region and the Jammu & Kashmir, Sahara India Airlines connects stations in the North East only.

Proposals to provide incentives to further develop air service to North-Eastern Region and to promote regional air services are under consideration.

*[Translation]*

#### **HUDCO Scheme for U.P.**

2263 SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Housing Projects of Uttar Pradesh under consideration of HUDCO as on date;

(b) the details of the schemes of different States especially of Uttar Pradesh approved by Housing and Urban Development Corporation; and

(c) the total loans to be allocated for these schemes, State wise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) As on date 17 housing projects seeking a loan of Rs. 35.78 crores are in the pipeline of HUDCO for U.P. Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) and (c) HUDCO makes annual loan allocations for housing projects on which 50% is allocated in the beginning of the year on the basis of area and population of each State and balance 50% is released as per demand and performance of various States. The total loan allocation made by HUDCO for Housing during 1998-99 is Rs. 1470 crores for all States.

As on 30.4.98 HUDCO have sanctioned 60 schemes submitted by various States agencies with a project cost of Rs. 97.92 crores and HUDCO loan amount of Rs. 63.73 crores. On completion, these schemes would provide 10842 constructed/upgraded dwelling units. Details of these schemes are given at Statement-II enclosed. No scheme has yet been sanctioned by HUDCO in the State of Uttar Pradesh for the year 1998-99.

## Statement-I

(Rs. In Lakhs)

S. N.	State/Agency	Scheme Name	Allotment Number	Dwelling Units	EWS	Loan Amount					Total	Date
						EWS(O)	LIG	MIG	HIG	OSH		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Uttar Pradesh												
1	Allahabad Dev Authority	404 EWS at Haki Allahabad	178	400	0.00	100.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.48	2.7.97
	--Do--	595 EWS at Shanti Puram Allahabad	179	595	0.00	149.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	149.50	2.7.97
3	--Do--	306 EWS at Beed Sarat Allahabad	780	306	0.00	94.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	94.55	2.7.97
4	--Do--	350 EWS At Ugarpur Beeva Allahabad	781	350	0.00	108.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.14	2.1.97
4	Do	504 EWS at Halihdipuram Allahabad	782	504	0.00	155.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	155.72	2.1.97
	Do	436 EWS at Dev Priyag Allahabad	783	336	0.00	88.40	0.00		0.00	0.00	80.40	2.1.97
	Agra Dev Authority	1050 EWS Houses for Halihdi Vihar Agra Firozabad Road Area	745	1050	0.00	362.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	362.50	2.6.97
6	--Do--	3000 EWS Unit EH Bhastrepuram Agra	766	3000	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	13.6.97
	Bareilly Dev Authority	40 LIG HSG SCH. At Rae Ganga Nagar Bareilly	783	40	0.00	0.00	28.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.80	27.3.97
	Do	380 EWS at Partupur Geoydeert Bareilly	795	301	0.00	91.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	91.76	14.7.97
	Do	Staff Rental HSG. SCH. at Argwanpur Vill. Moradabad	404	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.6.97
	Halveha Housing & Condt. Pvt. Ltd.	Const. Of 141 Houses at Gotam Ransa Ebhad Rai Bareilly Road	623	141	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	186.55	186.55	14.6.96
	--Do--	Const. Of 232 Houses in UDTAH-2 Sec. 3 Rai Bareilly	758	232	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00	5.3.97
11	Halveha Steel Jagdishpur	Staff HSG For Halveha Steel Jagdishpur U.P.	188	526	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00	700.00	15.4.97
12	Mathura Yashwan Dev. Authority	LIG Radha Puram HSG. SCH. Mathura	821	0	0.00	0.00	285.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	285.00	3.2.98
13	HYSAS	Dev Of Sahasawatipuram Colony Rai Bareilly Road. Lucknow	806	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	97.06	0.00	0.00	97.06	18.11.97
14	Yasast	Vaishali Corp. HSG. SCH. At Road Lucknow	825	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	180.00	0.00	180.00	15.1.98

**Statement-II***Statewise Performance Report During the Current year as on 30.4.1998.*

(Rs. In crores)

S No.	States/UT's Names	No. Of Sche- mes	Proj. cost	Loan amount	Release made	Repay- ment recd.	Dwellings							Total
							EWS ⊙	EWS (U)	LIG	MIG	HIG/ Rental	upgrd	Oth- ers	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	22.11	14.60	9.71	0.47	0	246	0	287	212	0	0	745
2.	Bihar	0	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Delhi	0	0.00	0.00	2.40	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Gujarat	13	9.19	6.91	2.33	0.04	271	1016	75	0	0	0	0	2362
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Kerala	7	35.33	19.42	15.23	0.00	1575	0	425	0	58	1200	0	3258
7.	Karnataka	3	5.33	4.33	0.00	5.80	0	1859	15	0	0	0	0	1874
8.	Maharashtra	0	0.00	0.00	1.82	2.42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2	1.88	1.14	1.16	0.36	0	0	80	24	0	0	0	104
10.	Mizoram	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Nagaland	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Orissa	0	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Rajasthan	4	2.47	1.76	0.29	0.10	0	433	97	0	0	0	0	530
15.	Tamil Nadu	19	21.71	15.57	18.50	0.03	0	969	0	1000	0	0	0	1969
16.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	West Bengal	0	0.00	0.00	2.38	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		60	97.92	63.73	54.54	11.41	1846	523	692	1311	270	1200	0	10842

*[English]***Survey for Budge Budge-Falta Railway Line**

2264. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to construct railway line from Budge Budge to Falta in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above line is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

**Rural Godowns/Cold Storages**

2265. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural godowns and cold storages constructed in Orissa and other States during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether Orissa has only a few rural godowns and cold storages;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to increase the construction of additional godowns and cold storages in that State in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the proposals mooted in details in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUA PATIL): (a) The Scheme for setting up of rural godowns being implemented by the Central Government till March, 1992 has been transferred to the State Sector with effect from 1st April, 1992 as per the decision of the National Development Council (NDC). However, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) provides financial assistance for construction of rural godowns/cold storages by cooperatives in the States depending upon the recommendations of the State Governments. But, no proposals for construction of rural godowns in the State of Orissa has been received by the National Cooperative Development Corporation from the State Government of Orissa till date. During the last three years, the National Cooperative Development Corporation has assisted the construction of 3 cold storage units in Orissa having 12,500 tonnes capacity at the cost of Rs. 429 lakhs. These units are under construction. The State-wise number of rural godowns/cold storages assisted by the National Cooperative Development Corporation during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) No survey about the number of rural godowns/cold storages available in Orissa has been carried out by the Central Government, During the Ninth Five Year Plan, the National Cooperative Development Corporation has proposed a programme for construction of 27 rural godowns and 22 marketing godowns of capacity 8390 tonnes in the State of Orissa and the Corporation has earmarked an outlay of Rs. 220 lakhs to assist construction of 2 cold storages in the cooperative sector as well as modernisation/rehabilitation of existing units in Orissa.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Number of Godowns	Capacity (in lakh tonnes)	Number of Cold Storages	Capacity (in Tonnes)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0
5.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0
6.	Haryana	0	0	0	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0
9.	Karnataka	345	0.5140	0	0
10.	Kerala	55	0.1178	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	83	1.4116	4	22000
12.	Maharashtra	9	0.4810	0	0
13.	Manipur	1	0.0005	0	0
14.	Meghalaya	1	0.0010	0	0
15.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
16.	Nagaland	28	0.0140	0	0
17.	Orissa	0	0	3	12500
18.	Punjab	0	0	0	0
19.	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0
20.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
21.	Tamil Nadu	6	0.4200	0	0
22.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
23.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0
24.	West Bengal	290	1.0775	10	53000
25.	Union Territories	2	0.0125	0	0
TOTAL:		820	4.0499	17	87500

**Auction of DDA Shops**

2266. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA has advertised for the auction of shops/restaurants/kiosks/stalls etc. in the newspapers on February 9, 1998;

(b) if so, the number of auctions took place alongwith prices thereof; and

(c) the number of shops/restaurants/kiosks/stalls etc. remained undisposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The auctions were held on February 18, 19, and 20, 1998. The details of the units auctioned on the said dates are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The details of the units which could not fetch any bid is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

CSC No. 5, Sector-9, Rohini—Date of Auction: 18.2.1998

S.No.	Unit No.	Reserve Price	Bid Amount (Rs. In lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	1	10,84,000/-	31.05
2.	2	3,54,000/-	15.21
3.	6	3,66,000/-	12.25
4.	9	10,84,000/-	26.10
5.	10	7,32,000/-	16.32
6.	11	6,17,000/-	15.00
7.	12	7,07,000/-	14.51
8.	13	6,17,000/-	16.21
9.	16	2,47,000/-	6.85
10.	20	1,82,000/-	7.06
11.	23	2,49,000/-	7.01



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1	2	3	4
12.	26	1,93,000/-	8.91
13.	28	11,37,000/-	18.51
14.	29	12,58,000/-	32.05
15.	30	2,47,000/-	11.61
16.	32	3,54,000/-	15.01
17.	5 (1st floor)	5,26,000/-	11.13
18.	11 — do —	7,32,000/-	12.06
CSC at PET D(U) Pitampura			
19.	38	3,34,000/-	3.38
CSC at Sector-D. PKT. 2, Vasant Kunj			
20.	20	7,85,000/-	11.50
CSC No. 5 Sector-14, Rohini, (Date of Auction: 19.2.98)			
21.	2	3,19,000/-	15.26
22.	3	3,34,000/-	17.73
23.	8	6,51,000/-	15.01
24.	10	15,97,000/-	20.03
25.	11	3,30,000/-	13.00
26.	14	8,62,000/-	14.00
27.	18	3,26,000/-	8.03
28.	21	3,34,000/-	7.99

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1	2	3	4
29.	23	3,34,000/-	8.26
30.	1 (1st floor)	9,27,000/-	9.28
LSC at PKT. D&E Sarita Vihar			
31.	110 (1st floor)	17,67,000/-	17.79
CSC at SBI. Paschim Vihar			
32.	1	1,89,000/-	5.14
33.	15	1,89,000/-	5.20
34.	16	1,89,000/-	5.51
35.	27	1,89,000/-	5.50
36.	23 (Halwai Shop)	6,38,000/-	9.31
Distt. Centre at Jankpuri on Plot No. 1,2 & 5. (Date of Auction: 20.2.1998)			
37.	1/44	5,50,000/-	5.77
LSC at Block — 'M', Vikaspuri			
38.	1	2,88,000/-	5.13
39.	2	3,90,000/-	5.60
40.	7	3,99,000/-	5.29
Community Centre at Janakpuri, Block — 'C' on plot No. 32 to 57			
41.	23	3,47,000/-	3.50

**Statement-II**

CSC No. 5 Sector-9, Rohini—Date of Auction : 18.2.98

S.No.	Unit No.	Since when remained undisposed
1	2	3
1.	12 (1st floor)	26.9.97
CSC at Shalimar Bagh, Block-C. Pocket-C		
2.	7	26.9.92
3.	8	—do—
4.	19	—do—
CSC at Pocket B (U), Pitampura		
5.	9	8.2.90
6.	26	—do—
7.	31 (F.F.)	—do—
CSC No. 5 Sector-14, Rohini (Date of Auction 19.2.98)		
8.	7	13.10.97
9.	9	—do—
10.	12	—do—
11.	15	—do—
12.	1	—do—
13.	2	—do—
14.	Restaurant (FF)	—do—
15.	Office-I (FF)	—do—

1	2	3
LSC At Pocket—D&E Sarita Vihar.		
16.	109 (F)	24.6.94
17.	112 (FF)	—do—
18.	113 (FF)	—do—
19.	114 (FF)	—do—
CSC at SBI, Paschim Vihar.		
20.	101 (FF)	
21.	102 (FF)	
CSC at Dilshad Garden, Pocket-I.		
22.	4	20.4.90
23.	8	—do—
24.	10	—do—
25.	25	—do—
26.	Halwai shop	—do—
Stalls at Chhoti Subzi Mandi at Tilak Nagar		
27.	9 (Stalls)	24.8.94
28.	15	—do—
29.	275	—do—
30.	39	—do—
31.	102	—do—
32.	111	—do—
33.	200	—do—
34.	206	—do—
Distt. Centre at Janakpuri on Plot No. 1,2 & 5 (Date of Auction 20.2.98)		
35.	1/2	28.10.97
36.	1/5	—do—
37.	1/8	—do—

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1	2	3
38.	1/19	28.10.97
39.	1/25	—do—
40.	1/26	—do—
41.	1/27	—do—
42.	1/34	—do—
43.	1/35	—do—
44.	1/37	—do—
45.	1/38	—do—
46.	1/46	—do—
47.	1/53	—do—
48.	1/56	—do—
49.	1/61	—do—
50.	1/125 (UGF)	—do—
51.	1/127 (UGF)	—do—
52.	1/129 (UGF)	—do—
LSC at Block - 'M', Vikaspuri (Block No. 1)		
53.	2	13.10.97
54.	3	—do—
55.	4	—do—
56.	9	—do—
57.	10	—do—
Community Centre at Janakpuri, Block-'C' on Plot No. 32 to 57.		
58.	11	24.01.94
59.	20	—do—
60.	22	—do—
61.	25	—do—
62.	26	—do—
63.	31	—do—
64.	32	—do—

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### Allotment of HUDCO-Rohini Scheme

2267 SHRI A. VENKATESHI NAIK:  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether MIG/LIG flats in Sector 21, 22, 23, 24 in Rohini. Delhi has been allotted without the provision of approached roads and electricity connections and the allottees were compelled to accept allotments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) DDA has reported that MIG/LIG flats in these sectors were allotted after receiving completion report from the Engineering Wing. The allottees were, however, not compelled to accept allotments.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Approach roads in these sectors are already available. Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) has target date to complete the electrification work by December, 1998.

### Losses in MEC

2268. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation (MEC) has been running in losses;

(b) if so, since when and the reason for the losses; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the performance of Mineral Exploration Corporation (MEC)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) has been incurring losses since 1991, due to the following reasons:—

(i) Reduction in contractual and promotional work availability commensurate with its capacity built-up over the years.

(ii) Drastic reduction in Government budgetary support to all public sector undertakings, especially to Coal India Ltd., who is one of the major clients of MECL.

(iii) In the liberalised scenario, a number of renowned international companies established their Indian outfits who are bidding for various jobs in the mineral sector including exploration work resulting in reduction of traditional business for MECL.

(iv) High proportions of wage bill compared to the total turn-over.

(v) Decrease in overall operational efficiency of the Company's.

(c) Following the recommendations made by an Expert Committee in 1995, the Government has been implementing a package for revival of MECL which included the administrative and financial restructuring of the company and improving its operational productivity. This has resulted in reducing the losses of the company significantly.

### Extension and Doubling of Railway Line

2269. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested that Union Government regarding extension of Tarakeswar rail line upto Bishnupur via Arambagh and double line between seoraphuli and Tarakeswar:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A request dt. 09.4.98 was received from the Minister of State-in-Charge, Library Services, Mass Education Extension Deptt. Government of West Bengal in this regard.

(c) A survey for extension of the line from Tarakeswar to Arambagh has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available. Extension of the line upto Vishnupur can be considered if and after the line to Arambagh is taken up for construction, depending on the then traffic

potential and availability of resources. As regards doubling of Seoraphuli and Tarakeswar, the level of traffic on this line does not justify its doubling at present.

#### Modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant

2270. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent in modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) whether any foreign assistance was involved therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any Public/Private/Foreign company was involved in the modernisation work; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The total amount spent in modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant till March, 1998 is Rs. 1776.88 crores (provisional).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The details of the Public/Private/Foreign Companies involved in modernisation work are given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

Sl.No.	Package	Company	Public/Private/Foreign
A.	Continuous Casting	HSCL L&T ABB VAI, Austria (Voest-Alpine Industrieanlagenbau)	Public Private Private Foreign
B.	Reheating Furnace	HSCL MECON Italiampianti, Italy (Now Technit)	Public Public Foreign
C.	Hot Strip Mill & Coiler	ABB SMS(I) (Schloemann-Siemag, India) Simplex TGS (Tata Growth Shop) VAI, Austria (Voest-Alpine Industrieanlagenbau) SMS (AG), Germany (Schloemann-Siemag, Akiengesellschaft) GFA, Germany	Private Private  Private Private  Foreign  Foreign  Foreign
D.	Indigenous packages	HEC, Braithwaite, HSCL Siemens, Wellman, BSBK, NICCO, KPC, TELCO, Philips, Ashok Leyland, etc.	Public  Private

**Defence Officials in CBI Net**

2271. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Defence Ministry officials in CBI net for graft" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated May 24 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During October, 1997, Office of the Controller of Defence Accounts (Hqrs.), New Delhi, detected huge payments against fake sanctions and bogus contingent bills to two private firms. After internal investigation, the matter was reported to CBI for detailed investigation. The total amount claimed by private firms against bogus and forged bills is around Rs. 8.37 crore.

(c) Two separate FIRs have been registered by CBI. Simultaneously, the departmental action has been initiated against officials involved in this case. Remedial action to avoid such lapses in future has also been initiated.

[*Translation*]

**Construction of Overbridge in Bhopal**

2272. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an overbridge at the level crossings on Bhopal—Delhi—Itarsi and Bhopal—Indore rail lines in Bhopal city;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if not, the time by which the above survey is likely to be conducted; and

(d) the cost sharing between Railways and the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. There are two proposals, one of Road Over

Bridge at Habibganj at Km. 829/4 and another Road over bridge on Bhopal-Ujjain chord line at level crossing No. 252-A.

(b) Only for Road Over Bridge at Habibganj.

(c) Joint inspection with PWD for site of 2nd proposal i.e. Road over bridge on Chord line will be conducted within a month.

(d) For road over bridge at Habibganj State Govt. is exploring possibility to get executed on Built Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis. Whereas road over bridge at Bhopal-Ujjain Chord line will be taken up on cost sharing basis.

[*English*]

**One Rank One Pension Scheme**

2773. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce the long pending demand of 'One Rank One Pension' in different armed services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No view has been taken on this demand.

(b) Does not arise.

**Pension Cases of Civilian Defence Personnel**

2274. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5649 dated May 12, 1997 regarding Pension cases of Civilian defence Personnel and state:

(a) the total number of cases disposed of so far out of 934 pension cases of civilian defence personnel;

(b) the total number of them still pending alongwith the period of their pendency;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for their expeditious disposal; and

(d) the time by which all such cases are likely to be disposed of?



THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Out of 934 pending cases relating to pensionary matters. 579 cases have already been settled.

(b) to (d) 355 cases are pending with audit authorities due to dispute of nominees, non-availability of required documents etc. All efforts are being made to ensure speedy finalisation of these cases. Claimants are advised for complying with audit requirements. As soon as the requisite documents/information are made available by the individual/organisation concerned, the cases are finalised immediately.

#### **Employment Assurance Scheme**

2275. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria to divide the block under 'A', 'B' and 'C' category under the Employment Assurance Scheme;

(b) whether the Government send the full amount of money to each block every year as per the above categorisation; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not sending the full amount to the district of Balasor of Orissa during 1997-98.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Initially the blocks under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was divided in three categories i.e. 'A', 'B' and 'C' on the basis of rural population for the purpose of release of instalments. All blocks included under EAS since 1996-97 have been placed in Category 'C'.

(b) There is no fixed yearly allocation under EAS for a block. A district can send proposal for release of funds for a block after utilisation of 50% of the available funds.

(c) Two instalments were released to 12 blocks of Balasore district during 1997-98. While releasing first instalment to 8 blocks of the district, Rs. 4.40 lakhs was deducted because of short release of State matching share. Proposal for release of 3rd instalment for 1997-98 was received on 6th April, 1998 after the closing of the financial year.

#### **BAUXITE MINE**

2276. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHAYAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Bauxite mines in Rajasthan location-wise;

(b) whether some new Bauxite mines have been discovered by the Geological survey of India or the State Directorate of Mines in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(d) the extent of Bauxite deposits discovered in the new areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) There is no Bauxite mine in Rajasthan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Grants to Voluntary Organisations under RGNDM**

2277. SHRI CHHATRA PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Schemes of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission under which grant is being given to the Voluntary Organisations;

(b) the amount of grant released to the Voluntary Organisations for the last two years and the criteria fixed for sanctioning of grant;

(c) the names of the Voluntary Organisations to whom grant sanctioned during the last two years alongwith the nature of their projects approved, State-wise; and

(d) the names of the Voluntary Organisations, whose projects were rejected State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

#### **Uranium Deposits**

2278. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uranium deposits have been located in South India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Uranium deposit is found in Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Pilot Project in Kerala**

2279. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Kerala has submitted any Pilot Project called zero unemployment district to the Union Government for approval and financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the district identified by the Government for this purpose alongwith the total cost of the Projects; and

(c) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. A pilot project entitled "Pilot project for full employment through agro-based project" in Thrissur district has been received from Government of Kerala for approval and financial assistance under Innovative JRY.

(b) and (c) The project was placed before the Screening Committee in its meeting held on 23.9.1997. The committee considered and rejected the project as the project did not conform to the laid down guidelines of the scheme.

#### **Residential Accommodation to Staff of K.Vs. in Delhi Cantt.**

2280. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether defence authorities have entered into an agreement with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, in the matter of allotting residential accommodation to the Staff of these schools while opening Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi Cantt;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether the defence authorities have made certain amendments on their own in violation of the agreement's provision;

(d) if so, the reasons and justification therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the agreement, a minimum of 50 per cent residential accommodation is to be provided for the staff of the Kendriya Vidyalayas by the defence authorities of Delhi Area.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Joint Reservation Company for Air India and Indian Airlines**

2281. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and the Indian Airlines in collaboration with Abacus India proposed to set up a new company for marketing reservation system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objectives to be achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) It is proposed to set up a Joint Venture Company with the following share-holding pattern:—

Air India	25.5%
Indian Airlines	25.5%
Abacus	49%

The main objective of the proposed Company is to give the Indian travel agents access to a world class Computerised Reservation System.

#### **Non Conforming Industries in Unauthorised Colonies**

2282. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the non-conforming industries operating in unauthorised colonies in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) GNCTD has reported that a survey of all the industrial units operating in residential/non-conforming areas of Delhi has been conducted with the help of Deputy Commissioner/Sub Divisional Magistrates of 9 Districts of National Capital Territory of Delhi. In accordance with the rehabilitative measures suggested by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for relocation of industrial units operating in residential/non-conforming areas, the GNCTD invited applications for allotment of industrial plots/flats for all the units functioning in residential/non-conforming areas. About 52,000 application were received in this regard. Preliminary scrutiny of these applications have already been carried out and provisional letters to eligible applicants for allotment of industrial accommodation have been issued in 9600 cases. The operation of such units in residential/non-conforming areas till they are allotted alternate industrial accommodation in the new industrial areas has, however, been allowed by the GNCTD.

The progress of the implementation of the scheme for relocation of industries is as under:—

- (i) Possession of about 935 acres of land notified for acquisition has been taken over. Besides, 3000 acres of land has been identified for acquisition and development into industrial areas.
- (ii) The work for the Environment Impact Assessment Study for relocation of industries at Bawana Industrial Complex, Holambi and Chandpur sites has already been awarded to M/s Consulting Engineering Services.
- (iii) Construction of flatted factories Complex at Jhilmil industrial area has already been started.
- (iv) Competitive bids for engaging a Mega Consultants for planning and development of new industrial areas have already been invited.

[Translation]

#### **National Social Security Programme**

2283. SHRI KANTILAL BHURAI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not sanctioned the funds under the National Social Security Programme to the district Panchayats according to their demand in time;

(b) is so, the details of the demand and allocation made thereunder in Madhya Pradesh district-wise;

(c) whether the allocated funds released the district Panchayats in the month of June-July during the last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT: (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), a Centrally Sponsored Programme came into force with effect from 15.8.1995. It has three components, namely, National Old Age pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS). It aims at providing assistance Rs. 75/- per month to the destitutes aged 65 years or more under NOAPS, Rs. 5,000/- in case of death due to natural causes and Rs. 10,000/- in case of accidental death of primary breadwinner to the bereaved families living below poverty line under NFBS and Rs. 300/- to the pregnant women of poor households upto first two live births under NMBS.

The Govt. of India has fired the Qualifying Financial Entitlement (QFE) for claiming the Central assistance for the three schemes of NSAP on the basis of numerical ceiling and not on the basis of demand made by the respective State/district. The ceiling is based on various parameters like population, poverty ratio, ratio of the specific age-group to the total population etc. For the respective State/UT. NSAP funds are released to the concerned district authorities directly. The release of funds is dependent on the State furnishing information on substantial utilisation/expenditure (atleast 50% or more for 1st instalment and 60% or more for 2nd instalment) of total available funds released earlier. Besides, Audit Reports and Utilisation Certificates for 1995-96 were required for released of 2nd instalment during 1997-98. Full amount could not be released to all the districts of Madhya Pradesh due to non fulfilment of the aforesaid conditions. The district-wise allocation and release of funds to Madhya Pradesh for 1997-98 have been given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The 1st instalment under the three schemes of NSAP was released to the eligible districts of Madhya Pradesh starting from June, 1997 till the end of March, 1998. Similarly, the 2nd instalment could be released during Feb., 1998 to March, 1998. As soon as the sanction orders are issued, amount for the same is remitted to the NSAP account maintained by the concerned districts authorities through Telegraphic Transfer.

**Statement***National Social Assistance Programme*STATE: MADHYA PRADESH  
YEAR : 1997-98

(Rs. In Lakh)

Sl. No.	District	NOAPS Allocation	Release*	NFBS Allocation	Release	NMBS Allocation	Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Balaghat	94.63	94.63	58.98	53.98	15.63	7.82
2.	Bastar	157.73	157.73	93.69	93.69	26.00	13.00
3.	Betul	81.86	81.86	53.14	53.14	13.50	13.50
4.	Bhind	84.46	101.26	54.28	54.28	13.96	6.98
5.	Bhopal	93.64	93.64	58.51	58.51	15.41	0.00
6.	Bilaspur	262.81	236.76	136.02	136.02	43.54	21.77
7.	Chatarpur	80.22	119.53	52.24	52.34	13.27	0.00
8.	Chindwara	108.67	108.67	65.03	65.03	17.92	8.96
9.	Damoh	62.23	108.56	44.11	44.11	10.30	5.15
10.	Datia	27.48	27.55	28.03	14.02	4.58	4.58
11.	Dewas	71.14	71.14	48.44	48.44	11.81	5.91
12.	Dhar	94.74	59.54	59.09	29.55	15.63	7.82
13.	Durg	166.07	166.07	91.98	91.98	55.06	55.06

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Guna	90.79	137.59	57.26	57.26	14.94	7.47
15.	Gwalior	97.87	63.40	60.57	60.57	16.16	8.08
16.	Hoshangabad	87.79	87.79	55.89	55.89	14.49	7.25
17.	Indore	127.19	127.19	74.07	74.07	20.98	10.49
18.	Jabalpur	183.58	277.69	106.16	106.16	30.27	30.27
19.	Jhabua	77.65	59.89	57.43	57.43	12.96	6.48
20.	Khandwa (East Nimar)	99.19	82.36	61.15	61.15	16.39	0.00
21.	Khargaon	140.50	198.53	80.25	80.25	23.18	11.59
22.	Mandla	89.46	89.46	56.58	56.58	14.79	7.40
23.	Mandsaur	107.75	97.82	65.03	32.52	17.76	8.88
24.	Morena	118.51	79.95	70.08	70.08	19.52	9.76
25.	Narsinghpur	54.53	54.53	40.44	40.44	14.20	7.10
26.	Panna	47.67	45.37	37.36	18.68	7.93	0.00
27.	Raigarh	119.31	119.31	70.35	70.35	19.75	19.75
28.	Raipur	270.73	270.73	140.19	140.19	44.77	0.00
29.	Raisen	60.72	60.72	43.42	43.42	10.07	5.04

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30.	Rajgarh	68.79	68.79	31.74	31.74	11.36	0.00
31.	Rajnandgaon	99.79	132.55	61.32	61.32	16.47	8.24
32.	Rattlam	67.35	54.27	46.50	23.25	11.21	0.00
33.	Rewa	107.74	138.39	65.03	65.03	17.69	8.85
34.	Sagar	114.14	215.74	68.02	68.02	18.83	0.00
35.	Sarguja	144.29	183.41	81.91	81.91	23.87	23.87
36.	Satna	101.52	50.76	62.17	31.09	16.68	0.00
37.	Sheore	58.30	58.30	42.27	42.27	9.61	4.81
38.	Seoni	69.35	81.99	47.88	47.88	11.44	11.44
39.	Shahdol	120.81	105.34	71.09	71.09	19.98	9.99
40.	Shajapur	71.59	86.57	48.44	48.44	11.81	11.81
41.	Shivpuri	78.50	88.09	51.67	51.67	12.96	6.48
42.	Sidhi	95.15	73.79	59.20	29.60	15.63	0.00
43.	Tikamgarh	65.19	46.73	45.48	45.48	10.75	5.38
44.	Ujjain	95.84	139.32	59.55	29.78	15.86	0.00
45.	Vidisha	67.25	67.25	46.38	46.38	11.14	5.57
Total		4584.53	4870.56	2808.52	2595.08	790.06	386.55

<sup>1</sup>This includes Committed liability of Rs. 977.83 lakhs.

*[English]***Closure of Regional Office of MECL Calcutta**

2284 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to close down the regional office of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited/MECL, Calcutta; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BIAS): (a) and (b) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) has no Regional Office at Calcutta. However, one of the five Area Offices of the Company is located at Calcutta, the other four being at Nagpur, Hyderabad, Ranchi and Jaipur. The Committees constituted by the Government of India to suggest measures for revival of MECL had, *inter-alia*, recommended that in order to restructure the Organisation in a two-tier system as against three-tier structure, as a first step, all Area Offices should be closed and Project

Managers should report directly to the headquarter. This recommendation of the Committee has not been implemented so far, although some staff redeployment has been effected on administrative grounds.

**Million Wells Scheme**

2285. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in Million Wells Scheme implemented since January 1, 1996;

(b) the details of the amount spent, State-wise; and

(c) the results achieved therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Since MWS became an independent scheme w.e.f. 1.1.1996, a total number of 246842 wells have been constructed at total expenditure of Rs. 1188.45 crores.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise amount spent and wells constructed since 1.1.98 under Million Wells Scheme*

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Amount spent	No. of Wells constructed
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6940.67	26882
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	120.34	323
3.	Assam	2608.11	5383
4.	Bihar	15275.98	51028
5.	Goa	23.58	88
6.	Gujarat	3014.99	6875
7.	Haryana	366.75	1189

1	2	3	4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	433.14	1338
9.	J&K	612.09	3947
10.	Karnataka	7253.33	8685
11.	Kerala	3027.41	7644
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9070.97	40584
13.	Maharashtra	10785.25	21273
14.	Manipur	98.38	865
15.	Meghalaya	105.04	1507
16.	Mizoram	80.68	818
17.	Nagaland	46.90	688
18.	Orissa	8984.03	40756
19.	Punjab	107.62	0
20.	Rajasthan	2157.94	5857
21.	Sikkim	93.34	225
22.	Tamil Nadu	11066.88	15195
23.	Tripura	228.62	2598
24.	Uttar Pradesh	27380.21	331
25.	West Bengal	9013.59	2600
26.	A&N Islands	12.81	17
27.	Dadra & N.H.	0.15	24
28.	Daman & Diu	2.17	2
29.	Lakshdweep	17.65	140
30.	Pondicherry	1.38	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>118844.86</b>	<b>246842</b>

\*Expenditure figures for the months of January 1996 to March 1996 are not available.



### **Demands of Officers of Airport Authority of India**

2286. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers of the Airports Authority of India had been on a "work to rule" agitation in November-December, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their demands; and

(c) the steps taken to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) Yes, Sir.

(A) Air traffic controllers resorted to work-to-rule to press their demands for increase in various allowances as recommended by the Julka Committee, whereas communication Officers demanded increase in Proficiency allowance.

(c) After detailed discussion with the respective Unions, memoranda of understanding were signed granting increase rating/proficiency allowances, which have since been implemented.

[Translation]

### **Use of Hindi in Railways**

2287. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are lagging behind in the use of Hindi due to the use of computer in English and the chairpersons and members of Railways Official Language Implementation Committees are doing their work originally in English;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to remedy the situation;

(c) whether only Roman script is being used in almost all the sophisticated gadgets and Hindi is being ignored in all the stations in 'A' area and also the reservation tickets are being issued in English; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a)

and (b) Railways are still ahead in the use of Hindi as compared to other Ministries/Departments of Government of India. Computers purchased on Railways are capable of doing work in Hindi also. With the increased use of computers, use of Hindi in Official working has not come down but increased. As far as chairpersons and other members of Railways Official Language Implementation Committees are concerned, efforts are being made to do maximum possible work in Hindi.

(c) and (d) Instructions exist that all electronic typewriters, computers etc. to be purchased, should be capable of doing work in Hindi also. Tickets issued on stations located in 'A' region are printed in Hindi and English while tickets in 'B' and 'C' regions are printed in regional languages besides Hindi and English. As regards computerised Reservation Tickets, these are in Hindi-English bilingual form.

[English]

### **Aero Bridges at Hyderabad Airport**

2288. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for operating the Aero Bridges at Hyderabad Airport;

(b) the cost of these Aero Bridges; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in completing this project?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) Due to shortage of apron space for aircraft parking and two-level operation of passenger terminal building, aerobridges have to be provided.

(b) The total cost of four aerobridges to be installed at Hyderabad airport is Rs. 685 lakhs.

(c) Even though two aerobridges were installed in October, 1997, there was delay in commissioning due to the replacement of some damaged parts and servicing of the equipment through the suppliers. Finally, these were commissioned on 31.5.1998. Two aerobridges on the domestic side are likely to be commissioned in October, 1998, after the work of modification of terminal is completed.

### **Steel Complex at Kozhikode**

2289. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Complex at Kozhikode in Kerala has been taken over by SAIL; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Mass Rapid Transport.**

2290. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the OF THE Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have gone in for foreign expertise for Mass Rapid Transport System in Delhi;

(b) if so, the present status thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total estimated cost of Delhi MRTS project is Rs. 4860 crore (at April 1996 prices). The project is being financed in part (approx. 56% of the total cost) by loan from OECF (Japan). OECF guidelines envisage the appointment of a consultant for the preparation and implementation of projects financed in whole or in part by the OECF.

Negotiations for appointment of General Consultants, who are to provide the requisite expertise in certain specified areas for Delhi MRTS, have been concluded. The contract for General Constancy, however, shall become effective after concurrence by OECF (Japan).

(c) The scheme for implementation of phase-I of Delhi MRTS project has already been formulated it is scheduled to be completed by March, 2005.

#### **Detachment of Coast Guards**

2291. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for detachment of Coast Guards and to equip it with fast moving boats and portable communication system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Gujarat have been requested to allot suitable land to Coast Guard for setting up of a station at Jakhau. The realisation of this proposal is envisaged in the proposed Coast Guard Development Plan 1997-2002.

#### **Unauthorised Construction of Religious Structures on Government Land**

2292. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of unauthorised construction of temples, mosques and churches on Government land in Delhi have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) the areas of public land encroached upon by them; and

(c) the cases in which such unauthorised constructions have been regularised?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Position as reported by DDA, N.D.M.C., L&DO, C.P.W.D. and Delhi Cantonment Board is as under:—

Name of organ- station	No. of cases of unauthorised construction of religious nature	Area encroached	No. of cases regularised
1	2	3	4
D.D.A.	No such survey has been con- ducted.	34 acres	No such unauthori- sed construction on Govt. Land has been regularised.

1	2	3	4
N.D.M.C.	54	Information reg. the area encroached is not available with NDMC	—Do—
L & D O	155	94,500 sq.m.	—do—
Delhi Cantonment Board	4	350.575 sq.m.	—do—
C.P.W.D.	106	25514.38 sq.m.	—do—

Similar information from M.C.D. is still being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

#### Gauge Conversion of Khagaria-Samastipur Rail Line

2293. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work has been completed for converting of Khagaria-Samastipur metre gauge rail line into broad gauge in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to complete conversion work during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The work is included in the budget and will be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained, for which action has been initiated.

[English]

#### Upgrading of Calcutta Airport

2294. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcutta Airport is a "B" Grade Airport;

(b) whether the Government propose to upgrade it with a view to maintaining the flights there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (c) No, Sir. Calcutta Airport is a full fledged International Airport. The following additional works are also being executed/planned for upgrading the facilities:—

- (1) Modification of International Terminal Building at a cost of Rs. 10.78 crores.
- (2) Construction of aerolinks, security hold, apron etc. at a cost of Rs. 6.87 crores.
- (3) Construction of a new apron for remote bay at a cost of Rs. 3.64 crores.
- (4) Reconstruction and strengthening of 6 bays at a cost of Rs. 5.00 crores.
- (5) Installation of State-of-the-art Radar at a cost of Rs. 30.00 crores.

#### Air Services from Pondicherry, Salem and Vahakulam

2295. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals under consideration of the Government to start air services from Pondicherry, Salem and Vahakulam (Tuticorin) airports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) and (b) The traffic on these sectors is not adequate for operations with the existing Jet aircraft fleet of Indian Airlines. Private operators having smaller aircraft are being encouraged to include new stations such as Pondicherry, Salem and Tuticorin in their network, subject to viability.

#### **Metropolitan Transport Project at Chennai**

2296. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Metropolitan Transport Project at Chennai has been sanctioned; and

(b) if so, the date of commencement and the amount spent on it so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS. MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Phase-I of MRTS Project from Chennai Beach to Luz was sanctioned in the year 1983-84. It is commissioned for traffic on 19.10.1997. So far the total amount spent is Rs. 236.56 crore approximately. Phase-II of MRTS Project from Tirumailai (Luz) to Velacheri was sanctioned in the year 1995-96. So far the total amount spent is Rs. 13.30 crore approximately.

#### **Replacement of Lutyen's Bungalows**

2297. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to replace the Lutyen's bungalows in New Delhi area by multistoried buildings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) A Committee to examine the entire issue of re-development of Lutyens' Bungalow Zone, keeping in view the historical character of the area and optimum utilisation of land resources has been constituted under the chairmanship of Shri M.N. Buch, a retired IAS Officer and 5 other experts. The Committee will furnish its report to the Ministry within two months.

#### **Allotment of Shops**

2298. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shopping complex has been constructed in the Vasant Vihar, Central Government Housing Complex, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the shops have not been allotted so far;

(d) if so, the amount of loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fix the responsibility for the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDHARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 46 shops (26 shops on ground floor and 20 shops on first floor) have been constructed by the Government in the Vasant Vihar, Central Government Housing Complex, New Delhi.

(c) Yes, the shops have not been allotted.

(d) The shops became ready for allotment in May, 1998. Action has been initiated for allotment of these shops on lease and licence basis through open tenders. Hence, there is no loss of Government revenue.

(e) does not arise.

#### **Decision on Pending Petitions**

2299. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision on the recent judgement of the High Court of Kerala directing the Union Government to consider and dispose of the grievances filed by a number of petitioners against their discharge from Army, within three months; and

(b) if so, the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Consequent to the High Court of Kerala judgement, a large number of representations have been received. These are under consideration of the Government.

*[Translation]***Medical Facilities in Train**

2300. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA:  
 PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide medical facilities in all long distance trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal envisages emergency treatment in selected long distance trains by making provision of a doctor alongwith a para-medical staff and an attendant in each such train. Essential medical equipment, medicines and disposables will be available with the team. Medical aid would be provided on prescribed charges consisting of consultation fees and the actual cost of medicines. 162 pairs of long distance trains, with a journey time of about 16 hours or more are proposed to be covered at an annual cost of Rs. 116.8 crores.

(c) A pilot project has already been started from November 1996 in two trains, namely, Rajdhani Exp. Between NDLS-BOMBAY and Vaishali Exp. Between Gorakhpur-NDLS. The efficacy of the scheme is currently under review.

*[English]***Narnarayan Setu**

2301. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the original drawing of "Narnarayan Setu" was changed;

(b) if so, the reason behind it;

(c) the estimated cost of the project as per original drawing; and

(d) the extent to which the excess money has been incurred as per the new drawings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. Original general arrangement of Narnarayan Setu had, in addition to conventional steel spans, a 624 Mts. Cable stayed bridge module towards Southern End of bridge. On the basis of recommendation of high level committee appointed by Ministry of Railways, cable stayed bridge module was replaced by conventional steel spans.

(b) Reasons are:

(i) Cable Stayed Bridge Module (Original Arrangement) was found to cost Rs. 31.00 crores more than equivalent conventional span. Out of this Rs. 15.00 crores was in foreign exchange due to import of technology.

(ii) Cable stayed bridge module was estimated to take one to one half years extra construction time as compared to the present arrangement of conventional span.

(c) Estimated cost of the project (Rail-cum-Road Bridge and Road approaches between Jcghopa-Pancharatna) as per original drawing was Rs. 132.58 crores at 1986 price level.

(d) No excess money has been incurred as per new drawing. The bridge has been completed within the sanctioned revised cost, updated only for inflation.

**Crash of MIG-21 Fighter**

2302. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:  
 SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of DEFENSE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a MIG-21 Fighter of the Indian Air Force crashed near Pathankot on May 12, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of civilians and army officials killed and injured;

(d) the compensation paid to the next of the kins of the deceased and the persons injured;

(e) whether any inquiry has been made to investigate the reasons of the crash; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) On 12 May 98, the engine of MIG-21 IAF aircraft, while on a medium level navigational sortie from Pathonkot airfield, flamed out, approximately 10 seconds after take off. The pilot ejected and sustained compression fracture injuries to the spine. The aircraft crashed near the National Highway outside the airfield in a locality. In the accident, two persons died and two were seriously injured. However, no army personnel was killed/injured in the accident.

For the affected civilians compensation claims will be processed for payment as per Government norms.

(e) and (f) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered and is in progress.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Army Recruitment Centre in U.P.

2303. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a Army Recruitment Centre at Devaria district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said Centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

[English]

#### Speed of Trains

2304. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the speed of trains in the country is very slow as compared to the other developed countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action contemplated to accelerate the speed of all trains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The following maximum permissible speeds are prevailing on the Railway of some developed countries:—

(i) France	—	300 kmph
(ii) Germany	—	200 kmph
(iii) Japan	—	350 kmph

(d) The following action is being taken to accelerate the speed of all trains in India:—

- (i) A decision has been taken by the Railway Board to limit the maximum permissible speed of trains on Indian Railways at 120/130 kmph.
- (ii) Increasing speeds of Goods trains is a mission area of Indian Railways. The measures recommended include; high speed turnouts, increase reliability of equipment, and increase in line capacity, where required. RDSO has also been conducting trials to run freight trains at 100 kmph.
- (iii) Measures are underway to introduce high horse power locos.
- (iv) Improvement in signalling -double distant signalling, Automatic Warning Systems (AWS).
- (v) Introduction of high speed coaches and wagons.
- (vi) Introduction of Air Brake Stock.
- (vii) Measures are underway to remove speed restrictions, upgradation of tracks, and use of concrete sleepers.

#### Laying of Diversion Line in Vijayawada Yard

2305. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway has proposed to laying a diversion line in Vijayawada yard to facilitate removal of rail line from Satyanarayanapuram area of Vijayawada city;

(b) whether budgetary provision of Rs. 4.4 crores was made in the supplementary budget of the Railways for 1997-98;

(c) if so, whether the work has been started on the project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The work of modification to Vijayawada Yard, in lieu of relinquishing the land between Vijayawada and Ramavarappadu Gate via Satyanarayanapuram has been included in the Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1997-98.

(b) The work has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 4.40 crores and to start the work, an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs was withdrawn from the Contingency Fund.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As the Municipal Corporation of Vijayawada have not made available suitable land of equivalent area to the tune of 22.36 acres and have not deposited their contribution of Rs. 50 lakhs as charges for dismantling the line at Satyanarayanapuram and constructing the alternative enabling works, the work has not yet been taken up.

*[Translation]*

#### **Flight on Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna Sector**

2306. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce daily flight in place of thrice a week between Calcutta-Ranchi and Patna; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines, at present, is operating twice a week flight on the sector Calcutta-Ranchi-Patna w.e.f. 22nd December, 1997. Due to low traffic potential, Indian Airlines has no plans to introduce a daily flight on this sector. Private operators are being encouraged to include new stations including this sector in their network, subject to viability.

*[English]*

#### **Population-Based Quota of Recruitment**

2307. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has been demanding population-based quota system for recruitment in the defence forces on the criteria of the merit; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government on the demand?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Outstanding Dues against Railways**

2308. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have to pay a huge amount to the Government of Maharashtra for deploying State Police Force on the Central Railway, Western Railway, South-Central Railway and South-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for non-payment of these dues;

(d) whether the Government of Maharashtra has been regularly requesting the Railway Authorities to make payment of their dues; and

(e) if so, the time by which these dues are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING and PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The total outstanding dues payable to State Govt. of Maharashtra as on 31.3.98 for deploying State Police Force on the Central Railway, Western Railway, South Central Railway and South Eastern Railway is Rs. 10.65 crores. However, this amount does not include claims of Rs. 24.29 crores rejected by Central Railway and Western Railway due to unilateral creation of posts of GRP personnel by the State Govt. of Maharashtra without taking prior consent of the Railway Administration.

(c) The reasons for outstanding are as under:—

- (i) Non-submission of audit certificate by the State Govt.
- (ii) Unilateral creation of posts of GRP personnel by the State Govt. Without obtaining prior consent of the Railway Administration.

(d) Recently Ministry of Railways has received following two references:

- (i) A Note circulated by Govt. of Maharashtra on Dated 17.11.97 in connection with outstanding GRP dues recoverable from Railways.
- (ii) A report was received on 22.5.98 containing interalia details relating to recovery of outstanding dues from the railways on account of expenditure incurred on the Govt. Railway Police by the State Government of Maharashtra.

(e) The claims of Rs. 10.65 crores will be settled as soon as the Audit Certificates are received.

#### **Expenditure on Railway Safety**

2309. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steady cut in the expenditure on railway safety during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether even the reduced allocation on safety measures have not been fully utilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The expenditure on Safety is booked mainly under 'Signalling & Telecommunication' planhead. The Gross Budget allotment and Actual expenditure incurred in this planhead during the last two years is as under:

Year	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Expenditure
1996-97	256.89 + 50.00 (BOLT)	251.93 + 50.00 (BOLT)	229.93
1997-98	201.40 +40.00 (BOLT)	221.75	232.27 (Prov.)

(c) and (d) The shortfall has occurred due to delay in tower erection (during 1996-97) and non-fructification of BOLT scheme. Funds for implementing Signalling Safety measures have been fully utilised.

#### **Modernisation of Old Coaches**

2310. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSHMARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve and modernise the old railway coaches; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Modernisation and design improvement in coaches is a continuous process and Indian Railways are actively upgrading the old coaches by introducing modern features like UIC type vestibules, modern flooring for coach toilets and interior, non-wood furnishing material, FRP windows, high capacity draw and buffing gear, roof mounted AC equipment, bogie mounted air brake system, etc. While most of the improvements are made regularly during scheduled periodic overhauls, coaches of more than 12 years age are also given major inputs through one time rehabilitation.



**Supply of Water**

2311. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that thousands of people in various villages of Union Territory of Chandigarh, who have constructed their houses outside the Lal Dara have not been given the water and electricity connections;

(b) if so, the time by which the Government propose to give the water and electricity connections to these people;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey about it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) No report from Chandigarh Administration has been received in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Renewal of Free Rail Passes**

2312. SHRI RATILAK KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has renewed the all route first-class honorary free passes issued before 1997;

(b) if so, the names of persons and institutions whose passes have been renewed alongwith the reasons therefore; and

(c) the authorities empowered to renew such passes alongwith the criteria laid down therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Complimentary Card Passes issued to various categories as per schemes announced from time to time have a validity of one year and are eligible for renewal on year to year basis. Apart from these, Complimentary Card Passes are issued at the personal discretion of Minister of Railways, as per the prescribed guidelines, to eminent persons and organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities and on compassionate/medical grounds. These discretionary Card Passes are renewed on merits, on the authority of Minister of Railways. The list of Card Passes which have been issued before 1997 and renewed on expiry of their validity is as under:—

S.No.	Name of Person	Card Pass Number	Class of Travel
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri Shatrujit Singh	5167	1st Class/2AC
2.	Shri S.M. Asif	5169	1st Class/2AC
3.	Shri B.B. Singh	5173	1st Class/2AC
4.	Smt. Deepa Kaul	5174	1st Class/2AC
5.	Shri Shams-ul-Huda Shams	5175	1st Class/2AC
6.	Shri Atul Trivedi	5176	1st Class/2AC

1	2	3	4
7.	Smt. K.C. Ajmera	5196	Ist Class
8.	Shri Arshadul Quadri	5197	Ist Class/2AC
9.	Shri Dewan Syed Zaimul Abedin Ali Khan	5198	Ist Class
10.	Shri Rajeev Kumar	5199	Ist Class/2AC
11.	Shri Mukesh Chandra 'Alakh'	5201	Ist Class/2AC
12.	Dr. Narella Venumadhav	5202	Ist Class/2AC
13.	Shri Aboobacker Moulavi	5203	Ist Class/2AC
14.	Shri Faizul Arefeen Ghulam	5204	Ist Class/2AC
15.	Shri R.S. Gavai	5242	Ist Class/2AC
16.	Bharat Scouts & Guides	5297	Ist Class/2AC
17.	Shri Pyare Lal Saroj	4634	Ist Class/2AC
18.	Shri Sahabzada Abdul Rasheed Khan	5315	Ist Class/2AC
19.	Shri Ashok Sham Kumar	4653	Ist Class/2AC
20.	Shri Choudhary Gangaram	5325	Ist Class/2AC
21.	Ms. Sudha Pandey	5334	Ist Class/2AC
22.	Smt. Kanchana or Sh. K. Krishana	4638	Ist Class/2AC
23.	Shri J.B. Raju	4640	Ist Class/2AC
24.	Shri M.C. Bimal	5352	Ist Class/2AC
25.	Shri S.K. Bandopadhyay	5353	Ist Class/2AC
26.	Shri Shakeel Chandra	5369	Ist Class

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1	2	3	4
27.	Shri M.M. Bahuguna	5370	Ist Class/2AC
28.	Shri Zafar Iqbal	4693	Ist Class
29.	Km. Champa Rao	3966	Ist Class/2AC
30.	Shri S.K. Rungta	4653	Ist Class/2AC
31.	Shri Madhukar Dighe	5377	Ist Class/2AC
32.	Ms. Ratna Vohra	4730	Ist Class/2AC
33.	Shri Mukesh Kumar Patel	4735	Ist Class/2AC
34.	Shri Mehmood Madhni	4736	Ist Class/2AC
35.	Shri Chandmal Kumawat	5394	Ist Class
36.	Shri Mithilesh Divedi	5395	Ist Class
37.	Shri Fuzail Ahmed Rasi	5402	Ist Class/2AC
38.	Capt. Abbas Ali	5403	Ist Class/2AC
39.	Ms. Manorma	5411	Ist Class
40.	Shri D. Sundarani	5420	Ist Class
41.	Shri Mahasukhlal	5439	Ist Class
42.	Shri permanand Padey	5442	Ist Class/2AC
43.	Shri K. Vikram Rao	5443	Ist Class/2AC
44.	Sheik Abu Baker	5368	Ist Class/2AC
45.	Shri R.K. Shuka	5387	Ist Class/2AC
46.	Shri L.P. Vyas	5504	Ist Class/2AC

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**Direct Flight between Patna and Delhi**

2313. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is not direct flight between Patna and Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide a direct flight between Patna and Delhi;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be commenced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (d) Indian Airlines, at present, operates a daily service on Delhi/Patna/Ranchi/Delhi route. The runway restriction and high temperature do not permit carriage of full load ex-Patna. The flight is, therefore, operated via Ranchi to fill the aircraft. Besides, Alliance Air operates a four times weekly service on Delhi/Lucknow/Patna/Calcutta and return route.

**Survey for laying of new Rail Lines in Madhya Pradesh**

2314. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI:  
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh and other organisations for laying the new rail lines;

(b) the details of the surveys conducted for laying of new rail lines during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the details of the new rail routes out of the above proposed new rail lines found remunerative;

(d) the funds allocated for the constructions of new rail line during each of the last three years;

(e) the time by which these new rail lines are likely to be laid;

(f) whether the Government have proposed to conduct surveys for laying of new rail lines in Madhya Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

**Model Villages under Rural Sanitation Programme**

2315. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country developed as a model village under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount earmarked for this purpose during 1998-99;

(c) the specific projects sent by the Kerala Government to the Union Government for approval and release of the funds under CRSP;

(d) whether the Union Government have approved all the projects of the Kerala Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (e) The States are assisted to develop model villages under the rural sanitation programme covering facilities like sanitary latrines, conversion of dry latrines, garbage pits, soakage pits, drain smokeless chullahs, sanitary latrines in Anganwadis, schools, panchayat ghars, Health Centres, etc. Funds are released for the development of model villages under the Centrally sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) after the scrutiny of the proposals received from the State Government. No fund under CRSP has been earmarked for this purpose.

The details regarding the number and names of the villages in the country developed as model villages under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme during each of the last three years, Statewise is given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*Number and name of villages in the country developed as model villages under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, Statewise.*

**1995-96**

1.	Karnataka	—	(I) Gurudeverahally (ii) Doda Banaswadi (iii) Muddenahalli (iv) Hampi (v) Sringeri
2.	Kerala	—	(I) Kilikolloor (ii) Thurayur (iii) Thikodi
3.	Orissa	—	(I) Nagpur (ii) Navgaon
4.	Rajasthan	—	(I) Ratnapura (ii) Chhoti Badrel (iii) Sidhmukh (vi) Sahwa

**1996-97**

1.	Karnataka	—	(I) Kaginele (ii) Siddaganga
2.	Kerala	—	(I) Vengloa (ii) Tanur Block (iii) Pallipad (iv) Pilicode (v) Mattatur (vi) Vattavade
3.	Rajasthan	—	(i) Sri Mahaveerji Complex (ii) Kailadevi

**1997-98**

1.	Kerala	—	(I) Kandalloor
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**Gliding Clubs**

(d) the achievements of these flying/gliding clubs?

2316. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) and (b) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(a) the details of flying/gliding clubs are functioning in the country, and the number of planes they have State-wise;

(c) There is no system of according status to the flying/gliding clubs by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(b) the amount provided as subsidy/assistance during the last three years, club-wise, year-wise;

(d) A total number of 25007 different categories of flying licences to Pilots have been issued upto 31.09.1998.

(c) the status given to each of these clubs by the Civil Aviation Directorate; and

**Statement**

Name of Flying/Gliding Clubs, State to which belong and Date of establishment	No. Of Aircraft/ Gliders	Amount of subsidy given by D.G.C.A. (Rs. In lakhs) (approximately)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5

FLYING CLUBS/SCHOOLS/INSTITUTES:—

**(A) Flying clubs/schools/institutes covered under Govt. Subvention scheme**

Delhi Flying Club (Delhi) 28.5.1928	12	4.02	Nil	Nil
Govt. Flying training Centre, Lucknow, (U.P.) 1.8.1980 with 3 branches at Kanpur			•	
Govt. Flying training Centre,	12	13.81	11.01	13.73
Bombay Flying Club Mumbai (Maharashtra) 9.5.1928	8	2.42	2.06	2.14
Nagpur Flying Club Nagpur (Maharashtra) 1948	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Madras Flying Club Chennai (Tamil Nadu) 4.3.1930	7	3.88	Nil	3.43
Coimbatore Aviation Training Academy Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) 1960	6	0.42	Nil	Nil
Govt. Flying Training Instt., Calcutta, (West Bengal) 7.8.1963	4	Nil	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
Rajasthan State Flying School, Jaipur, (Rajasthan) 1954	6	7.59	6.77	3.24
Banasthali Vidyapith Gliding and Flying Club (Rajasthan) 11.8.1961	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Indore with one Branch at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) 1951	12	33.38	21.65	10.37
Govt. Flying Training School, Bangalore, (Karnataka) 1948	6	Nil	20.55	1.76
Andhra Pradesh Flying Club, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) 8.9.1958	8	10.84	2.95	5.33
Kerala Aviation Training Institute Thiruvanthapuram, (Kerala) 14.7.1958	4	2.24	3.64	1.84
Gujarat Flying Club, Baroda, (Gujarat) 20.12.1958	9	15.14	10.18	8.13
Patiala Aviation Club, Patiala (Punjab) October, 1962	6	1.09	4.79	4.65
Amritsar Aviation Club, Amritsar (Punjab) 1962	5	3.97	3.51	1.49
Ludhiana Aviation Club (Punjab) 1.1.1998	6	7.30	8.94	4.59
Northern India Flying Club, Jalandhar Cantt. (Punjab)	5	Nil	6.84	10.39
Pinjore Aviation Club, Pinjore (Haryana) 1.4.1991	3	4.26	3.99	3.83
Hissar Aviation Club, Hissar (Haryana) 1965	5	3.54	2.37	0.37
Karnal Aviation club, Karnal (Haryana) March 3, 1967	6	8.42	2.00	4.37
Jamshedpur co-operative Flying Club Jamshedpur (Bihar) 1966	4	3.65	7.11	6.49

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar Flying Training Instt. Patna (Bihar) 1940	6	Nil	2.65	Nil
Govt. Aviation Training Institute, Bhubaneswar (Orissa), 1946	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Andaman & Nicobar Flying Training Instt., Port Blair Oct., 1998	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Assam Flying Club, Guwahati (Assam) May, 1958	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>(B) Private Flying Clubs/Schools/Institutes</b>				
UDAN Research & Flying Instt., Pvt. Ltd., Indore (M.P.) 1.10.1990	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bangalore Aeronautics Technical Services Pvt. Ltd., (BATS) Bangalore (Karnataka) 1.1994	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ahmedabad Aviation Akademi (Gujarat) 1.5.1994	9	Nil	Nil	Nil
Orient Flight School, Pondicherry (Union Territory) 12.1994	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rajputana Aviation Academy, Kota, (Rajasthan) 22.07.1995	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Taneja Aerospace & Aviation Ltd., Bangalore (Karnataka) 27.06.1994	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tata Nagar Aviation, Jamshedpur (Bihar) 22.07.1996	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Garg Aviation Ltd., Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) 11.10.1996	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tetra Aviation Academy, Salem (Tamil Nadu) 04.02.1997	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Flytech Aviation Academy, Hyderabad (A.P.) 01.11.1996	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
Academy of Carver Aviation (P) Ltd., Balgaum, Karnataka	3	Nil	Nil	Nil



1	2	3	4	5
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**(C) Autonomous Organisation Under Ministry of Civil Aviation**

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Fursatganj, (U.P.) 1985	11	Funded by the Government		
<b>Gliding Clubs</b>				
Ahmedabad Gliding & Flying Club (Gujarat) 19.12.1961	5	1.66	0.77	0.58
Birla Gliding Club, Pilani (Rajasthan) 1957	4	0.74	1.72	0.93
Delhi Gliding Club (Delhi) 21.11.56	7	3.05	2.96	2.30
Gliding & Soaring Centre, Ill Kanpur. (U.P.) 27.11.1968	4	0.80	0.54	0.96
Deolali Gliding Club, Nasik (Maharashtra) 10.08.1962	6	4.46	3.36	3.47
Pinjore Aviation Club (Haryana) February, 1982	5	5.77	1.80	1.20
Hissar Aviation Club (Haryana) 1968	5	3.77	0.19	0.87
Jamshedpur Gliding Club (Bihar) 1988	2	3.33	2.33	1.30
Bihar Flying Instt., Gliding wing, Ranchi (Bihar) 1996	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Govt. Gliding Centre, Pune (Maharashtra)	13	Complete budget is borne by Government (DGCA)		
Ludhiana Aviation Club Gliding wing (Punjab) 1.3.1977	2	1.45	0.49	Nil
Rajasthan State Flying School, (Gliding Wing), Jaipur	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

**Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

2317. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether profits and production at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant are below their expectations;

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

(c) the total amount of funds invested in Visakhapatnam steel Plant since its inception;

(d) the land in acreage acquired for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(e) whether any cost-benefit study of this Steel Plant has been done; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b): The profits/loss and production in Visakhapatnam Steel

Plant targetted and actuals are as follows:

	1996-97		1997-98	
	MoU Target	Actual (Prov.)	MoU Target	Actual (Prov.)
Net Profit/Loss (in crores) (before considering the financial reliefs granted by Government of India)	-272.69	-245.94	-257.33	-419.40
Saleable Steel ('000 tonnes)	2550	2136	2656	2250
Pig Iron ('000 tonnes)	301	647	301	521

(c) The total investments made in VSP since its inception from Government and other resources stood at Rs 8529 crores (as on 31.3.98).

(d) Land acquired for RINL (VSP) is 21729 acres which includes 1170 acres of land acquired on behalf of Indian Railways for providing Rail facilities to VSP.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The cost benefit study done for the purpose of Public Investment Board (PIB) with base date of 1st Quarter 1994 showed an Internal Rate of Return of 5.3% presuming a 100% capacity utilisation.

#### **Flights on Gulf Routes**

2318. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flights operating in the Gulf-Trivandrum Sector;

(b) whether the Kuwait-Trivandrum Sector has been transferred to Kuwait Airlines;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take steps to operate more flights on this sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Air India operates four frequencies per week between Kuwait and Trivandrum under a code-share/Block-Space arrangement with Kuwait Airways. These flights are operated with Kuwait Airways' aircraft. The 5th frequency is operated by Air India via Mumbai with its own aircraft.

(d) and (e) Further addition of flights on this sector will be based on the commercial judgement of the airlines depending upon traffic requirement and availability of aircraft capacity.

**Statement***Details of Flights operating on Gulf-Thiruvananthapuram Sector*

From	Name of Airline	Frequency/Week
Abudhabi	Air India	4
Bahrain	Gulf Air Air India	3 (one via Abu- 1 Dhabi and one via Doha)
Dhahran	Air India	2
Doha	Qatar Airways Air India Gulf Air	3 1 1 (via Abu- Dhabi)
Dubai	Air India	5
Kuwait	Air India Kuwait Airways Air India/Kuwait Airways (Code-Share Flight)	1 (Via Doha) 4 4
Muscat	Oman Air Air India Air India/Gulf Air (Joint Venture)	5 2 3 (one origi- nating from Doha and one originating from Baharain)
Riyadh	Air India	2

**Unauthorised Shops****Use of Defence Land**

2319. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unauthorised shops are in Mount Kailash area of East of Kailash; and

(b) the action taken and proposed to be taken by the Government to demolish these unauthorised shops and to fix the responsibility on the officials found involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

2320. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of defence land at present in the country;

(b) the total defence land sold or leased out during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to give this unutilised land for some useful purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the proposals, if any, received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The total area of Defence land which was available on Command-wise basis is being recalculated State-wise. Final figures are awaited.

(b) The total Defence land sold or leased out during the last three years is 221.77 hectares.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have forwarded some proposals to Ministry of Defence requesting for allotment of defence land. However, at present there is no surplus defence land available.

[Translation]

### Rate of Royalty on Diamond

2321. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has strongly opposed the reduction of the rate of royalty on diamond from 20 per cent to 10 per cent by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the objective of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have reduced the rate of royalty on itself without consulting the State Government; and

(d) is so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) The rate of royalty on diamond was reduced from 20 percent of the sale price at the pit's mouth value to 10 percent of sale price on ad valorem basis vide Government Gazette Notification GSR No. 214(E) dated 11.4.1997 for Revision of Royalty Rates, copy of which has been laid on the Table of the House on 8.5.1997. Such revision was based on the recommendations of the Study Group constituted by the Government of India in 1995 for revision of royalty on major minerals (other than Coal & Lignite).

2. The aforesaid Study Group comprised of, *inter-alia*, representatives of the State Governments of Gujarat, Karnataka and Rajasthan at the level of Secretary to the State Govt. as members. As per convention, the State Govts. are represented in such Study Group constituted for recommendations on royalty rates on different occasions by rotation. In the previous Study Group constituted on 30.3.1989 whose recommendations formed the basis of the revision of royalty rates in 1992, the

Govt. Of Madhya Pradesh was represented by its Secretary in the Mineral Resources Department as a member of the Study Group.

3. The Study Group constituted in 1995 had detailed consultation with the State Governments including the Government of Madhya Pradesh before finalising its recommendations. Based on the recommendations of the Study Group, Government decided to reduce the royalty rates on diamond keeping in view the facts that the royalty rates on diamond in many of the major diamond producing countries are 10% or less; diamond being the second largest mineral import in value terms, there is urgent need to locate new diamond resources in the country; potential resources of diamond in India are grossly under-explored on account of inadequacy of capital and suitable high technology input and lowering of the rate of royalty is expected to encourage larger capital investment and state-of-the-art technology.

4. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had favoured increase in the then existing royalty rates on minerals in varying degrees during the consultations of the Study Group and after the revision of royalty rates in April, 1997, taken up the issue of reduction of royalty rates on diamond with the Union Government but it was not found feasible to accede to their request.

[English]

### Induction of Combat aircraft

2322. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the reasons for delay in induction of the second batch of the combat aircraft SU-30s in the Indian Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): There has been a delay, the reasons for which are being ascertained. In the meanwhile efforts are being made to expedite the delivery.

[Translation]

### Lounge Facilities at Patna Airport

2323. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper arrival and departure lounge facility is not available at Patna Airport in comparison to the other airports;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make proper facilities available there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (c) Patna airport has been developed as a model airport with separate departure, arrival and sterile lounges and customs and immigration facilities for limited international operations. The expansion and modification work of existing terminal building at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.90 crores is expected to be completed by the end of June, 1998.

#### **Disparity in Pay Scales in Railways**

2324. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from employees of accounts department of Eastern Railways in regard to disparities in their pay scales recommended to them by the Fifth Pay Commission as compared to the Fourth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rational pay scales have not been recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission for the employees working in accounts department in comparison to other employees as was recommended by the Fourth Pay Commission;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove such disparities; and

(f) the time by which the disparities is likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representationists have demanded revised pay scales comparable to those allotted to staff in other departments of the Railways.

(c) and (d) The pay structure available to the staff of the Accounts department in the Railways has traditionally been broadly patterned on the pay structure of staff in other organised Accounts & Audit Departments in the

Government. The revised pay scales of Accounts staff in the Railways after implementation of Fifth Central Pay Commission recommendations are also similar to those allotted to analogous posts in other Accounts & Audit Departments. The pay structure so allotted, however, is at some variance with some of the general principles adopted by the Pay Commission.

(e) and (f) Anomalies Committees have been set up both at National and Departmental level to consider Anomalies arising out of implementation of recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission and Staff side can represent to these committee.

[English]

#### **Illegal Fishing**

2325. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign trawlers are still fishing illegally in Indian territorial waters, particularly along the Indian coasts;

(b) the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years;

(c) the names of the countries whose trawlers were caught while engaged in illegal fishing;

(d) the action taken against such foreign trawlers; and

(e) the steps being taken to check illegal fishing along the Indian coasts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Foreign trawlers illegally fishing in our territorial waters are still being apprehended.

(b) The details are as under:

Year	Number of Cases
1995	45
1996	47
1997	51
1998 (Upto May)	32

(c) Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Myanmar, Malasia, Taiwan, Philipines, Thailand, Indonesia and China.

(d) All apprehended trawlers have been handed over to the respective State/UT Authorities for appropriate legal action under the MZI Act and Rules thereunder.

(e) All Indian Naval and Coast Guard Ships have been provided with lists of trawlers authorised to fish in our waters. Any suspicious trawlers encountered by our Ships on passage are checked for authorisation. Regular patrolling is being undertaken by Naval and Coast Guard Ships/Aircraft all along the coast to check illegal fishing by foreign trawlers.

#### **Rail Link in Chennai**

2326. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Chennai central and Chennai Egmore have not been connected by rail so far;

(b) if of, whether the Government are considering to connect these two important stations directly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) There is a Broad Gauge track between Chennai Central and Chennai Egmore.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

#### **Doubling of Jolarpet-Bangalore Rail Line**

2327. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether doubling of Railway line between Jolarpet and Bangalore Via Bangarpet has not been completed;

(b) if so, the break-up of doubling work completed on this line so far; and

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Double line exists between Jolarpet and Kuppam and between Bangalore and Malur. Work is in progress between Bangarpet and Malur and is targeted for completion in 1998-99. Work is sanctioned between Bangarpet and Kuppam and will be progressed to completion in the coming years as per availability of resources.

*[Translation]*

#### **HUDCO Assistance to Rajasthan**

2328. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether HUDCO has provided financial assistance to Rajasthan for drainage system;

(b) if so, the details of the amount provided during each of the last three years;

(c) the names of the on-going projects, district-wise; and

(d) the date by which the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): The information is as under:-

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Project Cost	Loan Amt.	Loan released		
				95-96	96-97	97-98
1.	Storm water drainage scheme at Churu	339.72	238.00	—	—	25.00
2.	Road and drains scheme at Chomu	215.00	150.00	—	12.50	25.00
3.	Covering of Nallah at Shastri Nagar Jodhpur	91.52	60.73	—	—	—
4.	Sewerage scheme at Mahamandir area Jodhpur	453.19	317.00	—	—	79.24
Total		1099.43	765.73	—	12.50	129.24

Note: Since the scheme have been sanctioned in last quarter of financial year 95-96, the release in that year is nil.

(d) The Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has reported that the projects are likely to be completed during 1998.

[English]

#### **Winding up of Army Vehicle Depot, Panagarh**

2329. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to wind up the Army Vehicle Depot of the Eastern Region, located at Panagarh; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b): The Government has not received any proposal for winding up the Army Vehicle Depot, Panagarh so far.

#### **Small and Medium Towns**

2330. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes initiated and funded by the Government to develop big, small and medium scale towns, municipalities and municipal corporations; and

(b) the details of the financial grants provided to each of the scheme during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, scheme-wise, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) The details of Schemes initiated and being funded for the development of urban areas are as under:—

- (i) **INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL & MEDIUM TOWNS (IDSMT)** — The scheme initiated in 1979-80, provides Central assistance to the State Governments for implementing projects for improvement of infrastructure and other essential facilities in selected Small & Medium Towns having potential for development as regional centres of economic growth and employment. The Central assistance is provided as grant and the Central & State shares are provided in the ratio of 60:40.

The State-wise details of Central grants provided during last three years under the scheme are shown in the enclosed Statement-I.

- (ii) **MEGA CITY SCHEME** — The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of infrastructure

development in Mega Cities, initiated in 1993-94 provides for Central assistance to the cities of Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad & Bangalore for development and strengthening of infrastructural facilities. The sharing between Central and State Governments is in the ratio of 25:25 and the balance 50% is to be mobilised as institutional finance.

During the last three years the details of Central share released (city-wise) under the Scheme are shown in the enclosed Statement-II.

- (iii) ACCELERATED URBAN WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME (AUWSP) — Initiated in 1993-94, provides for drinking water supply to Small Towns having population less than 20,000 (as per 1991 census). The scheme is funded by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 50:50.

The State-wise details of Central assistance provided under the scheme during the last three years are shown in the enclosed Statement-III.

#### **Statement**

*Statewise Details of Central Assistance released under the IDSMT Scheme for New Projects during the last Three Years (1995-96)*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Central Assistance Released (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.00
2.	Assam	151.86
3.	Andhra Pradesh	863.01
4.	Bihar	195.00
5.	Gujarat	657.52
6.	Haryana	82.00

1	2	3
7.	Himachal Pradesh	65.00
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	92.50
9.	Karnataka	740.34
10.	Kerala	448.25
11.	Madhya Pradesh	603.79
12.	Maharashtra	1140.99
13.	Manipur	85.50
14.	Mizoram	57.00
15.	Meghalaya	30.60
16.	Nagaland	39.00
17.	Orissa	157.00
18.	Punjab	134.00
19.	Rajasthan	464.0
20.	Sikkim	18.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	398.50
22.	Tripura	94.75
23.	Uttar Pradesh	867.00
24.	West Bengal	531.90
25.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	5.00
26.	Daman & Diu	15.00
<b>Total :</b>		<b>7961.15</b>



**Statement-II***Release of Central Share*

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Infrastructure development in Mega Cities

Name of Mega City	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Mumbai	18.08	13.08	17.73
Calcutta	18.08	13.58	14.89
Chennai	17.08	11.98	12.81
Hyderabad	15.58	11.71	12.22
Bangalore	15.08	10.55	11.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>83.90</b>	<b>60.90</b>	<b>68.90</b>

**Statement-III***Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme Funds released by Central Government*As on 31.3.98  
(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	21.06
2.	Assam	—	—	140.00
3.	Bihar	94.40	—	—
4.	Goa	—	9.00	—
5.	Gujarat	27.30	—	—
6.	Haryana	77.65	42.00	87.03
7.	Himachal Pradesh	82.83	—	44.95
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	28.45	—	41.61
9.	Karnataka	—	—	179.66

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Kerala	25.00	34.00	64.39
11.	Madhya Pradesh	380.53	—	417.98
12.	Maharashtra	36.30	85.00	271.80
13.	Manipur	39.00	—	90.99
14.	Meghalaya	48.90	—	38.92
15.	Mizoram	7.10	—	51.58
16.	Nagaland	—	—	34.36
17.	Orissa	0.90	81.00	156.62
18.	Punjab	77.76	44.00	—
19.	Rajasthan	237.00	120.00	171.52
20.	Sikkim	—	—	—
21.	Tamil Nadu	—	2.50	205.46
22.	Tripura	—	—	—
23.	Uttar Pradesh	764.87	300.00	776.57
24.	West Bengal	71.56	—	—
<b>Total</b>		<b>1999.65</b>	<b>717.50</b>	<b>2795.00</b>

[*Translation*]

### **Modernisation of Airports**

2331. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the airports in the country alongwith the steps taken to modernise them during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the names of the airports in the country which are being equipped with modern equipments;

(c) the names of the States alongwith the number of new airports likely to be constructed during the next three years;

(d) whether the Bhopal and Indore airports of Madhya Pradesh would be upgraded to international airports;

(e) if so, the time by which it would be done; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) The names of Airports and Civil Enclaves managed by Airports Authority of India is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The details of airports modernised during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(c) The names of the States, where development/ construction of new airports is likely to be taken up are Goa, Karnataka, Mizoram, Rajasthan & Kerala. Policy on Airport Infrastructure lays down detailed procedure for construction of new airports by State Government/Private Parties etc.

(d) to (f): Due to inadequate traffic potential and lack of demand from airlines, the policy on airport infrastructure has not identified these airports for future upgradation as international airports.

### **Statement-I**

#### *Civil Aerodromes Maintained by Airports Authority of India*

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Agatti               | 20. Coochbehar         |
| 2. Agartala             | 21. Cuddapah           |
| 3. Ahmedabad            | 22. Dessa (Palanpur)   |
| 4. Akola                | 23. Delhi (Palam)      |
| 5. Amritsar             | 24. Delhi (Safdarjung) |
| 6. Aurangabad           | 25. Deharadun          |
| 7. Balurghat            | 26. Dimapur            |
| 8. Behala               | 27. Donakonda          |
| 9. Belgaum              | 28. Gaya               |
| 10. Bhavnagar           | 29. Gaggal             |
| 11. Bhopal              | 30. Guwahati           |
| 12. Bhubaneshwar        | 31. Hassan             |
| 13. Bilaspur            | 32. Hubli              |
| 14. Bombay (Santa Cruz) | 33. Hyderabad          |
| 15. Bombay (Juhu)       | 34. Imphal             |
| 16. Calcutta            | 35. Indore             |
| 17. Calicut (Karipur)   | 36. Jabalpur           |
| 18. Chakulia            | 37. Jaipur             |
| 19. Coimbatore          | 38. Jhansi             |

39. Jharsuguda
40. Jogbani
41. Kailashahar
42. Kamalpur
43. Kandla
44. Kanpur
45. Keshod
46. Khandwa
47. Khajuraho
48. Khowai
49. Kolhapur
50. Kota
51. Kullu (Bhuntar)
52. Lalitpur
53. Lilabari (North Lakhimpur)
54. Lucknow
55. Ludhiana
56. Madras
57. Madurai
58. Malda
59. Mangalore
60. Mahanbari (Dibrugarh)
61. Muzaffarpur
62. Mysore
63. Nagpur
64. Panna
65. Pantnagar
66. Passighat
67. Patna
68. Pondicherry
69. Porbander
70. Raipur
71. Rajamundry
72. Rajkot
73. Ranchi
74. Raxaul
75. Rupsi
76. Salem
77. Satna
78. Shella
79. Shillong (Barapani)
80. Shimla
81. Sholapur
82. Tirupati
83. Tiruchirapalli
84. Trivandrum
85. Tuticorin
86. Tural (Aizawl)
87. Udaipur
88. Vadodara
89. Varanasi
90. Vellore
91. Vijayawada
92. Warrangal

**Statement-II**

*The Names of the Airports in the Country taken up for Modernisation during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98*

S. No.	Name of Airport	Scheme/scope of work
1	Agra	Extension of apron
2	Bhopal	Extension & Modification of Terminal Building
3	Dimapur	Construction of New Terminal Building
4	Dibrugarh	Strengthening of Runway & Associated Pavements.
5	Goa	(I) Construction of New International Departure Block.  (ii) Extension & Strenthening of apron
6	Hyderabad	Construction of New International Block
7	Jaipur	Extension of Runway to 7500 feet
8	Jodhpur	Expansion & Modification of Terminal Building
9	Indore	Expansion & Modification of Terminal Building
10	Udaipur	Extension of Runway to 7500 feet.

**International Airports**

Name of the Airport	Scheme/Scope of Work
1	2
Mumbai Airport	1. Upgradation of main runway 09/27  2. Construction of additional Bay No. 14, 18 & 19  3. Construction of Taxi-track parallel to main runway between extended centre line of Delta Taxi-track and Bravo Taxi track (Phase I & II).
Indra Gandhi Inter-National Airport, Delhi	1. Construction of Visitors Lounge.

1	2
	2. Construction of Additional 7 Nos. remote parking bays for international Terminal.
	3. Construction of additional 3 Nos. remote parking bays
	4. Construction of 2 Nos. Additional Cargo bays.
	5. Construction of Additional Domestic bays for parking of 6 Nos. A-320 aircraft.
	6. Construction of hangers, apron for private airline operators.
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, Calcutta	1. Shifting of Constant Current Regulator Room  • Civil works.  • Electrical works
Chennai Report	1. Extension of Import Cargo Complex  2. Strengthening of Cargo bays for B-747
Trivandrum Airport	1. Extension of main runway by 350 mts.

**Modernisation of communication, Navigation and surveillance Facilities at various Airports during 1996-97 and 1997-98.**

S.No.	Station	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
1.	Amritsar	DVOR, DME, (HP)	
2.	Ahmedabad		ASR/MSSR
3.	Aurangabad		DVOR, ILS, DME
4.	Baroda	ILS, DME(LP)	
5.	Bhuj	VOR, DME (HP)	

1	2	3	4
6.	Bhopal	DME (HP)	
7.	Bhubaneshwar	ILS, DME (LP)	
8.	Coimbatore	ILS, DME (LP)	
9.	Guwahati		ASR/MSSR
10.	Gwalior	DVOR	
11.	Gaya	DME (HP)	
12.	Goa	DME (HP)	
13.	Imphal	DVOR	
14.	Jorhat		VOR, DME, (HP)
15.	Khajuraho	DME (HP)	
16.	Leh	DME (HP)	
17.	Mumbai	ILS	
18.	Nagpur	DVOR/DME	
19.	Rajkot		DVOR, DME (HP)
20.	Silchar	DVOR, DME (HP)	
21.	Tejpur	DME (HP)	
22.	Trivandrum	DVOR	

**Statement-III**

Modern equipments at following airports are being provided:—

1.	Chennai	Automatic Surveillance System and Airport Surveillance Radar/Monopulse Secondary surveillane Radar.	Dependent
2.	Calcutta	Automatic Surveillance System	Dependent
3.	Bagdogra	Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range.	
4.	Imphal	-do-	
5.	Silchar	-do-	
6.	Goa	-do-	

7.	Jamnagar	-do-	
8.	Chandigarh	Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range/Distance Measuring Equipment.	
9.	Agra	-do-	
10.	Tejpur	-do-	
11.	Ranchi	Instrument Landing System	
12.	Portblair	-do-	
13.	Mangalore	-do-	
14.	Udaipur	-do-	
15.	Raipur	; Instrument landing System	
16.	Nagpur	Monopulse Secondary Surveillane Radar	
17.	Varanasi	-do-	
18.	Jharsuguda	-do-	
19.	Lengpuri	CNS facilities	
20.	Cochin International airport :	CNS facilities.	

**Target Fixed for Steel Production**

2332. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed by the Public/Private Sector Steel Plants for production of steel during the current years, separately;

(b) the quantum of their actual production in the first quarter of the current year;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the target during this period; and

(d) the percentage of increase in the prices of steel on account of not achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c): After the liberalisation of the steel industry, the main producers of steel in the public and private sector plan their production of steel, based on demand projections. Estimates for total demand and availability of finished

steel in the country are drawn up by the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel on an annual basis. During the current year, the total demand and the availability of finished steel from the public and the private sector have been projected provisionally as under:

(Qty. In Million Tonnes)

Total Demand	Domestic Availability		
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
26.66	9.05	17.95	27.00

The actual production of finished steel during the period April-May, '98 are as under:

(Qty. In Million Tonnes)

Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
1.35	2.49	3.84

(d) After the decontrol of steel in January 1992, prices of steel are driven by market forces. The open market prices of steel have not shown any drastic increase in the past one year.

#### Fire in Coach and Wagon Factory

2333. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sleepers of lakhs of rupees kept in 'Log yard' were burnt to ashes due to devastating fire in coach and wagon factory in Alambagh, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on April 13, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into his incident;

(c) if so, the finding thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. A four member committee of Senior officers has been constituted to conduct inquiry.

(c) The enquiry is in progress and findings are expected shortly.

(D) The following steps are being taken:—

(i) Segregation of the log yard from the workshop area.

(ii) Improve the flooring to prevent growth of grass in log yard area.

(iii) Any further action would be taken based on the recommendations of the enquiry committee.

#### Delhi Ring Railway

2334. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the utility of the existing ring rail service in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b): Presently, there are eleven EMU services running on Delhi Ring Railway. The utilisation of these trains is 21%. However, no detailed review has been carried out.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Construction of over Bridge at Hathras

2335. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:  
SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals have been received from various agencies for construction of overbridge at Hathras (Mahamayanagar) between Aligarh - Agra Rajmarg;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a road over bridge in lieu of level crossing at Km. 1296/29-31 near Hathras Railway station has already been sanctioned in 1996-97 for which plan is under approval and estimate has been sanctioned.

(c) Does not arise. Target has not yet been fixed for road over bridge at Hathras.

#### **Plight of Indian Navy**

2336. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "But George, the Navy is barely afloat" published in "Economic Times" dated May 7, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether all the ships operating under Indian Navy are in dilapidated condition; and

(d) if so, the action being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two-third of Naval Warships is normally kept in operational readiness to permit maintenance to be undertaken. However, the Navy has contingency plans to accelerate maintenance so as to have more ships available, should the need arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Modernisation of the fleet and suitable additions to the fleet are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent the fleet from technological obsolescence and numerical reduction and to make them at par with contemporary fleets of other naval powers. Indian Navy is adequately prepared to meet any threat.

#### **Setting up of Terminal at Veli**

2337. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has taken any decision to set up terminal at Veli in Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has acquired any land for the above purpose so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the terminal at Veli is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Behala Flying Training Club, Calcutta**

2338. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the Behala Flying Club of Calcutta is lying virtually unused for several years;

(b) if so, whether the Government are prepared to take up a plan for the development of the airstrip of the club; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, sir. The airstrip is owned and maintained by the State Government.

[*Translation*]

#### **Schemes for Construction of Toilets in Maharashtra**

2339. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes cleared by the Government for constructing toilets in Maharashtra; and

(b) the names of the cities covered thereunder?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) 38 schemes have been cleared by the Government for release of Central subsidy for construction/conversion of dry latrines into pour flush toilets

in Maharashtra under the scheme of Low Cost Sanitation for the liberation of scavengers.

(b) The cities covered thereunder are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of the Town/City	Name of Municipal Council	S.No.	Name of the Town/City	Name of Municipal Council
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>I. Urban Area (21)</b>					
1.	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar	2.	Akola	Akola
3.	Akola	Mangrulpir	4.	Aurangabad	Gangpur
5.	Aurangabad	Kannad	6.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
7.	Jalna	Jalna	8.	Jalna	Fartur
9.	Latur	Latur	10.	Nanded	Billoli
11.	Nanded	Kandar	12.	Nanded	Kundalwadi
13.	Nanded	Nanded	14.	Osmanabad	Bhoom
15.	Parbhani	Basmatnagar	16.	Parbhani	Gangakhede
17.	Parbhani	Jintur	18.	Parbhani	Parbhani
19.	Parbhani	Sonpeth	20.	Solapur	Pandharpur
21.	Yeotmal	Umarkhed			
<b>II. Urban Area (57)</b>					
1.	Ahmednagar	Kopargon	2.	Ahmednagar	Rahato-Pimplas
3.	Amravati	Anjangaon-Surji	4.	Amravati	Chandurbazar
5.	Amravati	Chandurrty	6.	Amravati	Chikhadara
7.	Amravati	Daryapur	8.	Amravati	Dhamangaon-Rly
9.	Amarvati	Shendurjanghat	10.	Aurangabad	Khuutabad
11.	Aurangabad	Paithain	12.	Beed	Majalgaon
13.	Bhandara	Gondia	14.	Bhandara	Tirora

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Bhandara	Khamgaon	16.	Buldhana	Lonar
17.	Buldhana	Mehkar	18.	Chandrapur	Mol
19.	Rajura	Chandrapur	20.	Bhule	Dondaicha
21.	Dhule	Shahada	22.	Jalgaon	Faizpur
23.	Jalgaon	Raver	24.	Jalgaon	Savda
25.	Kolhapur	Malkapur	26.	Latur	Ahmedpur
27.	Latur	Ausa	28.	Latur	Nilanga
29.	Nagpur	Kalmeshwar	30.	Nagpur	Mohpa
31.	Nagpur	Narkhed	32.	Nanded	Hadgaon
33.	Nanded	Kinwat	34.	Nanded	Loha
35.	Nanded	Mudkhed	36.	Nanded	Mudkhed
37.	Nanded	Omri	38.	Nasik	Bhagur
39.	Osmanabad	Kalamb	40.	Osmanabad	Murum
41.	Osmanabad	Naldurg	42.	Osmanabad	Omarga
43.	Osmanabad	Osmanabad	44.	Osmanabad	Tuljapur
45.	Parbhani	Pathri	46.	Pune	Indapur
47.	Raigad	Panvel	48.	Sindhudrug	Malwan
49.	Solapur	Akkalkot	50.	Solapur	Karmal
51.	Solapur	Sangola	52.	Thane	Dahanu
53.	Wardha	Deoli	54.	Wardha	Pulgaon
55.	Yeotmal	Ghatanji	56.	Yeotmal	Pandarkarwada
57.	Yeotmal	Wani			
III.	<b>Urban Area (17)</b>				
1.	Akola	Murtizapur	2.	Aurangabad	Aurangabad
3.	Beed	Beed	4.	Beed	Georai
5.	Bhandara	Tumsar	6.	Buldhana	Chikhali

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Cadchiroli	Cadchiroli	8.	Jalgaon	Pachora
9.	Jalgaon	parola	10.	Jalgaon	Yawal
11.	Nagpur	Mowad	12.	Nashik	Malegaon
13.	Nashik	Satana	14.	Parbhani	Manwad
15.	Solapur	Mangalwedha	16.	Thane	Virar
17.	Wardha	Sindhi			
<b>IV. For 12 Towns</b>					
1.	Ahmednagar	Pathardi	2.	Akola	Risod
3.	Akola	Telhara	4.	Buldhana	Deolgaon-Raja
5.	Buldhana	Jalgaon-Jamod	6.	Buldhana	Nandura
7.	Dhule	Nawapur	8.	Jalgaon	Jalgaon
9.	Parbhani	Kallamnuri	10.	Parbhani	Purna
11.	Pune	Lonawala	12.	Thane	Kalyan
<b>V. For 9 Towns</b>					
1.	Akola	Balapur	2.	Akola	Patur
3.	Dhule	Dhule	4.	Jalgaon	Bhusawal
5.	Jalgaon	Erandol	6.	Basik	Igatput
7.	Pune	Talegaon-Dabhade	8.	Sindudurg	Vengurla
9.	Yeotmal	Darwhar			
<b>VI. For 10 Towns</b>					
1.	Ahmednagar	Kopargaon	2.	Akola	Mangrulpir
3.	Amravati	Chandurbazar	4.	Bhandara	Gondia
5.	Buldham	Lonar	6.	Buldham	mehkar
7.	Chandrapur	Mul	8.	Nagpur	Mohpa
9.	Parbhani	Gangakhed	10.	Parbhani	Parbhani

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>VII. For 62 Towns</b>					
1.	Solapur	pandharpur	2.	Yeotmal	Umarkhed
3.	Aurangabad	Gangapur	4.	Aurangabad	Kannad
5.	Chandrapur	Chandrapura	6.	Nanded	Kundalwadi
7.	Jalwa	Partur	8.	Nanded	Kandhar
9.	Nanded	Nanded	10.	Nanded	Billoli
11.	Parbhani	Jintur	12.	Akola	Akola
13.	Osmanabad	Bhoom	14.	Latur	latur
15.	Jalna	Jalna	16.	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar
17.	Parbhani	Sonpeth	18.	Parbhani	Basmatnagar
19.	Buldhana	Khamgaon	20.	Aurgangabad	khuldabad
21.	Aurangabad	Paithan	22.	Pune	Indapur
23.	Yeotmal	Pandharkawda	24.	Yeotmal	Wani
25.	Amravati	Dhamangaon-Rly	26.	Amravati	Darayapur
27.	Nanded	Mudkhed	28.	Solapur	Akkalkot
29.	Nanded	Umri	30.	Nanded	Kinwat
31.	Nanded	Lona	32.	Nanded	Mukhed
33.	Handed	Hadgaon	34.	Jalgaon	Savda
35.	Lathur	Ausa	36.	Latur	Ahmedpur
37.	Osmanabad	Osmanabad	38.	Osmanabad	Kallamb
39.	Yeotmal	Ghatanji	40.	Need	Majalgaon
41.	Chandrapur	Rajuram	42.	Wardha	Pulgaon
43.	Amravati	Shendurjna	44.	Osmanabad	Omergaon
45.	Osmanabad	Murum	46.	Nagpur	Narkhed
47.	Solapur	Karmala	48.	Osmanabad	Tuljapur
49.	Osmanabad	Naldurg	50.	Latur	Nilanga
51.	Raigad	Panvel	52.	Thane	Dahanu

1	2	3	4	5	6
53.	Jalgaon	Faizpur	54.	Amravati	Chandur-Rly
55.	Amravati	Chikhaldara	56.	Wardha	Deoli
57.	Parbhani	Pathari	58.	Beed	Beed
59.	Jalgaon	Raver	60.	Bhandara	Tirora
61.	Amravati	Amravati-Corp.	62.	Aurangabad	Aurangabad-Corp.

**VIII. For 2 Towns**

1.	Aurangabad	Sillod	2.	Latur	Udgir
IX.	Ahmednagar	—	X.	Sirdi	—
XI.	Aurangabad	—	XII.	Shegaon	—
XIII.	Belapur	—	XIV.	Chandur (Rly.)	—
XV.	Morshi	—	XVI.	Digras	—
XVII.	Pusad	—	XVIII.	Washim	—
XIX.	Gadchiroli	—	XX.	Desaiganj	—
XXI.	Nalasopara	—	XXII.	Gondai	—
XXIII.	Saner	—	XXIV.	Umred	—
XXV.	Ajangaon Surji	—	XXVI.	Warud	—
XXVII.	Khapa	—	XXVIII.	Mowad	—
XXIX.	Kandura	—	XXX.	Telhara	—
XXXI.	Kotal	—	XXXII.	Kamleshwar	—
XXXIII.	Bhrampur	—	XXXIV.	Karad	—
XXV.	Achalpur	—	XXXVI.	Nagpur	—

**XXXVII. Urban Area (21)**

1.	Ahmednagar	Sangamner	2.	Ahmednagar	Shrirampur
3.	Amravati	Morshi	4.	Amravati	Warud
5.	Aurangabad	Vaijapur	6.	Beed	Parli-Vajnath
7.	Buldhana	Buldhana	8.	Chandrapur	Ballarpur

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Jalna	Ambad	10.	Jalna	Bhokardhan
11.	Nanded	Degloor	12.	Nanded	Dharmabad
13.	Nasik	Manmad	14.	Parbahani	Saillu
15.	Raigad	Mahad	16.	Raigad	Roha
17.	Raigad	Uran	18.	Satara	Phaltan
19.	Satara	Satara	20.	Thane	Vasai
21.	Yeotmal	Pusad			
<b>XXXVIII. Urban Area (11)</b>					
1.	Akola	Karanja	2.	Beed	Ambejogai
3.	Chandrapur	Warora	4.	Nasik	Sinnar
5.	Nasik	Trimbak	6.	Raigad	Alibagh
7.	Raigad	Matheran	8.	Raigad	Pen
9.	Sangli	Islampur	10.	Satara	Khaswad
11.	Yeotmal	Dhigras			

[English]

#### Demolition of Unauthorised Colonies

2340. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether before demolition or proposed demolition of unauthorised colonies and Jhuggi Settlements in Delhi, the Government have held or propose to hold inquiry to identify the officers responsible for such unauthorised settlements and to compel them to compensate the settlers affected by such demolitions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Unauthorised construction and encroachment on public land is a continuing problem in Delhi. As and when unauthorised construction/

encroachment is detected or reported, action is taken by the concerned agency under the relevant laws. D.D.A. has reported that sometimes due to non-availability of police force the removal action is delayed. If connivance on the part of any official is established, action is taken by the concerned agency against the defaulting official(s). Builders of unauthorised construction and encroachers on Government land has no right/title to claim any compensation. However, to improve the living conditions of jhuggi dwellers, the Government of N.C.T. of Delhi is implementing a three pronged strategy under which the eligible jhuggi dwellers (as in existence in January, 1990) are resettled on the request of the land owning agency, who share the relocation cost.

[Translation]

#### Cold Fishery Research Centre

2341. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government of setting up headquarters of Cold Fishery Research Centre at Champawat (U.P.); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### **Gauge Conversion**

2342. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not converting the main metre gauge line between Chennai to Trichy which runs through Chengalpattu Villupuram, Cuddalore, Myladuthurai Kumbalkonam and Thanjavur into broad gauge; and

(b) the steps being taken to convert this main line into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Work is in progress for conversion of Chennai-Trichy line via Villupuram and Vriddhachalam and will be completed in the current financial year. Trichy-Thanjavur is already BG. Villupuram to Thanjavur via Cuddalore has been included in the budget 1998-99 and will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

[Translation]

### **Railway Wagon Factory at Barwadih**

2343. SHRI INDRA NATH BHAGAT: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land was acquired in Barwadih, Bihar to set up a railway wagon factory and it's office had also started functioning there;

(b) if so, the reasons for shifting the said office to Gadwaroad; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to start the railway wagon factory in Barwadih?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. There was no proposal to set up a Railway wagon factory at Barwadih. However, a depot for repair of BOXN wagons has been set up and is functional at Barwadih.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no Plan to set up a Railway wagon factory at Barwadih as the existing capacity of Industry is adequate to meet the wagon requirements of Railways.

[English]

### **Conversion of Pachora-Jamner Rail Line**

2344. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Pachora-Kamner narrow gauge line into broad gauge line;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend Pachora-Jamner line upto Ajanta caves; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) A survey for gauge conversion of Panchora-Jamner narrow gauge line into broad gauge and extension upto Ajanta Caves by construction of a 5 kms. Long new BG rail line, has been taken up.

Further consideration of the project will be possible once the results of the survey become available.

### **Jawahar Rojgar Yojana**

2345. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds to the tune of Rs. 3.48 crores have been sanctioned to Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the share of the Centre, and the State Governments;

(c) whether these funds have been allotted to the District under the second phase;

(d) whether the Centre's share of Rs. 2.69 crores have been sanctioned for various purposes; and

(e) if so, the purposes for which this has been sanctioned and how much out of this amount has been utilised by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOU DA PATIL): (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 563.95 lakhs (including Rs. 290.15 lakhs as 1st instalment) of Central share has been released during 1997-98 under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) to Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government's share was Rs. 140.99 (including Rs. 72.54 lakhs for 2nd instalment).

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 290.15 lakhs has been sanctioned as 2nd instalment of central share under JRY which include 269.62 lakhs for DRDA & Rs. 20.53 lakhs additional release for Village Panchayats. Jry Programme is being implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at Village/Block/District level. The works/projects can be taken up as per the felt need of the people with the approval of the respective Panchayats for achieving its main objectives i.e. generation of employment and creation of social/economic assets for the sustained and continued benefit of the rural poor. An amount of Rs. 427.42 lakhs has been reported to be utilised by the district upto March, 1998.

#### **Introduction of Flights from Hyderabad**

2346. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is for the first time that Hyderabad-Singapore flight was introduced in the month of March, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has urged the Centre to link more countries from Hyderabad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Request has been received from the State Government to provide air connections between Hyderabad and Kuwait, Jeddah and Kula Lumpur. Of these, services to Kuwait have since been started by Indian Airlines. The other destinations have not yet been connected due to inadequate traffic potential and/or shortage of aircraft capacity.

#### **Foreign Investment in Mining**

2347. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to operate some mining projects in the country in collaboration with Australia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Australia has made some offer for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the specific mining projects proposed to be launched in collaboration with Australia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (e) The Foreign Investment Promotion Board has approved the proposal for formation of a Joint Venture between BHP Minerals International Exploration Inc. Australia, a private Australian Company with Hindustan Zinc Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under Department of Mines to prospect for base metal deposits in Rajasthan, and, if found viable, to undertake mining operations. In addition, some private Australian mining companies have been given approval by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board for investment in the mining sector through companies registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956.

[*Translation*]

#### **Concessions to Senior Citizens by Indian Airlines**

2348. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines provides concessions in tickets to those people who are more than 70 years of age; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?



THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines offers 50% discount to all Senior Citizens who have completed 65 years of age and are residents of India. The discount is available for travel in Economy Class on domestic sectors of the Indian Airlines.

*[English]*

#### **Link Roads in Farm Sector**

2349. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project submitted by the State Government of Kerala for construction of link roads in the farm sector has been pending with the Union Government for its approval and financial assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Railway Yatri Niwas at Jammu**

2350. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to construct Railway Yatri Niwas at Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Major Build-up along LAC**

2351. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent upon the explosion of nuclear bombs at Pokharan, there has recently been a major build-up by Pakistan along the Line of Actual Control (LAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has resulted in a sudden infiltration of militants in the Kashmir Valley; and

(d) the outcome of the measures taken to meet the sudden upsurge along the LAC?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are reports that just prior to Pakistani nuclear explosion, some troops and artillery were moved near the Line of Control and Indo-Pak border. Some air defence missiles were also reportedly moved to some vital areas.

(c) No, sir. However attempts of infiltration of militants increases during summer months every year.

(d) Constant vigil is maintained on the border by our troops and appropriate measures are taken to thwart any attempt of mis-adventure on the part of our adversary.

*[Translation]*

#### **Suspension of Flights**

2352. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Mumbai based air services suspended their flights since January, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the revenue loss suffered by Airport Authority of India due to the suspension of such flights?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) East West Airlines, a Mumbai-based airline has suspended operations since June, 1996. Skyline - NEPC Ltd., another Mumbai - based airline, has suspended operations since June, 1997. Further, Modiluft Ltd. And NEPC Airlines which were operating ex-Mumbai have also closed down/suspended operations.

(c) The monthly revenue loss calculated by Airports Authority of India on account of the suspension of such flights is Rs. 72.34 lakhs.

*[English]*

#### **Statue of Mahatma Gandhi**

2353. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS and EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has directed the Union Government to take a decision about installing the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the canopy at India Gate; and

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

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) In a Civil Writ Petition No. 2725/95 filed by Conservation Society of Delhi and another against Union of India and others, Delhi High Court has passed orders to the effect that the Government is free to decide the location for installing the statue of Mahatma Gandhi but its implementation shall be subject to the orders of that Court. As regards the installation of the statue in the canopy at India Gate, a stay order passed by the Delhi High Court on 26.7.95 in the same case, restraining the Government from altering/removing/demolishing the canopy, is in operation. Since the matter is still sub judice, it would not be proper at this stage to say anything further in the matter.

[*Translation*]

#### Construction of Over Bridges

2354. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY:  
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of main railway level crossings without over bridges in the country owing to which traffic jams occur State/Zone-wise;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to construct over bridges on these level crossings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/Zone-Wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Number of main Railway level crossings without Over Bridges in the Country owing to which traffic jams occur are given below:—

S.No.	Railways	Number of Level Crossings	State	Number of Level Crossings
1.	Central	113	Assam	6
2.	Eastern	84	Andhra Pradesh	98
3.	East Central	11	Bihar	38
4.	East Coast	15	Delhi	31
5.	Northern	180	Goa	1
6.	North Central	58	Gujarat	73
7.	North Eastern	45	Haryana	35
8.	Northeast Frontier	8	Karnataka	35
9.	North West	17	Kerala	44
10.	Southern	158	Madhya Pradesh	66
11.	South Central	95	Maharashtra	115
12.	South Eastern	63	orissa	21
13.	South Western	33	Punjab	45
14.	Western	141	Rajasthan	48
15.	West Central	10	Tamil Nadu	109
16.			Uttar Pradesh	188
17.			West Bengal	78
Total =		1031		1031

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The list of level crossings which are being replaced with Road Over/Under Bridges State-wise. Railway-wise is as under:—

S.No.	Railways	Number of Road Over/Under Bridges	State	Number of Road Over/Under Bridges
1.	Central	28	Assam	4
2.	Eastern	11	Andhra Pradesh	18
3.	Northern	18	Bihar	10
4.	North Eastern	9	Goa	1
5.	Northeast Frontier	6	Gujarat	3
6.	Southern	40	Haryana	3
7.	South Central	23	Karnataka	15
8.	South Eastern	12	Kerala	7
9.	Western	18	Madhya Pradesh	16
10.			Maharashtra	22
11.			Nagaland	1
12.			Orissa	6
13.			Punjab	6
14.			Rajasthan	5
15.			Tamil Nadu	22
16.			Uttar Pradesh	18
17.			West Bengal	8
Total =		165		165

**Operational Cost of Railway**

2355. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branch lines functioning at present;

(b) the total annual income earned by the railway therefrom;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the operational cost of railways;

(d) if so, the percentage of total earnings of railways being spent under the above said head;

(e) whether the Government have taken any action to reduce the expenditure under this head during last few years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) It is presumed that reference is to Uneconomic Branch Lines. During 1996-97, there were 120 such lines.

(b) The total earnings of the above lines during 1996-97 were Rs. 203.78 Crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The working expenses of these uneconomic branch lines (i.e. Rs. 447.45 crore) were 219.57% of their earnings.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The following measures are being taken to minimise/reduce the expenditure on uneconomic branch lines:-

- (i) Introduction of 'One Engine only' system;
- (ii) Discontinuing night running of trains, if any;
- (iii) Suspension of poorly patronised trains;
- (iv) Rescheduling of time table of passengers trains;
- (v) Replacement of Passenger/Goods trains by mixed trains;

(vi) Converting flag stations into Contractor operated halt stations;

(vii) Closure of stations for goods/parcel traffic wherever warranted;

(viii) Intensified ticket checking;

(ix) Economy in staff;

(x) Reduction in stock wherever feasible.

[English]

**Encroachment in Dwarka and Bindapur Areas**

2356. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the encroachment on D.D.A. land in Dwarka and Bindapur areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Land measuring about 48 acre in the area is under encroachment.

(c) DDA has reported that a number of programmes were fixed to remove the encroachments. However, these could not be executed due to large number of residential houses and also because of proximity to the village abadi. At present the subject matter of regularisation of unauthorised colonies is under consideration of Govt. However, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in CWP No. 4771/93 has restrained the respondents, including Union of India, from regularising any unauthorised colony in Delhi. The matter is still subjudice.

**Deletion of Limestone and Bauxite from List of Minerals**

2357. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:  
SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has represented for the deletion of Limestone and Bauxite

from the list of Scheduled minerals as shown in Schedule I of the Mineral and Metals Regulation and Development Act, 1957 and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal for deletion of Limestone and Bauxite from Schedule I of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, has been considered by the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) with the Secretaries of some of the State Governments including the Government of Gujarat, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. As members. The terms of reference of the Committee, inter-alia, included review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/ renewal of Prospecting Licences/Mining Leases. The Committee was also to consider and suggest further delegation of powers to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of prospecting Licences/mining Leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining. The Committee has since submitted its report on which necessary action has already been initiated.

#### Rohini Scheme - 1982

2358. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH:  
SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants registered under the DDA's Rohini Scheme of 1982 for allotment of plots in different category, category-wise;

(b) the number of persons allotted plots so far;

(c) whether any target for allotment of plots to the remaining registrants has been fixed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount collected under this scheme as earnest money and the manner in which the money has been utilised;

(f) whether the interest of the earnest money is likely to be given to the registrants; and

(g) if so, the rate of interest to be given and the rate of interest being earned by the DDA on the earnest money deposited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) DDA has reported that 82,384 person got themselves registered under the Rohini Residential Scheme of 1981. The categorywise break-up is as under:—

MIG	25889
LIG	38195
Janta	18390

(b) 44,051 registrants have been allotted plots in various categories.

(c) and (d) No fixed time schedule can be given for allotment of plot to the remaining registrants as the process depends upon various factors like acquisition of land and its transfer to DDA, development of infrastructure, provision of services by connected agencies like MCD, Delhi Vidyut Board etc.

(e) Rs. 21.26 crores was collected under this scheme and this even amount has been utilised on the implementation of the scheme.

(f) The interest on earnest money is paid at the time of allotment and adjusted against the demand of the premium in the Demand letter. In case where the refund of earnest money is sought by the registrants, interest is paid at the time of refund.

(g) Interest @7% per annum is payable on the earnest money. As these deposits were not invested anywhere, the question of earning interest on the deposits does not arise.

#### Construction of Bagi Bill Bridge

2359. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the foundation stone was laid for the proposed Bagi-Bill (Road cum Railways) over river Brahmaputra between Dibrugarh and Dhemajji;

(b) the total estimated amount for the construction of the said bridge; and

(c) the time by which the construction of the above bridge is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER ON STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) It was laid on 22.1.97.

(b) and (c) The Final Location Survey is in progress. Cost will be known once this survey is completed. The construction will be started thereafter, after the land has been acquired.

*[Translation]***Rural Development Programmes**

2360. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODICE:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the participation of people in rural development programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT: (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The Government have not formulated any separate scheme for the participation of people in rural development programmes, as peoples participation is to be secured in all programmes assisted by this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

*[English]***Uprooting of Trees by IAF in Haryana**

2361. DR. SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has recently uprooted more than 5 lakh trees in the Tilpat Forest range of Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether prior permission of the Ministry of Environment and Forest was obtained; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Air Force authorities have informed that in 1997 while reactivating the Tilpat Range mostly wild kikar bushes and small size trees were removed as the thick vegetation was obstructing the view of the target area and was also considered a flight safety hazard. However, an inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the full facts.

**Construction of New Railway Line from Goalpara to Guwahati**

2362. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of new railway line from Goalpara to Guwahati under Northeast Frontier Railway; and

(b) the funds earmarked for implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Rail line from Goalpara to Guwahati is making good progress. Earthwork and bridges are nearing completion. Permanent Way Material has been arranged and the work will be completed by March, 1999.

(b) Rs. 368 crs. Has been spent till 31.3.98 and Rs. 66.89 crs. Has been provided as the outlay for the work for 1998-99.

**Vacation of Flats/Bungalows**

2363. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:  
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Ex-Ministers and Ex-MPs have not yet vacated the accommodation occupied by them;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) the action the Government propose to take in this regard; and

(d) the number of Ministers have not yet allotted the Government accommodation as on date?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 17 ex-Ministers and ex-MPs are still in occupation of General Pool accommodation.

(c) Action to get the houses vacated has been taken including initiation of eviction proceedings under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(d) One Minister has not been allotted accommodation and 6 Ministers have been allotted accommodation on vacation basis.

[Translation]

**Computerised Reservation Centres  
Under North-Eastern Zone**

2364. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have planned to open more computerised reservation centres under the North-Eastern Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(c) the time by which centres are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Farukhabad, Ballia, Bahraich and Pilibhit in North Eastern Railway Zone.

(c) During the current financial year.

[English]

**Gauge Conversion Between Hotgi  
and Solapur Section**

2365. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conversion Work of Hotgi-Solapur Section into Broad Gauge has been taken up;

(b) if so, the progress made therein;

(c) whether Conversion of Vijapur-Hotgi Section has since been completed;

(d) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which the Hotgi-Solapur line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present progress is given below:—

Earthwork	—	89%
Minor Bridges	—	90%
Major bridges	—	75%
Road-Over-Bridges	—	50%

(c) Hotgi-Bijapur (100 kms.) section has since been completed and commissioned.

(d) The expenditure incurred upto 31.3.98 on Solapur (Hotgi)-Gadag gauge conversion is Rs. 102.75 crores.

(e) By 31.3.99 for Solapur-Hotgi section and December, 2000 for the entire section upto Gadag, subject to availability of resources.

**Capart**

2366. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of voluntary organisations of Council for People's Action and Rural Technology in the country along with the amount allocated to them for the implementation of projects during the last three years:

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number of voluntary organisations working under "CAPART" in the country;

(d) the number of voluntary organisations black listed earlier and recently and action taken against them so far;

(e) whether the Government have reviewed the development work under "CAPART";

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) State-wise details of the voluntary organisations assisted by Council for People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) during

the last three years and the amount allocated to them for implementation of projects during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement;

(c) Since inception and till 31.03.1998, CAPART has assisted 6401 voluntary organisations.

(d) It has been reported by CAPART that as on 31.03.1998 there were 248 voluntary organisations on their blacklist. All the voluntary organisations blacklisted have been intimated about their having been blacklisted in order to give them opportunity to make representation. Details of the action initiated against these organisations is as under:—

(i) No. of cases referred to CBI for investigation	61
(ii) No. of cases investigated by CAPART evaluators	58

(iii) No. of cases in which representations have been received	23
(iv) No. of cases in which representations have been received and action initiated on the basis of records	106

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The review of the development work under CAPART is a regular process. The progress reports of CAPART are regularly placed before the Executive Committee meetings which are held under the Chairmanship of Minister/Minister of State incharge of the Ministry and in which both the Secretaries in the Ministry as well as other senior officers and representatives of voluntary organisations participate. In order to ensure active participation of voluntary organisation and promote greater transparency in sanctioning projects, National Standing Committee have been established to consider proposals under various schemes at the headquarters and at the Regional Committee offices of CAPART.

#### **Statement**

*Statewise Number of Voluntary Organisations and amount allocated to them by CAPART during last three years (1.4.95—31.3.98)*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of voluntary organisations	Amount Allocated
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	276	33.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.07
3.	Assam	46	5.67
4.	Bihar	166	11.45
5.	Chandigarh	1	0.01
6.	Delhi	34	1.84
7.	Goa	—	—
8.	Gujarat	86	9.75
9.	Haryana	24	2.15



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1	2	3	4
10.	Himachal Pradesh	18	1.85
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	0.41
12.	Karnataka	62	7.16
13.	Kerala	76	15.29
14.	Madhya Pradesh	53	4.12
15.	Maharashtra	56	5.52
16.	Manipur	52	3.49
17.	Meghalaya	3	0.14
18.	Mizoram	11	2.40
19.	Nagaland	6	0.27
20.	Orissa	158	8.02
21.	Pondicherry	1	0.08
22.	Punjab	3	0.27
23.	Rajasthan	48	3.29
24.	Tamil Nadu	172	17.42
25.	Tripura	3	0.21
26.	Uttar Pradesh	303	13.52
27.	West Bengal	314	23.72
Total		1980	171.75

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Provisional.

### Replacement of Old Tracks

2367. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there are several old and outdated Railway tracks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No Sir. Track renewal is a continuous process. Railway tracks are not classified as old and outdated. Tracks warranting renewal on age-cum-condition basis are renewed through regular track renewal programmes.

All out efforts are being made by Indian Railways to liquidate all arrears of overdue renewals by accelerating the renewals. During Eighth Plan 14203 km of track was renewed, and during 1997-98, 2950 km. Track was renewed.

### Provision of Escalators at Vijayawada Railway Station

2368. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a budgetary provision of Rs. 1.7 crores was made in the Railway Budget for 1996-97 to provide escalators at Vijayawada station and a foundation stone was also laid by the Minister of State for Railways on September 1996;

(b) if so, the work has been started on the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) An outlay of Rs. 1.12 crore was provided during 1996-97 as against the total anticipated cost of Rs. 1.60 crore for the work of "Providing escalators at Vijayawada and Secunderabad". Foundation stone was laid at Vijayawada Railway Station in September 1996 by the then Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways.

(b) Yes, Sir. Planning and Design for the work has been completed and any outlay of Rs. 67.21 lakh has been proposed in 1998-99 budget for this work.

(c) does not arise.

[*Translation*]

### Rehabilitation Centres for War Widows

2369. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the rehabilitation Centres for War widows set up in the country so far, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated to these Centres during the last two years till May, 1998 and the details of the activities carried out by these Centres;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints/reports of irregularities in these Centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II

2370. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has taken a decision to set up Mumbai Rail Development Corporation for executing the rail projects under Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II;

(b) whether the MOU in this regard has been signed between the Union Government and the Government of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said Corporation has since been set up; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) yes, Sir. It is signed on 26th May, 1998.

(c) Copy of the MOU is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) No Sir, only the name of the Corporation - Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation has been registered. Other formalities are being completed.

(e) There is no delay since the MOU is signed before a fortnight only.

**Statement**

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)  
Between  
the Government of India  
Acting Through  
The Ministry of Railways  
and  
The Government of Maharashtra  
in Connection with Development of  
Suburban Rail Infrastructure  
in Mumbai Metropolitan Region**

**This MOU entered into between**

- (1) The president of India called the party of first part; and
  - (2) The Governor of Maharashtra called the party of second part;
1. Whereas the suburban rail net work of Mumbai in the given operating environments provides an efficient and reliable services though very crowded;
  2. Whereas the Railways are and will continue to be the principal mode of mass transportation in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR);
  3. Whereas comprehensive study of the total Urban Transport Infrastructure of MMR identified rail projects for meeting the burgeoning demand;
  4. Whereas Planning, financing, construction and operation of Government Railways is the responsibility of the Central Government;
  5. Whereas in view of the critical role the suburban rail network has in the development of MMR and towards improving the quality of life of Mumbai

citizens, Government of Maharashtra (GOM) would like the capacity augmentation and expansion of rail network to take place early so as to:—

- (1) Enable the Suburban Railways to carry a greater portion of commuter traffic.
  - (2) help in containing growing congestion on roads and resultant environmental pollution.
  - (3) Reduce dense crush congestion during peak hours on suburban trains;
6. Whereas commercial development of Railway land and air space and surcharge can be a major source of generating financial resources, which will require active support of GOM and its development agencies.
  - 6.1 Whereas a greater level of local co-operation is required to tackle the Railways' operational problems in controlling their right of way by removal of encroachments and trespassers from the Railways' right of way and station approaches including Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) as well as co-ordinating and ensuring improvements of track and drainage;
  - 6.2 Whereas Government of Maharashtra (GOM) have notified a policy for R&R of people including those affected by introduction of rail projects and commercial development of Railway land on the basis of a base level survey done in 1995;
  - 6.3 Whereas the terms and conditions under which R&R of Project affected Persons (PAP's) affected by the rail components of Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II (MUTP-II) will be carried out, will be mutually settled between GOM and IR within the broad overall framework of the R&R policy of GOM.
  7. And Whereas it is felt expedient and necessary in the national and public interest to have a Public Sector Corporation under the Ministry of Railways for developing coordinated plans and expeditious implementation of rail infrastructure projects, commercial development of Railways land and airspace and coordinating the resolution of allied issues including R&R of PAPs amongst involved agencies;

8. And Whereas the parties hereof have agreed to establish a Public Sector Company under the Companies Act, 1956 to undertake the above purpose on the terms and conditions appearing hereinafter;
9. NOW THIS MOU WITNESSETH THAT, in consideration of the premises mentioned above and mutual covenants appearing hereinafter, the parties have agreed as follows:
- (i) The parties hereof shall form, establish and get registered a wholly Government owned Public Sector Company with limited liability to undertake the development of coordinated plans, development and execution of rail projects in MMR within a period of three months from the date of this MOU or such extended period as may be agreed upon from time to time by mutual consent.
- (ii) The name of the proposed joint venture Public Sector Company shall be "MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LIMITED" (herein after called the MRVC) or such other name as may be made available by the concerned registrar of companies and agreed upon by the consent of parties hereof.
- (iii) The registered office of the MRVC will be in Mumbai.
- (iv) The company will be deemed to be a Railway company under the provisions of Indian Railways Act, 1989 as amended from time to time.
- (v) The main objective of the company shall be to develop coordinated plans and implement the rail infrastructure projects, undertake commercial development of Railway land and airspace, coordinate with organizations operating the train services and responsible for protection of Railways' right of way and urban development for purposeful resolution of allied issues and problems, and discharge its liabilities arising due to such projects and action.
10. The details of the main, ancillary and other objects, as may be agreed to by the consent of the parties hereof, will be mentioned in the Memorandum of Association of the proposed MRVC. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the proposed

MRVC shall be finalized with utmost expedition by the party of the first part in consultation with the party of the second part, incorporating the terms and conditions of the MOU and such other provisions as are agreed to by the consent of parties hereof.

11. The authorized share capital of the company will initially be Rs. 25 crores divided into 2,50,000 shares of Rs. 1000/- each.
12. The subscription to equity of MRVC by the parties to this agreement shall be as indicated below:
- (i) Government of India: 51%
- (ii) Government of Maharashtra: 49%
13. The authorised representatives of each of the parties of the first and second parts shall subscribe to the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association.
14. The proposed Company shall be governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of eleven Directors.

There shall be a part time Chairman, six full time Directors including Managing Director, two part-time Government Directors and two non-official part time Directors.

The part time Chairman will be nominated by Ministry of Railways in consultation with Govt. Of Maharashtra.

There will be six full time Directors viz. Managing Director, Director (Technical), Director (Electrical) and Director (Finance) to be nominated from Railways while Government of Maharashtra (GOM) will select Director (R&R) and Director (Infrastructure and Commercial Development). There will also be one part time official Director from GOM and one part time official director from Indian Railways (IR).

15. Funds for implementation of suburban rail projects included in MUTP-II as well as resettlement and rehabilitation of persons affected thereby as per terms mutually agreed to between GOM and IR shall be generally made available by Government of India (Ministry of Railways) and Government

of Maharashtra in the ratio of 50:50 Sources of funds will be from—

- (i) Revenue from commercial development of railway land and air space.
  - (ii) Budgetary support from Government of Maharashtra and IR.
  - (iii) Borrowings to be decided with mutual consent of Government of Maharashtra and IR.
  - (iv) Surcharge to be levied on commuters from a date to be mutually agreed to between Government of Maharashtra and IR;
16. Cost of resettlement and rehabilitation of people affected by commercial development of railway land and air space shall be borne by the Ministry of Railways in consonance with Clause 6.3 as a special case.
17. As a one time exception and subject to approvals as necessary, railway land, wherever surplus to the requirement of Railways, will be given by Railways for R&R of project affected persons (eligibility for this being their inclusion in the voter's list of 1995). Government of Maharashtra would provide necessary help to railways in protecting railway land and Railway's right-of-way.
18. For projects involving commercial development of Railway land, the land itself would remain in Indian Railway's ownership, with the Railways authorising MRVC to enjoy the air rights on terms and conditions to be settled mutually between MRVC and the Railways. The methodology for use of assets created by MRVC will be decided later with mutual agreement.
19. The GOM and Ministry of Railways shall extend all necessary support for the fulfilment of the objects of the company and
- (i) Render necessary assistance for the purpose of expeditious acquisition of lands, free from all encumbrances, as and when required by the company.
  - (ii) Wherever GOM's land is required for the project, the GOM while retaining the ownership of such lands, shall authorise

MRVC to construct operational facilities/rail infrastructure thereon on terms and conditions to be settled mutually between MRVC and the GOM.

20. MRVC would enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Government of India/Indian Railways and Government of Maharashtra confirming that it is empowered to:—
- (i) Develop coordinated plans for the rail components to be included in MUTP-II, MRVC will also be entrusted with the task of executing other planned non MUTP-II rail components projects on terms and conditions to be settled mutually between MRVC and the Railways.
  - (ii) Integrate urban development plans for Mumbai with rail capacity plans and proposed investments,
  - (iii) Execute specific projects for the commercial development of land and air space and apportion the net income in a ratio of 1:1:1 for railway projects in Mumbai area, Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country, respectively. This ratio may however be increased in favour of Mumbai for the time being, if required after mutual consultation.
  - (iv) Coordinate and facilitate, if required, improvement of track drainage not only within Railways' premises but also outside Railway limits, removal of encroachment and trespassers from the Railways' right-of-way and station premises and precincts.
21. Date and quantum of surcharge will be determined and levied as mutually agreed to between Government of Maharashtra and Indian Railways on commuters travelling to/ from and within the jurisdiction of MRVC as defined by clause 30. The entire proceeds from the surcharge will be used not only to supplement financing of suburban rail projects under MUTP-II to be implemented by MRVC, but also towards repayment of loan for such projects under MUTP-II by Government of Maharashtra and Indian Railways in the ratio of 50:50.
22. In case of any dispute arising out of this arrangement between the parties to the MOU the matter shall, at the request of either party

- to the MOU, be placed before an arbitration committee comprising one representative from the Railways, one representative from the State Government and one independent Government Officer of appropriate status, all to be nominated by the Cabinet Secretary, to arbitrate upon such disputes. Panel of names will be made available by the Railways and the GOM to the Cabinet Secretary for this purpose.
23. The parties to this MOU do hereby agree to the proposals contained in these presents and to give effect thereto and to undertake to fulfil the obligations and responsibilities arising.
24. MRVC shall obtain qualified and experienced manpower as may be necessary to manage its affairs and also for execution and maintenance of the project from Railways, GOM and the public sector enterprises of Central and State Governments.
25. MRVC could also be wound up at any point of time after a minimum duration of five years on mutually accepted terms and conditions subject to satisfactory discharge of liabilities of MRVC.
26. Stand alone systems either underground or elevated or on the surface which do not have any linkage with the IR network will not be covered by this MOU, their execution could however be entrusted to MRVC on terms and conditions to be mutually settled between MRVC and the owning agency.
27. The arrangements under the MOU will not be applicable for areas under CIDCO in Navi Mumbai which are governed under separate agreements. However, MRVC can take up execution of works in these areas on terms to be mutually settled between MRVC and IR/CIDCO.
28. The decision regarding selection and sequencing of projects will be taken by the Railways in consultation with Government of Maharashtra keeping in view the operational requirements.
29. Works like major yard remodelling, etc. Requiring very close and continuous coordination with the Railways and/or where safety of train operation is involved can be farmed out by MRVC to the IR field units.
30. The jurisdiction of MRVC will be upto Dahanu Road on Western Railway and Karjat, Kasara, Panvel and Khopoli on Central Railway.
31. Railways will adjust jurisdictions of Mumbai Central and Mumbai CST Divisions at an appropriate time.
32. Railways will take steps to segregate accounts of the Mumbai suburban rail system as far as feasible.
33. It is hereby agreed that period of validity of this MOU will be 15 years. It may however become necessary to extend the period so as to synchronise with the complete discharge of the liabilities of the company. As and when it is decided by the equity participants to dissolve the company, manner of disposal of shareholding and disposal of assets created by MRVC of either or both the parties shall be dealt with in a mutually agreed manner.
- In witness thereof, the respective Government set their hand hereunder on the 26th day of May 1998 through their respective authorised representatives.

For and on behalf of  
the Governor of the  
State of Maharashtra

For and on behalf  
of the President,  
of India

Sd/-  
(P. Subrahmanyam)  
Chief Secretary  
Government of Maharashtra

Sd/-  
(V.K. Agnihotri)  
Member Engineering  
Rly. Bd. & Ex-Officio  
Secretary to The  
Government of India

WITNESSES:-

Sd/-  
(K. NALINAKSHAN)  
Principal Secretary, Urban  
Development  
Government of Maharashtra

Sd/-  
(M. M. GOYAL)  
Additional Member  
(Projects)  
Railway Board  
Ministry of Railways  
Government of India

*[English]***Allotment of DDA Flats**

2371 SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of DDA flats allotted and possession

given during each of the last five years category-wise; and

(b) the time by which the dwelling units are likely to be provided to all the registrants in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The number of DDA flats allotted during each of the last 5 years category-wise is as under:—

Year	MIG	LIG	Janta	SFS	EHS	Total
1993-94	7245	6520	2686	2251	—	18702
1994-95	364	608	1579	842	6972	10365
1995-96	1854	2602	791	676	—	5933
1996-97	4668	1731	3667	3022	8405	21493
1997-98	793	164	1097	525	413	2992

The information regarding the possession of DDA flats given for the above mentioned period category-wise is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) DDA has reported that keeping in view the constraints regarding availability of land and other services like water, electricity etc. By other agencies, it is not possible to indicate the time schedule at this stage.

*[Translation]***Concessions to Physically Handicapped Persons**

2372. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide concession in fare to the physically handicapped persons in AC-2 tier and 3 tier compartments which is so far available to them in 2nd Class and 1st Class compartments only; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made applicable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Handicapped persons are granted concession in the fares of second, sleeper and first class. They can purchase tickets for AC 2-tier Sleeper also on payment of concessional fare of first class and difference of actual fares of the two classes.

*[English]***Water Supply Project in Mysore City**

2373. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government have sought Asian Development Bank's and HUDCO assistance for taking up drinking water supply projects for Mysore City and Kunigal;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the projects;

(c) the amount of assistance sought and released for each project; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU

DATTATREYA: (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka has sought assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for drinking water supply projects in Mysore and Kunigal at an estimated cost of Rs. 37.0 crores and 13.60 crores respectively. HUDCO has informed that the State Government has not submitted these projects to them for financial assistance.

(c) and (d) As per available information, the amount of assistance sought is 70% of the project cost. The Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board had reported in December, 1997 that the Mysore Water Supply project has been approved by the ADB and is likely to be commissioned and completed in 3 years time. The Kunigal Water Supply project is yet to be approved by the ADB.

#### Late Running of Trains

2374. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether important trains like Magadh Express and Shramjeevi Express, are in general, very late in reaching New Delhi, thereby creating a lot of trouble to commuters;

(b) the details of exact minutes of late arrival of these trains at New Delhi during the last three months;

(c) the reasons of their late arrivals; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Punctuality percentage of Magadh & Shramjeevi Expresses during the last three month is as under:—

#### 1. 2391 Magadh Express

Month	Punctuality %age
March, 98	54.8
April, 98	66.7
May, 98	48.4

#### 2. 2401 Shramjeevi Express

Month	Punctuality %age
March, 98	71.0
April, 98	90.0
May, 98	77.4

(c) The running of trains get affected due to accidents, agitations/bandhs, alarm-chain pulling, and other miscreant activities specifically law and other problem in Eastern Rly. (Danapur Division), fog/bad weather, equipment failures, Signal & Telecom failures, etc.

(d) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' level are also being launched.

#### Wasteland

2375. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of wasteland brought under cultivation in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals pending before the Government for wasteland and the details of projects cleared during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Rajasthan have sent any proposals in this regard during the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Mandate of the Wastelands Development Department is to develop wastelands in non-forest areas aimed at checking degradation of lands which are deteriorating on account of natural causes and putting such wastelands in non-forest areas to sustainable use for increasing bio-mass availability. Specially fuelwood and fodder.

Because of poor soil health and adverse natural factors even after treatment of such lands, planting of fodder, fuel and fruit trees rather than agricultural operations are advisable on developed wastelands. As such, the programmes of the Department of Wastelands



Development seek to prevent further degradation of land and to improve wastelands to grow appropriate bio-mass rather than to converting wastelands into cultivable lands.

(b) to (d): During the past two years, 64 projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP)

Scheme have been cleared by the Department. The details of projects cleared, State-wise, including Rajasthan State are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The number of proposals pending in the Department, State-wise, are given in enclosed Statement-II. This includes Rajasthan State also.

**Statement-I**

Name of the District	Project Period	Total Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	Total Area (In HA)
1	2	3	4
<b>**State: AP</b>			
Chittoor-I	96-97 to 99-00	323.40	8085
Chittoor-II	96-97 to 99-00	331.20	8280
Chittoor-IV	97-98 to 20-01	450.00	11250
Medak	97-98 to 20-01	496.48	124512
Nizamabad-II	97-98 to 20-01	500.00	12500
Srikakulam	97-98 to 20-01	500.00	12500
Cuddapah-II	97-98 to 20-01	500.00	12500
<b>** Subtotal **</b>		<b>3101.1</b>	<b>77527</b>
<b>** State: ARP</b>			
West Kameng	97-98 to 20-01	60.00	1500
<b>** Subtotal **</b>		<b>60.00</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>** State : ASS</b>			
Karbi Anglong	97-98 to 2001	245.20	6130
<b>** Subtotal **</b>		<b>245.20</b>	<b>6130</b>
<b>** State: GJ</b>			
Kheda	96-97 to 99-00	32.48	812
Junagadh	97-98 to 20-01	480.00	12000
<b>** Subtotal**</b>		<b>512.48</b>	<b>12812</b>
<b>** State: HP</b>			
Solan-II	97-98 to 20-01	499.52	12488
Sirmour	97-98 to 20-01	499.00	12500
<b>** Subtotal **</b>		<b>998.52</b>	<b>24988</b>

1	2	3	4
** State: HR Panipat	97-98 to 20-01	478.88	11972
** Subtotal **		478.88	11972
** State: JK Udhampur-II	97-98 to 20-01	500.00	12500
** Subtotal **		500.00	12500
** State: KA Mandya-II Gulbarga Chitradurga Bellary	97-98 to 20-01 97-98 to 20-01 97-98 to 20-01 97-98 to 20-01	500.00 474.00 500.00 485.60	12500 11847 12500 12140
** Subtotal **		1959.6	48987
** State: Ma Parbhani	97-98 to 20-01	381.60	9540
** Subtotal**		381.60	9540
**State: MN Imphal (West) Senapati Senapati-II	97-98 to 20-21 97-98 to 20-01 97-98 to 20-01	267.00 55.72 400.00	6675 1393 10000
**Subtotal**		722.72	18068
**State: MP Datia-II Guna Seoni Narasingpur Mandsaur Guna-II	96-97 to 99-00 97-98 to 20-01 97-98 to 20-01 97-98 to 20-01 97-98 to 20-01 97-98 to 20-01	21.28 243.60 280.00 280.00 280.00 337.96	532 6090 7000 7000 7000 8449
**Subtotal**		1442.8	36071
**State: NG Wokha Mokochung	96-97 to 99-00 97-98 to 20-01	480.00 480.00	12000 12000
**Subtotal**		960.00	24000
**State: OR Koraput-III Jhasurguda Kalahandi-III	96-97 to 99-00 97-98 to 20-01 97-98 to 20-01	7.29 288.64 493.48	300 7216 12337

1	2	3	4
Balangir-II	97-98 to 20-01	496.00	12400
Koraput-IV	97-98 to 20-01	481.80	12045
Mayurbhanj	97-98 to 20-01	496.00	12400
Dhenkanal-III	97-98 to 20-01	244.64	6100
Dhenkanal-II	96-97 to 99-00	100.60	2515
<b>**Subtotal**</b>		<b>2608.4</b>	<b>65313</b>
<b>**State: PB</b>			
Patiala	96-97 to 99-00	22.00	550
<b>**Subtotal**</b>		<b>22.00</b>	<b>550</b>
<b>**State: RJ</b>			
Bundi	96-97 to 99-00	27.30	686
Jhunjhunu	97-98 to 20-01	168.00	4200
Jhalawar-II	97-98 to 20-01	394.24	9866
<b>**Subtotal**</b>		<b>589.00</b>	<b>14742</b>
<b>**State: SK</b>			
W. Sikkim	96-97 to 99-00	220.00	5500
East Sikkim-III	97-98 to 20-01	222.76	5669
North Sikkim-II	97-98 to 20-01	480.00	12000
<b>**Subtotal**</b>		<b>922.76</b>	<b>23169</b>
<b>**State: TN</b>			
Coimbatore	96-97 to 99-00	19.20	480
Dindigul	97-98 to 20-01	200.00	5090
<b>**Subtotal**</b>		<b>219.20</b>	<b>5570</b>
<b>**State: UP</b>			
Ferozabad	96-97 to 99-00	459.16	11479
Fatehpur	96-97 to 99-00	395.20	9880
Jaunpur	96-97 to 99-00	468.72	11718
Varanasi	96-97 to 99-00	385.80	9645
Etawah	96-97 to 99-00	406.00	10150
Azamgarh	96-97 to 99-00	319.28	7982
Kanpur (C)	96-97 to 99-00	220.40	5510
Unnao	97-98 to 20-01	481.64	12041
Tehri Garhwal	97-98 to 20-01	484.76	12119
Sonbhadra	97-98 to 20-01	404.26	10106
Raibareli-II	97-98 to 20-01	484.00	12100
Unnao-II	97-98 to 20-01	482.16	12054
Sultanpur	97-98 to 20-01	481.56	12039
Jhansi-II	97-98 to 20-01	495.00	12379
Jhansi-III	97-98 to 20-21	400.00	10000
Agra	96-97 to 99-00	491.80	12295
<b>**Subtotal**</b>		<b>6859.7</b>	<b>171497</b>
<b>***Total***</b>		<b>22585</b>	<b>564936</b>

**Statement II**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total No. of projects pending in the Department
1.	Andhra Pradesh	06
2.	Assam	02
3.	Bihar	01
4.	Gujarat	06
5.	Himachal Pradesh	02
6.	Haryana	01
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	01
8.	Maharashtra	17
9.	Manipur	03
10.	Madhya Pradesh	01
11.	Orissa	04
12.	Rajasthan	01
13.	Tamil Nadu	01
14.	Uttar Pradesh	15
Total:		61

**Instrument Landing System**

2376. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Instrumental Landing System has been set up at Calicut Airport;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the time by which the same will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Raichur Airport**

2377. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link Raichur with Hyderabad to improve transport facilities;

(b) if so, the target set up for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Airlines may provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability, subject to compliance with the route dispersal guidelines.

At present there is no scheduled air service to/from Raichur. Raichur aerodrome is suitable for operation of smaller aircraft. The operators of small aircraft are being encouraged to include more stations such as Raichur in their network, subject to commercial viability.

#### **Inquiry to Pilferage of Titanium Alloy**

2378. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry into the case of pilferage of 1000 Kg. of titanium alloy from Mumbai which is suspected to have been exported to Pakistan has since been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The investigation of the case has been handed over to the CBI. The CBI authorities have been requested to expedite the investigation and submit their findings as early as possible.

*[Translation]*

#### **Diamond Mines in Madhya Pradesh**

2379. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Photo geology Branch of the Geological Survey of India and mining Directorate have undertaken study and analysis work by identifying the diamond area in Madhya Pradesh during 1996-97; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India and Directorate of Mines and Geology, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh have undertaken

Photo Geological studies followed by ground survey for locating Kimberlite pipes which are prospective for diamond in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The studies are to identify anomalous zones which require further geophysicals and geochemical inputs and drilling to identify Kimberlite pipes. The work is on going.

#### **Air India Flights from Patna**

2380. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the countries for which the flights of Air India are available from India particularly from Patna (Bihar);

(b) whether the Government propose to operate the flights of Air India for Europe and other countries from Patna or via Patna;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Air India does not operate any flights to/from Patna.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal to start Air India's International flights to/from Patna. The existing five international airports are considered adequate to meet the present level of international traffic to/from India. National Carriers are also permitted to operate international services on a limited scale from other airports depending on traffic requirements and subject to availability of customs and immigration facilities.

*[English]*

#### **Salary of Air India Pilots**

2381. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Air India increased the salaries of its Pilots without consulting the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some allowances demanded by the Pilots are not being paid by any other airlines of the World; and

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing such allowances to them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Management of Air India has signed a wage agreement with the Indian Pilots' Guild (IPG), on 3rd January 1998 resulting in increase in the wages of the Pilots Like the other wage agreement with the IPG was also submitted to the Board of Air India for *ex-post facto* approval.

(c) and (d) Package of wages offered to employees varies from airline to airline. One allowance peculiar to Air India named "shortfall allowance" is being paid in pursuance of an agreement signed with the IPG in September, 1994. This allowance is paid to a senior pilot if his junior flies more than him in a particular month. The management of Air India in its negotiations with the IPG attempted to get this allowance withdrawn but did not succeed.

#### Funds Sanctioned for CAPART

2382. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the details of the funds sanctioned for implementing the schemes of CAPART during the last three years State-wise and Scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): The funds sanctioned to CAPART for implementation of the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment are released by CAPART to the voluntary organisations based on the project proposals received from them. As such, there is no State-wise allocation/release of funds. The details of the funds sanctioned to CAPART during the last three years, scheme-wise is given below:—

Sl.No.	Scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs. In crore)
1	2	3
1.	Promotion of voluntary Action in Rural Development	13.90
2.	Organisation of beneficiaries	4.88
3.	Advancement of Rural Technology	25.00
4.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply programme	20.00
5.	Central Rural Sanitation programme	14.70

1	2	3
6.	Jawahar Rozgar Yojana	15.50
7.	Indira Awaas Yojana	36.11
8.	Integrated Rural Development Programme	1.50
9.	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas	4.75
10.	Training to Panchayati Raj Functionaries	0.50
11.	Million Wells Scheme	0.50
12.	Support to N.G.Os/V.As.	1.25
13.	Watershed Development	12.50
Total :		151.09

#### Expansion of Madurai Airport

2383. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the Madurai airport runway and building; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India has plans to extend the runway from 6000' to 7500' for operation of AB-320 type of aircraft. State Government of Tamil Nadu has to acquire 60 acres of land for the purpose. There is also a proposal to expand and modify the existing terminal building to provide better amenities. This project is at the planning stage and is expected to be completed during the 9th plan period.

#### Setting up of Unit

2384. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set-up a second unit to process the metals available from the mining project in Rampura Anguja in district Bhilwara, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether any place has been identified to set up this unit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted to set-up the said unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Government has accorded approval for preparation of Techno Economic Feasibility Report for a new Zinc smelter by Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise at present.

#### **Gauge Conversion in Orissa**

2385 SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:  
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to convert some narrow gauge (NG) lines into broad gauge are pending since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, Zone-wise; and

(c) the steps taken for the conversion of these lines into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

#### **Fire in Goods Train**

2386. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether engine of a goods train, caught fire at Sirathu railway station on April 11, 1998;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the government have conducted any inquiry into this incident;

(d) if so, the findings of the inquiry committee; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, on 10.4.98 electric locomotive no. 21049 type WAG-4 of a goods train caught fire near Sirathu. Fire in locomotive was controlled by engine crew with the help of fire extinguishers available in the electric locomotive and finally fire was extinguished with the help of fire brigade.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The findings of the Committee established that the fire was due to an incipient fault in the windings of locomotive transformer. Steps have already been taken for monitoring the condition of the transformers to detect such incipient defects and ensuring desired timely attention.

[English]

#### **State Ministers Conference**

2387. SHRI ANIL BASU:  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of RURAL AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issues of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Rural Housing were discussed at the meeting of State Ministers of Rural Development convened by the Union Government on May 13, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A conference of the State Ministers of Rural Development, panchayati Raj and Rural Housing was convened on 13th May, 1998 to discuss the following agenda items:

- (i) Restructuring of Self-Employment programmes;
- (ii) Strengthening of District Rural Development Agencies;
- (iii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana - amendments;
- (iv) Rationalisation of Employment Assurance Scheme;

- (v) Rural Housing-Beyond Indira Awaas Yojana;
- (vi) proposed amendments to the guidelines for Desert Development Programme/Drought Prone Areas Programme;
- (vii) Implementation of the Integrated Wasteland Development Projects - issues;
- (viii) From Panchayats - functioning, accountability and empowerment of Gram Sabhas;
- (ix) Financial powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions;
- (x) Issues arising out of implementation of Act 40 of 1996, and
- (ix) Transparency in the implementation of Rural Development Programmes.

(c) A draft of the decision of taken in the meeting has been sent to the Ministers who attended the meeting with a request confirm the same. The responses received are under examination. Government will take follow up action immediately on all the decisions taken.

[*Translation*]

#### **Construction of Airport at Ajmer**

2388. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been conducted for construction of an airport at Ajmer (Rajasthan) by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the approval for construction of an air strip in Saradhana Village of Ajmer has already been accorded.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is not very proper to construct an airport at Ajmer keeping in view the likely participation of lakhs of pilgrims on the occasions of Urs Sharif 786 to be held there this year; and

(e) if so, the details of the programme, envisaged by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (e) A site near the village Saradhana 20 Km. South-West of Ajmer city on Ajmer-Bewar road was identified by the Rajasthan Government for construction

of an airport in Ajmer. This site was found suitable by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). However AAI's study indicates that the project is not viable on financial parameters. In the absence of a commitment by the State Government to provide land free of cost, as required under the general policy followed by the AAI, and by the Central Government to provide budgetary support no final decision on the construction of airport at Ajmer has been taken so far. No definite time-frame can, therefore, be indicated at this stage.

[*English*]

#### **Electrification of Trivandrum-Ernakulam Rail Route**

2389. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the stage at which the electrification of trivandrum-Ernakulam Railway Route stands at present; and

(b) the reasons for the delay and action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The electrification of Trivandrum-Ernakulam section is not yet a sanctioned work.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Mentioning of Official Name of Airports**

2390. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign and domestic airlines do not mention the proper name of airports at the time of their take off or touch down a particular airport, e.g. Indira Gandhi Airport in Delhi and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Airport in Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details of the instructions issued to State-owned airlines and private airlines for encouraging them to use the official name?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Announcement of the name of the airport during take-off or touch-down is for the sake of passenger facilitation. All airline operators are required to mention complete and proper name of the airport in these announcements. The Director General of Civil Aviation has been directed to reiterate this requirement through an advisory to all domestic/international operators.



**Ticketing Agents of Indian Airlines**

2391. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:  
 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of ticketing agents of Indian Airlines operating in the country owe the airlines a large amount;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated amount outstanding against these agencies; and

(c) the reasons for non-recovery of dues in time?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has to recover about Rs. 2.23 crores from its defaulting agents as per details given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) While necessary recovery action, such as issuance of legal notice, filling of legal suits, reference to IATA Agency Administration for IATA Agents etc. Are being initiated, the main reason for non-recovery of dues is the cumbersome and time-consuming process involved in legal proceedings.

**Statement**

*Dues Recoverable from the Defaulting Agents as on 31st March, 1998.*

S.No.	Name of Agents	Amount
1	2	3

**Northern Region**

1.	R.K. Travels	4.31
2.	Travel Mart	5.55
3.	Mac Travels	7.75
4.	Razdan Travels	21.94
5.	Shah Travels	21.53
6.	A.S. Travels	4.71
7.	Globe Travels	1.27
8.	Poonam Airfreight	2.71
9.	Om Sai Travel	1.27

1	2	3	
10.	Kabir Travels	1.65	
11.	Combined Travels	2.99	
12.	Winfield Travels	43.17	
13.	R.R. Travels	4.87	
14.	G.K. Travels	4.36	
15.	Kwick Travels	13.11	
16.	Kunal Travels	2.72	
17.	Blue Bird Travels	0.79	144.70

**Western Region**

18.	Senior Travels	0.65	
19.	Prakash Travels	0.12	
20.	Sree Ga'anan	0.05	
21.	Trident Travels	0.31	
22.	Dean Travels	0.72	
23.	Rajlaxmi Travels	0.98	
24.	Leader Traves	2.10	
25.	Western Travels	1.76	6.69

**Eastern Region**

26.	ACSCO Travels, Shillong	5.03	
27.	Ganesh Travels, Agartala	5.67	
28.	Atlas Travels, Dhaka	3.91	
29.	Eureka Travel Svc., Rourkela	0.30	
30.	Mahaveer Trading Co. Coochbehar	0.07	
31.	Hackip Travels, Imphal	1.13	
32.	Safari India, Ranchi	3.72	19.83

1	2	3
<b>Southern Region</b>		
33.	Panorama Travels, Vizag	1.99
34.	Travel Point, Hyderabad	9.51
35.	Sagar Travels, Chennai	30.03
36.	United Tours & Travels, Calicut	9.11
37.	Lavanya Tours & Travels, Calicut	0.90
		51.54 222.76

[Translation]

#### Exploratory and Survey Work

2392. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of new places in the country where the mining exploration/survey work is in progress;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of achievements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Exploration/survey for a number of minerals is being carried out. The details of the new places and results achieved by Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) are given in the enclosed Statement-I & II respectively.

#### Statement-I

*Achievements of GSI for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 in-progress is furnished here under.*

GOLD

#### Karnataka

1. Chinmulgund, Dharwar Distt.-0.847 MT of Gold Ore with 4.38 g/t Au.
2. Nagavi, Dharwar dist.-0.65 MT of Gold Ore with Grade 2.01 g/t Au.

#### Rajasthan

1. Anandpuri-Bhukia, Bamswar Dist.-2.74 MT of Gold Ore with Grade varying from 1.7 ppm to 3 ppm of Au.

#### Madhya Pradesh

1. Gurharpahar West, Sidhi dist.-2.12 MT of Gold Ore with 1.26 g/t Au.

#### Maharashtra

1. Parsori West Block, Nagpur Dist.-1.01 MT of Gold Ore with grade varying between 0.54 g/t containing 1.69 tonnes of gold metal.
2. Kitari Block, Nagpur Dist.-0.11 MT of Gold ore with 0.228 tonnes of Gold Metal.

#### DIAMOND

#### Madhya Pradesh

Three kimberlite bodies which are the source rock of diamond were discovered at Duganpal, Bhejripadar and Parakot in Bastar District and ultramafic body at Tokapal was identified as kiberlite.

#### Karnataka

Six kimberlite pipes were discovered in Gulbarga district.

#### Andhra Pradesh

In A.P. 14 Kimberlite bodies were discovered. Two of these kimberlites bodies show microdiamond. Further processing for diamond will be taken up.

#### Molybdenum

#### Tamil Nadu

Exploration carried out to the III and IV levels in Velampatti South Block augmented the indicated and inferred reserve to 2.6 MT of 116% Mo at cut off 0.03% Mo.

#### PLATINUM GROUP OF METALS ORISSA

A resource of about 6 m.t. of ore with an average grade of 2 g/t (Pt + Pd+ Au) has so far been estimated in the Boula-Nuasahi prospect. The only identified platinum prospect in India.

## BASEMETAL ORES

**Uttar Pradesh**

Amtiyagard, Dehra Dun District: A possible reserve of 1.45 Million tonnes of ore with 6.63% Lead and Zinc.

**Maharashtra**

Garara Block, bhandara Dist: 0.7 MT with 1.2% Cu

## MANAGANESE-ORE

**Madhya Pradesh**

Ukwa (Outside Moil Leasehold), Balaghat Dist. 2.17 MT

**Orissa**

Bolangir Dist: 0.89 MT (25% Mn)

Sundargarh Dist: 0.40 MT (23.43% Mn)

## LIMESTONE

**Meghalaya**

Jaintia Hills : 1166 MT (Flux and Chemical)

## DOLOMITE

**Arunachal Pradesh**

East and West Stang Dist: 30.5 MT

## CLAY

**Kerala**

Kollam, Kasargad and Thiruvananthapuram Districts: 2000 MT

Kannur Distt: 110 MT

Dimension Stone:

Bihar Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal - 18, 700 Million Cubic Meters

## COAL

**Bihar**

Chandhur-Govinpani, Dumka distt.-28.50 MT

**Orissa**

Budjhoria, Sunargarh Distt.- 86.63 MT

**Madhya Pradesh**

Kente and Sursa (Surguja distt), Pusalda and Ongana potiya (Raigarh Distt) and Karkoma Bilaspur Distt) - 271.06

**Statement-II**

Mineral	State	Area	Reserves established during 95-98 (M.T.)	
1	2	3	4	
Coal	Maharashtra	WCL	131.40	
		MOIL	69.60	
	Madhya Pradesh	WCL	78.98	
		SECL	316.45	
	Bihar	CCL	BCCL	521.02
				765.26 Coking 3,975.65 non coking

1	2	3	4
	West Bengal	ECL	533.32
	Andhra Pradesh	SCCL	1,112.76
	Assam	NEC	36.19
	Arunachal Pradesh	NEC	29.07
	Orissa	MOF	4,103.79
Lignite	Tamil Nadu	Neyyeli Mannargudi Karaikudi	356.12 17,696.83 in progress
	Rajasthan	Barmer Bikaner Baap	151.67 -N.E. in progress
	Gujarat	Bhavanagar Mandvi Surat Mangrol/Valia	66.02 N.E. 8.09 291.91
Copper	Bihar	Surda Pathargora	19.23 9.65
	Rajasthan	Singhana Khetri Mines I	17.16 22.45
	Karnataka	Kallur	6.44
Lead	Rajasthan	Kathar	-N.E.
Zinc		Kayar	10.14
Gold	Karnataka	Chinmulgund Crown Pillar/ KGF Gadag/Uti	in progress N.E. 5.61
Bauxite	Bihar	Amtipani	in progress
Phosphorite	MP Rajasthan	Jhabua Kanpur	10.33 N.E.
Iron-Ore	Karnataka	Kudremukh Hospet	214.76 3.73
Lime- Stone	Madhya Pradesh Andhra Pradesh	Satna Kolimgundla	-N.E. 452.57

1	2	3	4
Eliminate	Meghalaya	Sonapur	0.0058
Coal bed Methane	Seven coal-fields in Bihar, WB, K, AP	Bihar, WB & AP	471 billion m <sup>3</sup>
—do—	W.B.	Suraj Nagar Bardhaman distt. Parodia, bankura	potentiality For CB found

N.E.— lot estimated

[English]

#### Construction of Unauthorised Shops

2393. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the unauthorised shops constructed near by area of Government land at Mir Dard Road, Gandhi Market, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the unauthorised encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the area nearby the Shochalayas built by the Slum Department of MCD, there are about 10-12 commercial squatters. The area is earmarked for a Park as per layout plan of the colony.

(c) MCD has been requested to remove the encroachments and to develop the area as a Park.

[Translation]

#### Survey for Lohardaga-Korba Rail Line

2394. SHRI INDIRA NATH BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal regarding laying of new railway line between Lohardaga to korba via Gumla-Jaspur was approved during 1982-83 and survey in that regard had also been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which the Government propose to lay the above railway line to provide rail facility in this tribal dominated area;

(c) whether the provision of Rs. 8 crores was made to lay a rail line between Lohardaga and Tori in Bihar.

(d) if so, whether the said amount has been transferred to Hazipur;

(e) if so, the reasons for transferring that amount; and

(f) the steps taken/propose to be taken to lay the above railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, a traffic survey for new line from Korba to Lohardaga was earlier done in 1975-76.

(b) An updating survey has been taken up. Further consideration would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 10 crs. Was provided in the budget 1997-98 for gauge conversion of Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Final Location Survey has been taken up for new line portion between Lohardaga and Tori. For Ranchi-Lohardaga gauge conversion, preliminary works, preparation of plan, processing to tenders have been taken up. An outlay of Rs. 10 crs. Has been provided in current year's budget to expedite the work.

[English]

#### **Delhi Apartment Ownership Act, 1986**

2395. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend existing Delhi Apartment Ownership Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposed amendment bill is likely to be introduced in the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) (a) The Government is proposing to enact a new legislation on Delhi Apartment Ownership.

(b) Delhi Apartment Ownership Act, 1986, received the assent of the President on 23.12.86. However, the Act remained inoperable due to some lacunae particularly relating to absence of any penal provision, problems regarding appointment of competent authority and several other shortcomings. A draft revised Delhi Apartment Ownership Bill has been prepared not only to overcome the shortcomings noticed earlier in the Act but also to make comprehensive changes in its content.

(c) The Government of likely to introduce the Bill in the ongoing Budget Session of the Parliament subject to completion of the requisite formalities.

#### **Firing by Pakistani Troops in Jammu and Kashmir**

2396. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani troops exchanged fire in Jammu and Kashmir borders during the recent elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which these firings affected the elections in the State;

(d) the total damage caused to the BSF troops as a result thereof; and

(e) the details of other damages caused during these firings?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops along the LOC & IB in J&K is & routine phenomenon. The firings did not affect the election process in the State.

(d) and (e) One Sub-Inspector and one constable of the BSF were wounded, No other. damage has been reported.

#### **MOU for Urban Infrastructural Development Schemes**

2397. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Housing & Urban Development Corporation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for urban infrastructural development schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared for providing houses to the weaker sections in the country during the next two years; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) has signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of India for the year 1998-99 on the 30th April, 1998. The MoU sets Budgetary Estimated level of loans sanctions of Rs. 1500 crores and Rs. 1200 crores for the Housing and Urban Infrastructure schemes respectively. A copy of MoU is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Agenda for Governance envisages construction of additional 2 million dwelling units for weaker section every year. The Action Plan for implementation of the targets fixed under the National Agenda, contemplates annual addition of 7 lakhs units in the urban areas. Achievement of this task is likely to involve investment of the order of Rs. 4000 crores every year. Out of this 70% of funds are expected from financial institutions, 1/3rd of which would come from HUDCO and the rest from other Housing Finance Companies. The State Government, private, co-operative sector, NGOs and informal sector are expected to play a significant role in the achievement of the target.

#### **Statement**

*Memorandum of Understanding for the year 1998-99 between Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited and Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.*

#### **I. Mission and Objectives:**

##### **Mission:**

To emerge as the market leader through its techno-financial assistance supporting housing and urban development needs in line with the National Housing Policy.

##### **Objectives:**

1. To provide technical and financial assistance for land acquisition, development and house construction including purchase, repair and additions with special focus on the economically weaker sections and low income groups both in rural and urban areas.
2. To finance urban infrastructure projects relating to water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, drainage, transport and other commercial and social infrastructure projects.
3. To augment resource mobilisation in a prudent manner in a dynamic market with a progressive shift from government to market sources.
4. To finance and support projects involving innovative and cost effective building material and technology and projects involving use of agricultural and industrial waste. This would also include establishment of building centres.
5. To develop expertise in the field of housing and urban infrastructure and to provide high quality consultancy assistance particularly in cost effective and affordable housing.
6. To expand HUDCO's Consultancy services in the field of design and development, township planning, urban infrastructure planning and design, management of human settlements and related financial services.
7. To assist in implementation of the Action Plan schemes of the Central Government.
8. To develop a training strategy and to impart all-round training and foster networking in the field of human settlement management through the Human Settlement Management Institutes (HSMI).
9. To promote innovative building materials and energy saving and/or environmental-friendly techniques in projects financed by it.
10. To promote disaster resistant building materials and construction techniques in the country. The objectives stated at Item Nos. 4,9 and this item to be carried out through the Building Centres also.
11. To professionalise project appraisal, sanction releases and monitoring systems and also to develop a customer oriented operational system consistent with corporate goals and objectives.

## II. Performance Evaluation Criteria for Hudco (1998-99)

Performance Criteria	Unit	Weight	Targets					1998-98	1997-98		
			1	2	3	4	5	BE(PSE)	BE(PSE)	Actual	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1 Resource Mobilisation	Rs. Cr.	4	2050	1950	1900	1850	1800	1950	1350	2650.27	
2 Loan Sanction											
(a) Housing*	Rs. Cr.	6	1600	1500	1450	1400	1350	1500	1385	1772.01	
(b) Urban Infrastructure	Rs. Cr.	4	1300	1200	1150	1100	1050	1200	930	1289.50	
3 Loan releases											
(a) Housing	Rs. Cr.	6	1300	1250	1225	1200	1175	1250	1170	1325.80	
(b) Urban Infrastructure	Rs. Cr.	4	990	940	915	890	865	940	790	811.00	
4 Priority Sector Housing											
(a) Loan Sanction of EWS/LIG	Rs. Cr.	4	800	750	725	700	675	750	693	833.60	
(b) Loan Release for EWS/LIG	Rs. Cr.	4	620	600	590	580	570	600	585	605.00	
(c) Sanction of EWS/LIG Units	% of total units	2	90	88	87	86	85	88	88	95.04	
5 Recovery	%	4	95	93	92	91	90	93	92.5	94.34	
6 Gross margin	Rs. Cr.	20	100	80	70	60	50	80	80	91.52	
7 Profit after tax/capital employed**	%	30	0.95	0.80	0.70	0.60	0.50	0.80	0.80	0.91	
8 Earning per employee** (pre-tax profit)	Rs. Lacs	3	1.3	10.2	9.5	9.0	8.5	10.2	10.2	10.1	
9 Training and Technology Development											
(a) Training at HSMI	No. Of Centres	1	1700	1600	1550	1500	1450	1600	500	2124	
(b) Setting up of Building Centres	No. Of Centres	2	80	80	75	70	65	80	70	81	



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
(c) Progress of Building Centres		No. Of fully functional	1	400	350	325	300	275	350	240	303
10	Timely Submission of draft MOU for 1999-2000		1	Before Dec. 8, 1998	Dec. 15, 1998	Dec. 22, 1998	Dec. 29, 1998	Jan.5, 1999			
1	Timely submission of composite Score for 1997-98 on the basis of provisional data		1	before April. 30, 1998	May. 2 1998	May. 4 1998	May. 6 1998	May. 8 1998			Likely to do by 30.4.98
2	Timely signing of MOU for 1998-99 (on or before)		1	Apr. 30, 1998	May 2, 1998	May 4, 1998	May 6, 1998	After May 6, 1998			Likely to do by 30.4.98

\*This would include land acquisition and development scheme and schemes under the Central Government's action Plan. The Action Plan schemes would be sanctioned on the requisite subsidies being made available from the Government.

\*Excluding impact of construction income.

### III. DELEGATION OF POWERS

With the opening up of the Economy, increases market, orientation and competition it is imperative that the Government would review and provide full operational autonomy to HUDCO so that it can successfully face competition in a dynamic market and achieve its goals. This will include the following:—

1. To authorise HUDCO in finalising wage revision and other incentives/welfare measures to retain and attract qualified professionals in accordance with the DPE guidelines (O.M. No. DPE1(18)/88-FIN(PPU) of 19.10.88).
2. Hudco will have authority to change the assignment of its functional Directors in consultation with Secretary (UA&E) with the prior approval of the Minister in charge as per DPE guidelines.
3. Considering HUDCO's increased market orientation and competition HUDCO will be allowed to fix its lending terms for all categories. However, the EWS/LIG and action plan schemes of Government of India would be governed by the National Policy.
4. The delegation of powers to the CMD, HUDCO would be reviewed by the Board every year in order to ensure smooth functioning, determine clear accountability and all-round transparency.

### IV. ASSISTANCE FROM GOVERNMENT

The Government on its part would take up all possible measures in order to enable HUDCO to function effectively and attain not only the national objectives but also realise its corporate goals. HUDCO has been granted considerable operational freedom. However, Government would constantly review the delegation of authority within the parameters as

per the guidelines in force. The following assistance would be provided by the Government:—

1. To release equity to HUDCO as per Budget provisions with a view to maintain growth.
2. To permit HUDCO to raise resources from the market as tax free/taxable bonds and debentures as per Budget provisions and policy of the Government.
3. Similarly, Government would permit HUDCO to raise loans from GIC, LIC and PF subject to Government approval.
4. Government would support HUDCO in raising assistance from bilateral/multilateral and international agencies in line with the Government policy.

#### V. FREQUENCY OF MONITORING & INFORMATION FLOW

Information on actual performance against the target in the MOU would be sent to the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment on quarterly basis. Evaluation of performance will be done annually. No other report will be sent except those statutorily required or specifically asked for by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

Sd/-  
(KIRAN AGGARWAL)  
Secretary  
Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment  
Government of India

Sd/-  
(V. SURESH)  
Chairman & Managing Director  
Housing & Urban Development  
Corporation Ltd.

New Delhi  
30th April, 1998.

[Translation]

1995 — 019

#### Out of Turn Allotment of DDA Flats

1996 — 001

2398. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

1997 — 324

(a) the details of out-of-turn allotment of flats made by the DDA, the last five year;

(b) whether the Government propose to conduct an enquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) DDA has reported that during the last 5 years, 524 flats were allotted on out of turn basis as per the area-wise details given below:—

1993 — 127

1994 — 053

(b) and (c) Out of turn allotment of flats are made in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government for regulating such allotments of DDA flats. The question of conducting any enquiry in this regard, as such, does not arise.

#### International Airports

2399. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indians living abroad have been demanding that an international airport should be built at Ludhiana;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the time by which an international flight from Ludhiana is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A feasibility study conducted by airports Authority of India for conversion of Ludhiana airport into an international airport has indicated that due to non-availability of land, the proposal is not feasible.

*[English]*

**Doubling of Rail Line between  
Jammu and Jalandhar**

2400. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made during 1997 for the construction of double rail line between Jammu and Jalandhar;

(b) the allocation made and the amount spent for this purpose during 1997-98; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the doubling work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (c) The project is already included in the budget with the proviso that work will be started after obtaining the requisite clearances. Action in this regard has been initiated.

**Extension of Rail Line in Delhi Under  
Metro Rail Project**

2401. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:  
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced the extension of Railway line in and around Delhi under the Metro Rail Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with funds earmarked therefor; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The proposed Delhi MRT System is not an extension of the existing Railway network. The Union Cabinet accorded investment approval to the implementation of Delhi Mass Rapid Transit System on September 17, 1996. The System proposes to cover a route length of 55.3 Km. Including 11.0 Km underground and 44.3 Km. Elevated/surface rail corridors. The total estimated cost of the project (at April 1996 prices) is Rs. 4860 crore. The project is proposed to be financed by budgetary support from Govt. of India and Govt. of NCT of Delhi (to the extent of 30 per cent of cost of the project), soft loan assistance from OECF (Japan) to cover 56 per cent of total cost of the project property development to cover 8 per cent of total cost of the project) and subordinate debt (to cover 6 per cent of total cost of the project). For implementation of Delhi MRTS Project, a Company, namely Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Ltd., with equity participation in the ratio of 50:50 by Govt. of India and Govt. of NCT of Delhi, has been set up.

For implementation of DMRC project, the Govt. of India has released funds as under:—

Rs. 102.8 crore towards equity of DMRC Ltd.

Rs. 50 crore towards cost of land acquisition for the project.

Rs. 20 crore towards pass through assistance.

Preliminary work on the project has already begun and the project is scheduled to be completed by March 2005.

**Fleet Expansion Plan for AI**

2402. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:  
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have okeyed a fleet expansion plan for Air India; and

(b) if so, number and type of aircraft to be procured alongwith the total cost of each of the planes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Expansion/renewal of fleet by the airline is a continuing exercise and depends on the resources of the airline, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type, viability of operations on various sectors/routes etc.

**Supply of Improved Tool-Kits**

2403. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADODA MANDLIK:  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts where centrally sponsored scheme "Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans" (SITRA) has been implemented so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of beneficiaries under the scheme in each State during the scheme in each State during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be extended to all the districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Details showing the number of districts covered under the scheme of "Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans" (SITRA), State-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Details showing the number of beneficiaries, State-wise, during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The scheme has been extended to all the districts, having rural areas, of the country since 1995-96. It is for the State Governments to decide regarding the implementation of the scheme in a particular district depending on the local conditions.

**Statement-I**

S.No.	State/UTs	No. Of DROA Covered
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	22
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13
3	Assam	23
4	Bihar	55
5	Goa	2

1	2	3
6	Gujarat	19
7	Haryana	17
8	Himachal Pradesh	12
9	Jammu & Kashmir	14
10	Karnataka	20
11	Kerala	14
12	Madhya Pradesh	45
13	Maharashtra	29
14	Manipur	8
15	Meghalaya	7
16	Mizoram	3
17	Nagaland	7
18	Orissa	30
19	Punjab	17
20	Rajasthan	31
21	Sikkim	4
22	Tamil Nadu	24
23	Tripura	4
24	Uttar Pradesh	68
25	West Bengal	18
26	A&N Island	2
27	D&N Haveli	1
28	Daman & Diu	1
29	Lakshadweep	1
30	Pondicherry	1
All India		512

**Statement-II**

S.No.	State/UT	No. Of Beneficiaries	
		1996-97 (In Numbers)	1997-98 (In Numbers)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	33350	23784
2	Arunachal Pradesh	528	793
3	Assam	6718	2724
4	Bihar	5671	1495
5	Goa	N.R.	274
6	Gujarat	6071	4998
7	Haryana	3226	4134
8	Himachal Pradesh	2598	1598
9	Jammu & Kashmir	N.R.	N.R.
10	Karnataka	6867	14524
11	Kerala	5288	2278
12	Madhya Pradesh	N.R.	18073
13	Maharashtra	19799	1007
14	Manipur	725	746
15	Meghalaya	500	231
16	Mizoram	641	501
17	Nagaland	1050	1138
18	Orissa	14453	7067
19	Punjab	6956	1026
20	Rajasthan	9375	10513

1	2	3	4
21	Sikkim	911	124
22	Tamil Nadu	766	721
23	Tripura	458	430
24	Uttar Pradesh	35281	33444
25	West Bengal	4813	10046
26	A&N Island	55	254
27	D&N Haveli	144	89
28	Daman & Diu	199	107
29	Lakshadweep	N.R.	70
30	Pondicherry	350	201
Total		166791	142390

\* Provisional

N.R. : Not Reported by State Govt.

**Expansion of Vijayawada Airport**

2404. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed the expansion of Vijayawada Airport to facilitate landing of Boeing Aircraft;

(b) if so, the cost of the project along with the share of the Centre and the State Governments;

(c) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has already released its share and also made the land available as well;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in the proposed expansion work;

(e) whether the Indian Airlines is proposing to start air service by small aircrafts on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Tirupati-Chennai sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Project is estimated to cost Rs. 16.29 crores and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to provide an interest-free loan of Rs. 8 crores to Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(c) The State Government has released the first instalment of Rs. 4 crores to AAI and the balance amount will be paid in two equal instalments during 1998-99. The State Government has also handed over 79.29 acres of land to AAI for the purpose.

(d) The work of strengthening of runway, construction of apron, taxi track, and shoulders of phase-I was awarded on 28.11.97 after receiving the first instalment of loan. The work is in progress.

(e) and (f) At present, Indian Airlines do not have a sufficiently large fleet of small aircraft. Indian Airlines have plans to acquire aircraft, of smaller capacity.

#### Urban Accelerated Water Supply Scheme

2405. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Urban Accelerated Water Supply Schemes submitted by the various State Governments pending with the Union Government for approval, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in regard thereto, Scheme-wise; and

(c) the time by which these Schemes are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) 157 schemes proposed by various State Govts. Under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 census have not been approved by the Union Government, so far, due to lack of budgetary resources. State-wise list of such schemes is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Approval of the schemes under the AUWSP would depend upon the availability of funds for the same, under the Central Plan, for the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.

#### Statement

*Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme -  
Statement Showing State-wise Number of  
Schemes which have not been approved  
by the Union Government*

S.No.	Name of State	No. Of Schemes
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	11
2	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	3
4	Bihar	5
5	Goa	—
6	Gujarat	—
7	Haryana	3
8	Himachal Pradesh	11
9	Jammu & Kashmir	12
10	Karnataka	4
11	Kerala	—
12	Madhya Pradesh	44
13	Maharashtra	19
14	Manipur	4
15	Meghalaya	—
16	Mizoram	3
17	Nagaland	3
18	Orissa	16
19	Punjab	4
20	Rajasthan	7

1	2	3
21	Sikkim	1
22	Tamil Nadu	2
23	Tripura	1
24	Uttar pradesh	4
25	West Bengal	—
26	A&N Island	—
27	Chandigarh	—
28	D&N Haveli	—
29	Daman & Diu	—
30	Delhi	—
31	Lakshadweep	—
32	Pondicherry	—
Total		157

#### Construction in Lutyen's Zone

2406. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of additional constructions which took place in the bungalows in Lutyen's zone, New Delhi so far at the expenses of the Government alongwith the reasons for flouting no construction orders in the said zone;

(b) the number of additional rooms constructed so far in the bungalows occupied by the Ministers and the Members of Parliament;

(c) whether permission is granted to construct additional rooms within the compound area on the ground floor in other Government houses at the expense of the resident himself;

(d) if not, the reasons for adopting different policies in the matter; and

(e) the number of such single rooms constructed in Government colonies in New Delhi and the number out of them demolished by the Government so far alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATERYA): (a) No additional construction has been made by this Ministry in bungalows situated in Lutyen's Zone in violation of the guidelines approved by the Prime Minister's Office and circulated by the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment vide their O.M. No. 11011/2/95-WI dated 12.4.96.

(b) Details of additional temporary/semi permanent constructions undertaken by CPWD in Ministers & MPs bungalows since 12.4.96 is as under:—

	Description of Constructions	Ministers	M.Ps
1.	Santry Post/ Frisking Shed	36 Nos.	35 Nos.
2.	Guard Rooms	52 Nos.	28 Nos.
3.	Office Rooms	8 Nos.	—

The above constructions has been done as per guidelines issued by the Govt. In addition, 8 ex-Ministers & Ministers, 11 MPs & ex-MPs and 4 others have themselves constructed additional structures in their allotted accommodation without involving the CPWD, as shown in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Different policies have not been adopted.

(e) As given above in reply to part (b) Action has been started by CPWD/Directorate of Estates as per rules. However, no demolition has been carried out so far.

**Statement***List Showing the Bungalows where some structures have been constructed by occupant at their own*

Sl. No.	Bungalow/Flat No.	Description of Construction	Present Allottee	Name of the Allottee in whose Time the Unauthorised Construction was detected
1	2	3	4	5

## UNDER PARLIAMENT WORKS DIVISION NO. I

1	11, Ashoka Road	One room	BJP Office	BJP Office
2	22, Janpath	One room in the lawn	Shri Lalit Oraon, Ex-MP	Shri Lalit Oraon, Ex-Mp.
3	5, Tughlak Lane	Two shed & temporary office block.	Shri Sunnder Singh, MP	Shri Sunnder singh, MP
4	20, Canning Lane	Three rooms & one Car shed	Sh. K.S. Rao, MP	Sh. Madhav Rao Scindia, MP
5	16-AB, Mathura Rd.	One Addl. Room at ground & 1st floor at the rear side of the bungalow	Sh. Suresh Keshwani, MP	Sh. Suresh Keshwani, MP
6	3, M.L.N. Marg	One temporary shed	Sh. Jayant K. Malhotra, MP	Sh. Jayat K. Malhotra, MP
7	16-C, Ferozeshah, Ed	One temporary shed	Sh. Maulana O.K. Azmi, MP	Sh. Maulana O.K. Azmi, MP

## UNDER PARLIAMENT WORKS DIVISION NO. III

1	4, Safdarjung Lane	One Room	Smt. Veena Verma, MP	Smt. Veena Verma, MP
2	20, Madhadev Road	One room	Sh. Raj Babbar, MP	Sh. Raj Babbar, MP
3	14, Talkatora Rd.	One room	Sh. M.S. Bitta	Sh. M.s. Bitta
4	6, G.R.C. Road	One room	Sh. Sharad Pawar, MP	Sh. Sharad Pawar, MP
5	2, Duplex Lane	One room	Sh. Mahendra Prasad, Ex-MP	Sh. Mahendra Prasad, MP



*List showing the Bungalows where some structures have been constructed by occupant themselves at their own*

Sl. No.	Bungalow No.	Type of Structure	Present Allottee	Allottees During Whose Tenure This construction detected
1.	6. Raisina Rd.	3 rooms in the back lawn (30 Sq.m.)	Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi	Sh. Satpal Ji Maharaj
2.	12. Janpath	One toilet attached to Office block	Sh. Ramvilas Paswan	sh. Ramvilas Paswan
3.	23. S.J. Rd.	A. One room behind Off. Blk. b. One small room on the side of kitchen.	Sh. Shankar Dayal Sharma	Sh. Shankar Dayal Sharma
4.	1. Talkatora Rd.	Two roomed Office Block	Sh. Satya Narayan Jatiya	Sh. Satya Narayan jatiya
5.	5. B.D. Marg	a. One big hall in front lawn b. One small room in front of office block	Sh. Nitesh Kumar	sh. Nitesh Kumar
6.	4. Lodhi Estate	Two roomed office block	Sh. Dalit Ezilmalai	Sh. Dalit Ezilmalai
7.	9. Teenmurti Lane	Extension of dinning room	Sh. Dalip Ray	Sh. Dalip Ray
8.	8. S.J. Lane	Three roomed office block	Sh. K.Purkayashtha	Sh. K. Purkayashtha
9.	9. K.M. Marg	a. Swimming Pool (49.6 Sqm) b. One attached room (24 Sqm)	Sh. K. Kuranakaran	Sh. K. Kuranakaran
10.	35. Lodhi Estate	One rest room made by SPG (35.69 Sqm)	Smt. Priyanka Gandhi	Smt. Priyanka Gandhi
11.	2. Kushak road	Covering of verandah of servant quarters	Sh. V.K. Shunglu CAG	Sh. V.K. Shunglu CAG

[Translation]

### Construction of Retiring Rooms

2407. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of retiring rooms, sleepers and rest rooms for the convenience of growing Railway passengers;

(b) if so, the time by which the aforesaid work is proposed to be started at Jhansi, Lalitpur, Agra, Gwalior and Bhopal stations of Central Railway and Kanpur and Lucknow stations of Northern Railway;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow private parties for construction work of such retiring rooms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) provision of retiring rooms is a continuous process.

(b) Retiring Rooms are already available at these stations.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

### Mysore Airport

2408. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought clearance for giving Mysore Airport to private sector for development and operation; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Production of Gold**

2409. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new gold reserve areas has been discovered during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the production of gold during 1997-98 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has established gold ore reserves in the following areas during 1994-97.

**KARNATAKA:** Hira Buddini (Raichur district), Chinmulgund and Nagavi (Dharwar district), aijanash west and G.R. Halli South Block (Chitradurga district).

**ANDHRA PRADESH:** Dona Temple (Kurnool district) and Kudithanapale (district).

**RAJASTHAN:** Anandpuri-Bhukia (Banswara district).

**MADHYA PRADESH:** Gurharpahar West (Sidhi district).

**MAHARASHTRA:** Parsori West Block and Kitari Block (Nagpur district).

**KERALA:** Kappil (Malappuram district).

(c) production of gold in the country for the year 1997-98 is 2636 Kg.

#### **Upgradation of Calicut Airport**

2410. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare any more Airports as International Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether steps have been taken to upgrade the facilities at Calicut Airport in view of the International flights landing there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per the Policy on Airport Infrastructure declared in December, 1997 airports at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Amritsar and Guwahati can be added to the list of international airports as and when the facilities are upgraded to the desired level.

(c) AAI has commissioned a separate international terminal block having all modern facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 6 crores to cater to the needs of 200 incoming and 200 outgoing international passengers at a time. The old terminal building has been modified to serve as a temporary cargo complex at the cost of Rs. 80.68 lakhs. AAI has taken up the work of strengthening and extension of existing runway towards the eastern side at an estimated cost of Rs. 102.80 crores for operation of AB-300 type of aircraft. The work is expected to be completed by January, 2000.

#### **Night Flight of Alliance Air**

2411. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Alliance Air has decided to introduce a night flight between Delhi and Bangalore and vice-versa;

(b) if so, whether the Bangalore Airport authorities have agreed to the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Alliance Air had plans to operate night flights to Bangalore. The proposal has, however, been deferred due to operational constraints.

#### **Quota of Wagons for Transportation of Matches and Fire Crackers**

2412. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has given any concession for transporting of handmade matches and fire crackers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to allot quota of wagons for transporting of handmade matches and fire crackers from Sivakasi - Kovilpatti - Virudhu Nagar to Northern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, the demands are being met in full.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Procurement of Wagons**

2413. SHRI A. C. JOS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total number of wagons procured under "Own Your Wagon Scheme" by the railways during each of the last three years and the current financial year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): The information is furnished below:

Year	No. Of wagons procured (in terms of four wheeler units)
1995-96	2625
1996-97	5992.5
1997-98	3015
1998-99 (upto April-98)	135

[Translation]

#### **Gauge Conversion of Ranchi-Lohardaga Rail Line**

2414. SHRI INDRA NATH BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to convert the Ranchi-Lohardaga metro gauge railway line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the funds provided therefor during the current financial year; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 10 crores.

(c) The preliminary work has already commenced.

[English]

#### **Defence Laboratories**

2415. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's defence laboratories are likely to increase inter-action with the universities soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any schemes in this regard are being worked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Towards building up technological competence. Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has partnership with more than 40 Indian academic institutions and universities. This partnership will be further extended to many more institutions with a view to undertake joint advanced research in areas applicable to defence technology.

(c) and (d) DRDO has two approaches for undertaking joint R&D work with academic institutions and universities;

(i) Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)

(ii) Contracts for development projects.

Funding for such R&D projects is done through DRDO's Research & Training (R&T) Scheme and Grants-in-Aid Scheme and also through major R&D programmes. In addition, such projects are also sponsored through four research boards in the areas of Aeronautics, Naval R&D, Armaments and Life Sciences. These boards award focused projects in the frontier areas of technologies in their respective fields.

[*Translation*]**Project cleared under CAPART**

2416. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:  
PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects cleared in the country since launching of CAPART till date, State-wise;

(b) the location-wise names of those agencies which have been provided financial assistance through CAPART; and

(c) the amount sanctioned allocated and released to each of these agencies, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Details of the project cleared by CAPART in the country since launching and till 31.05.1998 are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) State-wise details of the voluntary organisations assisted by CAPART during the current year (1998-99) and the amount sanctioned and released to them are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Stateemnt-II**

*Statewise Projects Cleared by CAPART  
Since Launching Till 31.5.1998*

S. No.	Name of the State	Total No. Of Projects Cleared since launching of CAPART till 31.5.98
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	1947
2	Arunachal Pradesh	11
3.	Assam	203
4	Bihar	2217
5.	Chandigarh	117
6.	Delhi	483

1	2	3
7.	Goa	3
8.	Gujarat	577
9.	Haryana	305
10.	Himachal Pradesh	196
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	50
12	Karnataka	582
13	Kerala	537
14	Madhya Pradesh	424
15.	Maharashtra	699
16.	Manipur	508
17.	Meghalaya	13
18.	Mizoram	52
19.	Nagaland	37
20.	Orissa	880
21	Pondicherry	8
22.	Punjab	25
23.	Rajasthan	553
24.	Sikkim	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	1330
26.	Tripura	8
27.	Uttar pradesh	3424
28.	West Bengal	2706
Total		17796

Note:— Provisional

**Statement-II****Statewise Details of Voluntary Agencies Assisted  
by CAPART in Current Year (1998-99)**

## ANDHRA PRADESH

S.No.	Name and Address of the Agency	Sanctioned Amount	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Centre for Rural Action, 4th Road, Block Anantapur, Distt. Anantapur (A.P.)	15,40,000	—
2.	Sri Parmeshwari Educational Society, Indira Nagar, KG Road, Atmakur Distt. Kurnool (A.P.)	34,00,000	—
3.	Integrated Rural Development Organisation, D.No. 2/62, Happy Home, Opp. Engineering College Main Gate, Anantapur-515 002 (A.P.)	1,94,425	—
4.	Kanakadurga Mahila Mandali Papireddipalli, Sree Rangarajupalli Post, Parigi Mandal, Anantapur Distt. A.P.	3,29,700	—
5.	Prasanthi Mahila Mandali, D.No. 3/55, Vidyut Nagar, Sukkaraya Samudram (P&M) Bukkaraya Sanduram, Anantapur Distt. A.P.	3,25,446	—
6.	Ramasagaram Rural Integrated Education and Development Society, Ramasagram Village, Via Krishnapuram, Bukkapatnam Mandal, Anantapur Distt. A.P.	2,23,335	—
7.	Malleswari Mahila Mandali, D.No. 6/11, H2, Satya Deva Nagar, By Pass Road, Antapur-515 004 (A.P.)	2,20,000	—
8.	Jhansee Lakshmi Bai Mahila Mandali, D.No. 216, hamali Colony, Anantapur-515 001 Anantapur Distt. (A.P.)	1,65,000	—
9.	Ramash & Krishna Samskruthika Sangam, R.P.G.T. Road, Fatnam Complex, Hindpur. Anantapur Distt. (A.P.)	2,75,000	—

1	2	3	4
10.	Adarsh Community Development Trust, D.No. 11/295, Aravinda Nagar, Anantapur Distt. (A.P.)	2,20,000	—
11.	The Bharat Rural Economic Development Society Jesus Nagar, Behind Ambedkar Bhavan, Anantapur Distt. (A.P.)	2,20,000	—
12.	Patel Youth Club, Kodekonda, Chilamathur (M), Antapur	2,64,000	—
13.	Chanikya Rural Development Service Society, D.No. 15/134, Opp. Police Station, Madakasira, Anantapur Distt. (A.P.)	2,20,000	—
14.	Elahi Mahila Mandali, D.No. 12/321-B, Ashok Nagar, Anantapur-515 001 (A.P.)	2,20,000	—
15.	Rajiv Yuvajana Sangham, Opp. Ajanta Talkries, By Pass Road, Kadiri -515 591, Anantapur Distt. (A.P.)	2,20,000	—
16.	Sri Jhansi Lakshmi Mahila Mandali, H.No. 1/56, Beri Street, Tirupati-517 501 (A.P.)	3,30,000	—
17.	Shekinath Ministries of India, K.B. Layout, Tirupati-517 507 (A.P.)	1,10,000	—
18.	Rural Institute for People's Enlightenment, Opp. Police Station, Puthalapattu-517 124, Chittoor Distt. (A.P.)	2,79,250	—
19.	Indira Mahila Mandali 6-1-IL3, Journalist Colony, Tirupati, Distt. Chittoor (A.P.)	4,15,625	—
20.	Sri Jagjeevan Ram Harijan Development Society, Nagaram-533 247, Rajnolu (M), East Godavari Distt. (A.P.)	4,07,000	—
21.	Sanjay Gandhi Memoriaal Orphange & Boarding Home, Kanchara Lane, Dowlatswaram-533 125, Rajahmundry Rural (M) East Godavari Distt. A.P.	4,07,000	—

1	2	3	4
22.	Bethesda Rural Economical Association For Rural Development, H.No. 3-5-15, Parkasam Road, Tuni-533 401, East Godavari Distt. A.P.	3,43,288	—
23.	SAHARA 2-3-703/K/1 (911), Beside Suritha Aparatments, Tirumala Nagar, Amberpet, Hyderabad-500 013 (A.P.)	3,96,000	—
24.	Centre for Action Research and Peoples Development, 8-3-228/267, Rahmatnagar Hyderabad, A.P. 500 045	1,67,200	—
25.	Society For Rural Development & Rehabilitation, 9-122, H.M.T. Nagar, Nacharam, Hyderabad, A.P. 500 507	3,96,000	—
26.	Pragathi Mahila Samajam Flat No. 610, Kushal Towers, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, A.P.	2,20,990	—
27.	Rural Organisation For Social Education, 1-6-212/65/07/35, Gangaputra Colony, Parsigutta, Hyderabad-500 048, A.P.	3,41,748	—
28.	Grace Evangelical Ministries (GEM) H.No. 2-15/1, Tirumala Nagar Colony, Opp. APHB Colony, Moula Ali, Hyderabad	2,77,200	—
29.	Dangoria Charitable Trust 1-7-1074, Musheerabad, Hyderabad-500 020 (A.P.)	2,20,000	—
30.	Sri Sairam Seva Sangam, Annaram, Manakondur (M), Via Annaram, Karimnagar Distt. (A.P.)	3,96,000	—
31.	Mulkanoor Handicapped Youth Society, Mulkanoor-505 471, Bheemadevarapally (M) Karimnagar Distt. A.P.	3,96,000	—

1	2	3	4
32.	Bapuji Integrated Rural Development Society, Gaddamanugu (V), G. Konduru Post & mandal), Krishna Distt. A.P.	4,34,500	—
33.	District Christian Social Welfare Project Association, H.No. 40-528, R.S. Road, Kurnool-518 004, A.P.	4,85,000	—
34.	Sunshine Educational Society, Durga Road, Kothur, Shadnagr. Tq. Mahaboobnagar Distt. A.P.	2,65,600	1,74,300
35.	Social Awareness For Integrated Development (SAID) Gundlapalli (V), Dindi (M), Nalgonda Distt. (A.P.)	1,65,000	—
36.	Renuka Mahila Mandali 5-45, Ramanagar Colony, Kesarajupalli (P), Nalgonda-508 001 A.P.	4,07,000	—
37.	Society For Health Agriculture & Rural Education H.No. 3-10-82/1, Near Housing Board, Bhongir, Nalgonda Distt. A.P. 508 116	3,30,000	—
38.	Need Effective Welfare Society, Kommanteru Vill. & Post Gudur Mandal, Nellore Distt. A.P.	4,51,300	—
39.	Dalit Welfare Association Vetapalem, Prakasam Distt. A.P.-523 187	2,51,975	—
40.	Cheepurupalli Taluka Economically Backward Welfare Society, Reddypeta, Cheepurupalli (M), Vizianagram Distt. A.P.	3,80,600	—
41.	Lions Family Welfare Planning Trust, Srinivasa Nursing Home, Gajapathi Nagaram, Vizianagram Distt. A.P.-536 270	2,15,600	—
42.	Full Gospel Ministry and humanity Orphanage Home, Premalayam, D No. 3-292, Nadupallikota, West Godavari Distt. A.P.	4,07,000	—



1	2	3	4
43.	Paschima Godavari Zilla Manava Seva Samajam 15-71, Near Srinivas Rice Mill, Attili, West godavari Distt. A.P.	4,07,000	—
44.	Ours Lady's Lay Apostle Society, Teachers Colony, K. Savaram-534 216, Undrajavaram (M) West Godavari Distt. A.P.	2,20,000	—
45.	Jyothi Educational Society, Peravali-534 328, West Godavari Distt. A.P.	4,07,000	—
46.	St. Luke Social Organisation, 14-9-6/1, Pension Lane, Eluru, West Godavari Distt. A.P. 534 005	1,76,000	—
47.	Karuna Mahila Samksema Mandali, Navabapalem-534 146, Tadepalligudem (M), West Godavari Distt. A.P.	3,82,580	—

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

1.	Abotani Educational & Cultural Society Upper Subansiri, Arunachal Pradesh	4,40,000	—
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**ASSAM**

1.	ACCORD, Barpeta, Assam	1,60,400	—
2.	Total Rural Development Project Nalbari, Assam	4,60,431	—

**BIHAR**

1.	Gram Bharati (Sarvodaya Ashram) P.O. Simultala-811 316, Distt. Jamui (Bihar)	2,00,000	—
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**DELHI**

1.	Society for Economic and Social Studies (Centre for Technology & Development) 2nd Floor. L.S.C.J. Block. Saket, New Delhi-110017	6,32,500	—
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1	2	3	4
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**HARYANA**

1	Haryana Institute of Rural development, Nilokheri, Distt. Karnal (Haryana)	60,000	—
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**KARNATAKA**

1	Rajajinagar Yeshaswani mahila mandali No. 2713, 11th 'A' Main 'D' Block, II Stage, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-10, Karnataka	2,22,200	—
2.	Shamala Vidya Vardak Singh Nagawara, ARBIC College, PO Bangalore-560 045 Karnataka	4,70,175	—
3.	Jagajyothi Mahila Seva Samaja No. 25, 1st Cross, devaraj Urs Nagar, Old Guddahalli, Bangalore-560 026, Karnataka	27,500	—
4.	Shwetha Mahila Mandali, Bavoor, Muddebhahala Tq. Bijapur Distt. Karnataka	1,10,000	—
5.	Chethana Vidya Samsthe, D.No. 904-A, 2nd Stage, Shivakumar Swamy Nagar, Devangree-577 005, Chitradurga Distt. Karnataka	1,16,600	—
6.	Community Action For Rural Development 657, Anjaneya Layout, Davangere, Chitradurga Distt. Karnataka-577 004	4,07,000	—
7.	Sri Neelakantheshwara Rural Development Society C/o. Kere Rudrana, L.B. Nagar, Molakalmuru, Chitradurga Distt. Karnataka-577 535	3,81,000	—
8.	Bapuji Vidya Samsthe Gajendragad-582 114, Dharwad Distt. Karnataka	27,500	—

1	2	3	4
9.	Weaker Education & Welfare Society Behind Sharada Talkies, Koppal-583 231, Raichur Distt. Karnataka	3,85,000	—
10.	Society For the People Health Education And Economical Development, Kodagadala-572 132, Madhugiri Tq. Tumkur Distt. Karnataka	2,13,400	—
11.	Sri Sathyajothi Rural development Trust Main Road, Koratagere, Tumkur Distt. Karnataka	72,600	—
<b>KERALA</b>			
1.	Solidarity Movement of India Central Committee, Kanji Kuzhy PO Idukki Distt. Kerala-685 602	2,86,000	—
2.	Annakara Vikasana Sangham Anakkara PO-685 512 Idukki distt. Kerala	4,07,000	—
3.	Grama Vikasana Samithi pavurnba PO Karungapally, Kollam Distt. Kerala	2,86,000	—
4.	Jawaharlal Memorial Social Welfare Public Co-Operation Centre, Tholayolaparambu Po Viakom Tq Kottayam Distt. Kerala	2,20,000	—
5.	Priyadarsini Mahila Samajam Kottavila, Mundela PO Vellanad, Nedumangad, Trivandram Distt. Kerala	1,70,880	—
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>			
1.	Mr. Vinookaley Aproop Nirman, B-4, Pushpagandha Flat, Opp. Ash Mangal Karyalaya, Dharampeth, Nagpur-440 010, Maharashtra	3,60,000	1,80,000
<b>MANIPUR</b>			
1.	T. Lailoiphai Youths Development Organisation, Churachandpur, Manipur c	78,000	—

1	2	3	4
2.	Youths Voluntary Organisation Imphal, Manipur	1,10,000	—
3.	Good Samaritan Service Association, Senapati, Manipur	2,90,000	—
<b>ORISSA</b>			
1.	Jeevan Jyoti Club For Welfare & Rural Development, At. Mahadia, PO, Belapada, Distt. Dhenkenal (Orissa)	2,56,568	—
2.	Nav Jyoti Social Organisation At. Chandan Bazar, (Chruch Lane) PO Bazuchowk, Distt. DhenknaI (Orissa)	56,000	—
3.	Neulopoi Yuvak Sangha At/O Neulopoi, Via Mahimagadi, Distt. Dhenkanal (Orissa)	2,20,000	—
4.	Santi sewa Parishad At/PO Naubag, Via, Rasol, -759 021, Distt. Dhenkanal (Orissa)	2,20,000	—
5.	Aruna Uday Jubak Sangha At/PO Rajpur, Via Jakkia, Distt. Khurda, (Orissa)	3,30,000	—
6.	Indo-National Economic foundation (INCEF) A/8, Ashok Nagar, BBSR-751-010, Distt. Khurda Orissa	3,01,400	—
7.	National Institute of Human Resources Development, Plot No. 800, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswer, Distt. Khurda, Orissa	2,66,000	—
8.	Society For the Agrieved & Vul. Ea. Save, Near Bidya Bhavan Printing Press, PO Phulbani, Distt. Phulbani (Orissa)	1,10,000	—
9.	PRAGATI PO No. 32, Maushima Lane, Distt. Puri (Orissa)	2,20,000	—
10.	Samaj Bikash Parishad, At. Tengramari, PO Jayarampur-756 038, Distt. Balasore (Orissa)	1,84,400	—

1	2	3	4
11.	Women Origanisation For Rural Development, At. Khajuria, PO Akul-758076, Distt. Keonjhar	53,640	—
12.	EKAKA, Plot No. EB-188, Baragarh Brit Colony, Bhubaneswer-751 018, Distt. Khurda (Orissa)	2,19,300	—
13.	Vikas Parishad At/PO Gandhi Nagar, Distt. Koraput (Orissa)	78,700	—
14.	Bharavi Club At Kurumpada, PO Hadapada Khurda (Orissa)	3,85,000	—
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>			
1.	Mr. Bunker Roy, SWRC, Tilonia, Via Madanganj, Distt. Ajmer (Raj.)	3,60,000	—
<b>SIKKIM</b>			
1.	Social Work & Research Centre, Upper Subansiri, Sikkim	2,62,500	—
<b>TAMILNADU</b>			
1.	Shri AMM Murugappa Chettiar Research Centre (MCRC), Tharamani-600 113, Chennai	12,50,000	—
2.	Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari-629 702 (TN)	6,32,500	—
3.	Nehru Rural Development Society No. 1/10, KS Garden, Rahimanpetai, Kamma Maylur TS Distt. (TN)	14,17,500	—
4.	Gramina Valarchi Sangam, Pukkathurai, Pukkathurai Post, Venpakkam, Maduranatakam Tq. Kancheepuram Distt. TN	2,44,250	—
5.	Rural Education Development Society No. 1A, Brahmin Street, Old Mampakkam & Post, Madurantakam Tq. Kancheepuram Distt. T.N.	4,85,000	—

1	2	3	4
6.	Vivekananda Kendra Vivekanandapuram, Kanyakumari, Agasteeswaram, Kanyakumari Distt. Tamil Nadu	2,20,000	—
7	Women Educational Development Organisation Teachers Colony, New Mambakkam Post, Madurantakam Tk. Chengalpattu, MGR Distt. (T.N.)	4,34,500	—
8.	Grama Mahalir Nalam Kakkum Samooka Nala Narpani Mandram, No. 1, Bharna Colony, Nondikovil Pattu, Melur, PO, Madurai Distt. (T.N.)	1,92,360	—
9	Small Farmers Marginal Farmers And Cultivating Tenants Development Society (SMACUDS) 13-A, Adimoola Pillai St. Nadupet, Gudiyattam-632602, N.A.A. Distt. (T.N.)	4,07,000	—
10	BLEES 32, MGR Nagar, Cuddalore-707 001	3,30,000	—
<b>TRIPURA</b>			
1	Tripura Adibashi Mahila Samity West Tripura, Tripura	4,29,950	—
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>			
1	Sarvodaya Seva Sansthan, Ram Garh Road, Lalalpur, Distt. Ambedkar Nagar (U.P.)	13,64,853	—
2	Pinki gramdyog Sanstha, Vill. Bhikhipur Bazar, Distt. Ambedkar Nagar (U.P.)	10,09,257	—
3	Paryavaran Avam Gramin Vikas Sansthan. Vill. Kiratpur, PO Azaempur, Distt. Bijnour (U.P.)	1,17,150	—
4	Jan Kalyan Samiti 201, Kalyan Samiti Distt. Muzaffarnagar (U.P.)	13,64,853	—

1	2	3	4
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>			
1.	Alinan Ramakrishna Vivekananda Yuva Sangha, At & PO Alina, PS Tamluk, Distt. Midnapore (W.B.)	5,00,000	—
2.	Vivekananda Regional Rural Development Organisation, 63, K.M. Roychowdhury Road, Chakroborty Para, Baruipur, South Parganas (W.B.)	9,85,850	—
3.	Kalyachak Netaji Subhas Sangha, Midnapore (W.B.)	9,72,857	—
4.	Nabin sangha, Vill. PO Baneshwarpur, Moraghet, South 24 Parganas (W.B.)	14,17,500	—
5.	Barabasudepur Dash Pran Pragati Sangha, At Barabasudepur, Distt. Midnapore (W.B.)	10,68,900	—
6.	Baradrone Social Welfare Association, 24 Pargans (W.B.)	6,80,000	—
7.	Bagmari Progressive Youths Association, 17, Bagmari Lane, CIT Building, BRS-10, Distt. Calcutta (W.B.)	26,000	—
8.	Garib Nath Ashram, 485/D, RLY Quarter, Radhabelly Road, Naihati-743 165, 24 Prgs (N) W.B.	49,160	—
9.	Haldarhat Boys Club, At/PO Uttar Kusum, 24 Prgs(S)	3,83,000	—
10.	Indian people's Welfare Society, 30/3-A, N.S. Dutta Road 711 101, Distt. Howrah (WB)	2,20,150	—
11.	Jirakpur Sister Nivedita Seva Mission, At Jirakpur, PO Bsirhat Rly. Station, 24 Prgs. (N) (WB)	1,72,200	—
12.	Keyakoha Taj Club, At/PO Mahesdari, 24 Prgs. (S)	2,32,250	—
13.	SEVAVARTA, PO Sargachi Ashram-742 134, Murshidabad (WB)	2,95,533	—
14.	Sundarban Agro-Eco & Socio Educational, At. Helicoptemore, PO Dhalirbati, 24 Prgs. (S) WB	26,000	—
15.	Yuva Unnayan Seva Samiti, At/Po Tehata, PS Uluberta, Distt. Howrah (WB)	1,33,500	—

Note: Provisional

*[English]***Flight between Leh-Jammu-Delhi Sector**

2417. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights between Delhi and Leh and between Jammu and Leg and vice versa;

(b) whether the flights are not in proportionate to the traffic on these sectors particularly in winter; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Alliance air is operating four regular flights per week on Delhi-Leh sector and two flights per week on Jammu-Leh sector and Vice-Versa. Besides, it is also operating three additional flights per week on Delhi-Leh sector from 1.6.98 to 30.6.98.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines provides service between Delhi and Leh commensurate with the traffic demand from time to time. Keeping in view the demand during the tourist season, Indian Airlines plans to operate 7A-320 flights per week from 1st July to 31st August, 1998 and 3 A-320 flights per week from 1st September to 14th September, 1998 between Delhi and Leh.

**Sanitation Programme**

2418. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sanitation facilities provided under Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) Scheme in Rural areas as on date, State-wise:

(b) whether any grants under the Centrally sponsored rural sanitation programmes has been released during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to provide sanitation facilities to the entire rural population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (d) The details of sanitation facilities provided under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) are given below:—

- \* Construction of individual sanitary latrines for households below poverty line.
- \* Conversion of dry latrines into low cost sanitary latrines.
- \* Construction of exclusive village sanitary complexes for women.
- \* Setting up of sanitary marts.
- \* Total sanitation of villages.
- \* Intensive campaign for awareness generation and health education.

Details showing funds released, State-wise under the CRSP during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in the enclosed Statement.

In order to move towards full sanitary coverage, the Ministry has initiated steps to make necessary policy changes, in consultation with various sectoral agencies and State Governments, with special emphasis on the creation of demand for sanitation services, increased awareness generation, a higher degree of beneficiary involvement and the institution of an alternate delivery mechanism through rural sanitary marts and production centres.



**Statement****Statement Showing Funds Released Under Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)  
During 1997-98 and 1998-99**

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.N.	State/UT	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1021.320	214.040
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000
3.	Assam	0.000	0.000
4.	Bihar	0.000	0.000
5.	Goa	3.750	0.000
6.	Gujarat	215.000	66.660
7.	Haryana	52.420	0.000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	50.540	33.690
9.	J&K	0.000	0.000
10.	Karnataka	1014.550	173.480
11.	Kerala	591.470	133.540
12.	Madhya Pradesh	506.860	250.230
13.	Maharashtra	1285.380	273.940
14.	Manipur	15.000	10.000
15.	Meghalaya	15.910	0.000
16.	Mizoram	4.680	0.000
17.	Nagaland	0.000	0.000
18.	Orissa	405.540	0.000

1	2	3	4
19	Punjab	0.000	0.000
20.	Rajasthan	193.760	0.000
21.	Sikkim	23.130	3.120
22.	Tamilnadu	925.930	226.520
23.	Tripura	48.670	0.000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2641.990	531.650
25.	West Bengal	304.210	0.00
26.	D&N Hev.	0.000	0.000
27	A&N Island	0.000	0.000
28.	L. Dweep	2.500	0.000
29	Pondicherry	2.500	1.660
30	Delhi	0.000	0.000
31.	Daman & Div	2.500	0.000
32.	Chandigarh	0.000	0.000
Total		9267.610	1918.540

#### Delegation from Australia

2419. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation from Australia led by the Australian Vice-Chairman of the defence Staff, had visited New Delhi to have talks for foreign defence ties between India and Australia; and

(b) if so, the details of the talks and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) vice Admiral C.A. Barrie, Australian vice-Chief of Defence forces, during his visit to India from December 14-18, 1997, proposed a structured bilateral arrangement for a defence dialogue between India and Australia. In view of the fact that Australia's official statements and unilateral actions following India's Nuclear tests on May 11 and 13, 1998 preclude any meaningful cooperation in defence in the foreseeable future, the invitation extended to Defence Secretary for an official visit to Australia has

been declined and the Australian proposal for a structured bilateral defence dialogue between the two countries has been put on indefinite hold by the Government.

#### **Derailement of Ahmedabad-Howrah Express**

2420. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether five bogies of Ahmedabad-Howrah Express fell from Hasdeo bridge in Bilaspur division of South-Eastern Railway on September 14, 1997;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed and injured in this accident;

(c) whether the Inquiry Committee looking into this mishap has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) action taken by the Government in the light of the findings of the Inquiry Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 88 persons lost their lives and 400 sustained injuries.

(c) and (d) Commissioner of Railway Safety/South Eastern Circle has attributed the accident to discontinuity in rail during its repair by Permanent Way Staff on approach of bridge No. 46.

(e) The enquiry report which was received on 06.5.1998, is under examination.

#### **Production of Zinc**

2421. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total tonnes of zinc produced during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the target fixed therefor;

(b) whether there is a wide gap between domestic demand and production of zinc in the country;

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to meet the growing domestic demand; and

(d) the programmes drawn up in that regard till the terminal year of Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) According to the information collected from Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) and Binani Industries Limited (BIL), the total production of zinc metal during the 8th Five Year Plan is 7,00,508 MT against a target of 7,95,250 MT.

(b) The primary producers of the zinc metal are unable to meet the total domestic demand.

(c) and (d) At present, the gap between the domestic demand and primary production of the metal is met through recycling and through imports under Open General Licence (OGL). However, HZL by debottlenecking of their existing smelters at Debari and Visakhapatnam proposes to increase the capacity of zinc metal by 10,000 tonnes each. BIL has plans to increase the zinc metal production capacity from existing 30,000 tonnes per annum to 60,000 tonnes per annum during the 9th Five Year Plan. HZL and BIL have also proposal to set up new green-field plants for zinc production during 9th/10th Five Year Plan.

#### **Request of Foreign Airlines**

2422. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South East and East Asian countries have requested permission to introduce new flights to India;

(b) if so, the details of the representations and the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the domestic Airlines have objected to the grant of such permission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last one year, requests have been received from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and Brunei for additional air traffic rights to/from India. An agreement on an additional air seat capacity of 1000 seats/week and two new points of call for each side was concluded with Indonesia in June, 1997. The request to Malaysia to increase their airline's services to Chennai from six frequencies to seven frequencies has also been agreed

to. The Civil Aviation delegations of India and Singapore also agreed on a package of additional air traffic rights in the last round of bilateral talks held in July, 1997. This package is, however, yet to be approved by the Government. The other pending requests from South East Asian and East Asian countries would require bilateral negotiations at Government level before reaching an agreement.

(c) and (d) The representatives of national carriers are associated in the bilateral negotiations for exchange of traffic rights and the interests of the national carriers are given due regard while finalising the package.

#### **Disposal of Westland Helicopters**

2423. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are disposing of the 19 grounded Westland Helicopters at throw-way prices to scrap dealers in Britain;

(b) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The proposal is under consideration.

*[Translation]*

#### **Laying of New Rail Line Between Barwadhi and Chirimiri**

2424. SHRI INDRA NATH BHAGAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work for laying a new rail line between Barwadhi (Bihar) and Chirimiri (Madhya Pradesh) has been undertaken; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS. MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) A survey for this new line has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

*[English]*

#### **Unauthorised Construction**

2425. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints/representations received in respect of carrying out unauthorised constructions in Delhi and New Delhi particularly in the slum area of Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi in the last three months;

(b) if so, the details of the contents thereof;

(c) whether any demolition orders have been issued by the concerned authorities;

(d) if so, the details of the properties and owners to whom these have been served, and

(e) the action that have so far been taken to erase the unauthorised constructions in Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) (a) to (e) Unauthorised construction in Delhi is a continuing problem and its removal is also a continuous process. As and when unauthorised construction is detected or reported action is taken by the concerned organisations under the relevant laws. DDA has reported that no separate record about the complaints/representations regarding unauthorised constructions has been maintained by it.

So far as unauthorised construction in the slum area of Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi is concerned, Delhi Police has received ten complaints/representations, Slum Deptt. of MCD has received complaints in respect of six properties and DDA has detected unauthorised construction in twelve properties in the area. Details of the properties and the action taken by Delhi. Police, Slum Deptt. of MCD and the DDA are as given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	Property No.	Action taken
1.	Delhi Police	10402/3, Gali No. 13 5739, Gali No. 4 8767, Gali No. 4 8766, Gali No. 4 9437, Gali No. 10 8220/6, 9463, 9124, Gali No. 4 Gali No. 10, 9516/13	Sent to DDA for action.
		9854-9855, Gali No. 6	
2.	MCD (Slum Deptt.)	9915-16/IV 8767/XV } 3530/XV } 2890/XV } 3007/XV } 3053/XV }	Demolition action has been taken.  These cases are under processes for action.
3	DDA	102/8, (Yog Maya) Gali 9726, 9722)) No. 8 }  8767 Gali No. 4 } 9442/4B, Gali No. 11 }  8014, 8886 Gali } 9101-03, 9124) No. 2 }  9855-56, Gali No. 6 } 9442, Gali No. 10 } Opposite 214, Yog Maya }	Demolition orders have been passed under D.D. Act.

[Translation]

**Installation of Close Circuit T.V. Cameras at Railway Stations**

2426. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Railway Stations in the country where close T.V. cameras have been installed to keep an eye on the criminal and other activities;

(b) the names of Railway Stations where the Government propose to install the close circuit T.V. cameras during 1998-99;

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed; and

(d) the estimated amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Mumbai, Bhopal, Patna, Howrah, New Delhi, Delhi

Chennai, Bangalore, Trivandrum, Secunderabad, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Ahmedabad.

(b) Guwahati, Churchgate, Santacruz, Vadodara, Indore, Ratlam, Ujjain, Kota, Agra Fort, Ajmer, Abu Road, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, sealdah, New Koilaghat, Fairlie Place.

(c) 1998-99.

(d) Rs. 126.5 Lakhs (approx.)

[English]

#### **Aerial Pictures of INS-Delhi by Australian Aircraft**

2427. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether an Australian Navy surveillance aircraft took aerial pictures and tried to record data related to the anti-submarine warfare capabilities of the newly built Indian warship, INS-Delhi while it was on voyage to Langkawi (Malasia) in November-December, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government had lodged a protest against such surveillance; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. On 27.11.1997, an Australian Naval surveillance aircraft reportedly made a close pass at INS Delhi in a position approximately 200 NM SW off Port Blair in the Bay of Bengal. The ship was heading for Langkawi (Malaysia), via Port Blair. The aircraft was reported to have also dropped three sonobuoys ahead of INS Delhi.

(b) and (c) The incident was taken up with the Australian Government and suitable protest lodged against Australia's unfriendly and provocative act. The reaction of the Australian Government is that surveillance at high seas did not constitute any violation of norms and the Australian tactics are not different from those adopted by other armed forces in the region.

#### **Fire in Running Trains**

2428. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fire extinguishers are available on all trains and train personnel are trained to fight a fire;

(b) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the measures taken to check incidents of fire in running trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Fire Inspectors of Railway Protection Force conduct periodical checks on all passenger carrying trains to ensure the availability of fire extinguishers.

The following preventive measures are taken:—

- (i) Warning Boards are displayed in all the coaches.
- (ii) Carriage of inflammable articles by passenger-carrying trains is banned.
- (iii) RPF staff on platform duty have been directed to check unauthorized carriage of inflammable articles.
- (iv) Parcel Booking Clerks and Luggage Booking Clerks have been instructed to ensure that no inflammable article is booked by passenger-carrying trains.
- (v) An Instant Action Group has been introduced in selected super-fast trains which also prevents entry of unauthorized persons including vendors who carry 'Sikiri'; and
- (vi) During festival seasons like Diwali, special checks are conducted on passenger-carrying trains to ensure that no fire crackers are carried.

#### **Attachment of AC-3 Tier Coaches with Long Distance Trains**

2429. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to attach AC-3 tier coaches in all the long distance trains;

(b) if so, the names of the trains in which AC-3 tier coaches have been provided so far; and

(c) the cities from which these trains are originating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. All overnight Mail/Express trains which are being

converted into air brake, are being provided with AC 3-tier sleeper coaches in a phased manner.

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

**Statement**

*Following trains are having AC 3-tier Sleeper accommodation (as on 9.6.98)*

S.No.	Train No.	Desitination	Train Name
1	2	3	4
1.	2105/2106	Mumbai-Nagpur	Vidharbha Express
2.	2133/2134	Mumbai-Lucknow	Pushpak Express
3.	2137/2138	Mumbai-Firozpur	Punjab Mail
4.	1063/1064	Dadar-Chennai	Express
5.	1093-/1094	Mumbai-Varanasi	Mahanagari Express
6.	2301/2302	New Delhi-Howrah	Rajdhani Express
7.	2305/2306	New Delhi-Howrah	Rajdhani Express
8.	2303/2304	New Delhi-Howrah	poorva Express
9.	2381/2382	New Delhi-Howrah	Poorva Express
10.	2309/2310	New Delhi-Patna	Rajdhani Express
11.	2311/2312	Howrah-Kalka	Mail
12.	2307/2308	Jodhpur-Howrah	Express
13.	2391/2392	New Delhi-Patna	Magadh express
14.	2903/2904	Amritasar-Mumbai	Golden Temple Mail
15.	2951/2952	New Delhi-Mumbai	Rajdhani Express
16.	2953/2954	H. Nizamuddin-Mumbai	August Kranti Rajdhani Express
17.	2471/2472	Mumbai-Jammu Tawi	Swaraj Express

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1	2	3	4
18.	2473/2474	Ahmadabad-Jammu Tawi	Sarvodaya Express
19.	2475/2476	Rajkot-Jammu Tawi	Express
20.	2477/2478	Jamnagar-Jammu Tawi	Express
21.	2401/2402	New Delhi-Patna	Shramjeevi Express
22.	2403/2404	Delhi-Jammu Tawi	Pooja Express
23.	2413/2414	Delhi-Jaipur	Express
24.	4057/4058	New Delhi-Varanasi	Kashi Vishwanath Express
25.	4229/4230	New Delhi-Lucknow	Lucknow Mail
26.	2553/2554	New Delhi-Barauni	Vaishali Express
27.	5621/5622	New Delhi-Guwahati	Northeast Express
28.	2615/2616	New Delhi-Chennai	G.T. Express
29.	2621/2622	New Delhi-Chennai	Tamil Nadu Express
30.	2723/2724	New Delhi-Secunderabad	A.P. Express
31.	2417/2418	New Delhi-Allahabad	Prayagraj Express
32.	2421/2422	New Delhi-Bhubaneshwar	Rajdhani Express
33.	2423/2424	New Delhi-Guwahati	Rajdhani Express
34.	2423A/2424A	New Delhi-Dibrugarh	Rajadhani Express
35.	2425/2426	New Delhi-Jammu Tawi	Rajdhani Express
36.	2429/2430	H. Nizamuddin-Bangalore	Rajdhani Express
37.	2431/2432	H. Nizamuddin-Trivandrum	Rajdhani Express

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1	2	3	4
38.	2433/2434	H. Nizamuddin-Chennai	Rajdhani Express
39.	2437/2438	New Delhi-Secunderabad	Rajdhani Express
40.	2957/2958	New Delhi-Ahmadabad	Rajdhani Express
41.	6045/6046	Ahmadabad-Chennai	Navjeevan Express
42.	2673/2674	Chennai-Coimbarore	Cheran Express
43.	7001/7002	Hyderabad-Mumbai	Hussainsagar Express
44.	7007/7008	Hyderabad-Vishakhapatnam	Godavari Express
45.	7031/7032	Hyderabad-Mumbai	Express
46.	2759/2760	Hyderabad-Chennai	Charminar Express
47.	2801/2802	Puri-New Delhi	Purushottam Express
48.	4055/4056	Delhi-Dibrugarh	Brahmputra Mail
49.	2841/2842	Howrah-Chennai	Coromandal Express
50.	2859/2860	Howrah-Mumbai	Geetanjali Express
51.	2955/2956	Mumbai-Jaipur	Express
52.	2961/2962	Bandra-Indore	Avantika Express
53.	2901/2902	Mumbai-Ahmedabad	Gujarat Mail
54.	2625/2626	New Delhi-Trivandrum	Kerala Express
55.	3143/3144	Sealdah-New Jalpaiguri	Darjeeling Mail
56.	5959/5960	Howrah-dibrugarh	Kamrup Express
57.	6635/6636	Kurla-Ernakulam	Netravati Express

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1	2	3	4
58	2617/2618	H. Nizamuddin-Mangalore	Mangala Express
59.	1019/1020	Mumbai-Bhubaneshwar	Konark Express
60.	1011/1012	Mumbai-Kolhapur	Mahalaxmi Express
61	9767/9768	Jaipur-Chennai	Express
62.	2915/2916	New Delhi-Ahmadabad	Ashram Express
63.	2815/2816	New Delhi-Puri	Puri Express
64.	8475/8476	New Delhi-Puri	Neelachal Express
65	2703/2704	Howrah-Secunderabad	Falaknuma Express
66.	6721/6722	Chennai-Tuticorin	Express
67	7015/7016	Secunderabad-Palasa	Vishakha Express
68	2407/2408	H. Nizamuddin_Nagpur	Gondwana Express
69.	2409/2410	H. Nizamuddin-Bilaspur	Gondwana Express
70	1017/1018	Mumbai-Bangalore	Express
71.	2715/2716	Amritsar-Nanded	Sachkhand Express
72.	8007/8008	Howrah-Puri	Express
73.	8015/8016	Howrah-Hatia	Express
74	011/012	Kurla-Madgaon	Express
75.	2461/2462	Delhi-Jodhpur	Mandore Express
76.	9707/9708	Mumbai-Jaipur	Express
77	2925/2926	Mumbai-Amritsar	paschim Express
78	6337/6338	Cochin-Rajkot	Express
79	6333/6334	Trivandrum-Rajkot	Express
80.	6335/6336	Nagercoil-Gandhidham	Express
81	2619/2620	Mangalore-Kurla	Express
82	1023/1024	Mumbai-Sholapur	Siddheshwar Express

**Negotiation with Asian Development Bank**

2430. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are negotiating with the Asian Development Bank for a loan for overall sectoral improvement;

(b) if so, whether the ADB has agreed to provide the loan, and

(c) if so, the schemes that are likely to be covered under this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir, Indian Railways are in dialogue with ADB for a sector loan for IR.

(b) No, sir. This loan is under consideration. As per the ADB procedure the Fact finding Mission has been visited IR in March 1998. The issue is under examination by ADB. Their agreement will be known only after they have examined the proposal and carried out appraisal of the project.

(c) Indian Railways has proposed the following projects to be undertaken in this loan. Views of ADB will be known only after the proposals have been examined by ADB and duly appraised.

1. Improving wagon reliability in Delhi-Howrah route.
2. Improving signalling in Delhi-Howrah route.
3. Fibre optic network to upgrade golden quadrilateral.
4. Developing strategy for the bulk and non-bulk freight business.
5. Implementation of universal emergency communication/mobile train radio communication.
6. Enhancement of railway traffic between India and Bangladesh.
7. Management Information System for Railway Board.
8. Electrification of Khargapur-Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam.

9. Banspani-Tomka new Line.
10. Increasing axle load for iron ore movement
11. Third line between Sonua-Manoharpur.
12. Doubling of track between Gudur-Renigunta
13. New railway line between Hubli-Ankola.
14. Modernising coal terminals in thermal power station.
15. Modernising cement unloading terminals.
16. Introduction of close circuit movement of coal to cement plant clusters.
17. Specialised freight wagons.

*[Translation]*

**Vacant Posts of Assistants**

2431. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of vacancies of Assistance of Central Secretariat Service Cadre in the Ministry of Defence notified to the Department of Personnel and Training to be filled up through direct recruitment, promotion or reservation on long term basis from 1983 to 1995;

(b) whether notified vacancies which were required to be filled up through direct recruitment were not filled up as per the provision of subrule 13(6) of C.S.S. Rules 1962; and

(c) the number of vacancies as mentioned in part (b) filled up through persons from the selection list of Assistants on adhoc and long term basis during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The number of vacancies of Assistants notified to the Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) during 1983 to 1995 are given enclosed Statement-I.

(b) As per subrule 13(6) of CSS Rules, 1962 and proviso thereunder, substantive vacancies are notified to Department of Personnel & Training on yearly basis. The candidates nominated by DOP&T are appointed against those vacancies subject to their willingness and fulfilment of pre-recruitment formalities. The number of candidates

nominated by the DOP&T against direct recruitment quota and the number amongst them joined service are given in Statement-II.

(c) Seven vacancies of direct recruitment quota were filled up by diverting them to seniority quota as per directions of DOP&T in the year 1990.

**Statement-I**

*Vacancies notified to the Department of Personnel & Training*

Year	Direct Recruitment Quota					Promotion Quota			
	Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Total	Gen.	SC	ST	Total
1983	20	4	1	NA	25	19	4	2	25
1984	4	2	—	NA	6	3	2	1	6
1985	5	2	2	NA	9	7	2	—	9
1986	6	1	1	NA	8	7	2	—	9
1987	15	3	1	NA	19	15	2	2	19
1988	13	4	1	NA	18	13	4	1	18
1989*	28	5	3	NA	36	42	8	5	55
1990	41	7	4	NA	52	41	7	4	52
1991*	24	4	2	NA	30	44	9	8	61
1992	18	3	2	NA	23	18	4	1	23
1993	30	8	4	15	57	45	8	4	57
1994	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1995	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

\*Ratio from 50:50 changed to 33.3% for Direct Recruitment and 66.7% for Seniority Quota as per directions of Department of Personnel and Training.

**Statement II**

*The Number of Candidates nominated against Direct Recruitment Quota  
and the number of candidates who joined*

Nomination Received		Number of Candidates who joined				
		Gen.	SC	ST	OBC	Total
1983	N.A.	16	2	—		18
1984	N.A.	2	1	—		3
1985	9	4	1	2		7
1986	8	5	—	1		6
1987	16	8	1	1		10
1988	17	7	2	—		9
1989	35	14	3	1		18
1990	44	8	2	2		12
1991	29	8	3	1		12
1992	19	5	2	—		7
1993	12	3	1	—	2	6
1994	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1995	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

[English]

**Safety of Air Craft**

2432. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made Airborne Collision Avoidance System mandatory to be installed on all aircraft;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed system;

(c) whether the Government have directed private airlines to install the system in their aircraft within a stipulated period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to the extent to which it will provide safety to aircraft.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. All aeroplanes with passenger

seating capacity of more than 30 or a pay-load capacity of more than 3 tonnes, have been required to instal Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS)-II on or before 31st December 1998. Aeroplanes having passenger capacity of 10 to 30 or pay-load capacity of 1 to 3 tonnes have been required to instal ACAS-I on or before 31st December 2003.

(d) The airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) helps in preventing mid-air collisions by alerting the pilots as soon as two aircraft come dangerously close to each other. The system gives visual and audio warnings, and also advises the crew of the corrective action required to be taken for preventing an impending mid-air collision.

### MRTS for Bangalore

2433. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has launched a Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) for Bangalore city last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost for the project; and

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for implementation of a Light Rail Transit System (IRTS) in Bangalore is under preparation by the State Government. The exact details in this regard could be known only upon completion of the DPR.

[English]

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Annual Report and Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Vayudoot Ltd. N.D. etc.**

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): I big to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act. 1956:—

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Vayudoot Limited, new Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

(ii) Annual Report of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-658/98]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-659/98]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Airlines, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Airlines, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-660/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Authority of India, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (4) of section 28 of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Airports Authority of India, for the year 1996-97.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-661/98]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 1996-97.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-662/98*]

(7) A copy of the Detailed Demand for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-663/98*]

**Annul Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling for the year 1996-97 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A Copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 1996-97.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-664/98*]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Batote, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports, Batote, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-665/98*]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, for the year 1996-97.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-666/98*]

(7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions)—

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-667/98*]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Goa Shipyard Limited and the Department of defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-668/98*]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See No. LT-669/98*]

(8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-670/98]

**A copy of the Details demands for grants of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the year 1998-99**

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-671/98]

**A copy of the detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 1998-99**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-672/98]

**A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants of the Department of Tourism, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism for the year 1998-99**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Tourism, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-673/98]

**A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1998-99**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): On behalf of Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-674/98]

**Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the MSTC Ltd. Calcutta for the year 1996-97 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MSTC Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the MSTC Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-675/98]

(b) (i) Review by the government of the working of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-676/98]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-677/98]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro, for the year 1996-97.



- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General Thereon  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-678/98]
- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1996-97.  
(ii) Annual Report of the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-679/98]
- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1996-97.  
(ii) Annual Report of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited Nagpur, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-680/98]
- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97.  
(ii) Annual Report of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-681/98]
- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Oorgaum Post, for the year 1996-97.  
(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Oorgaum Post, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Eight Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-682/98]
- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—  
(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Zinc Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 1998-99.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-683/98]  
(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Steel and the Steel Authority of India Limited for the year 1998-99.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-684/98]  
(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1998-99  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-685/98]
- (4) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 4 of 1998) for the year ended the March, 1997 (Commercial)—Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant under article 151(1) of the Constitution.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-686/98]
- A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the year 1998-99**
- [Translation]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shri Suresh Prabhu, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the year 1998-99.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT-687/98]

[English]

**Report for the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (No. 3 and No. 4 of 1998) for the year ended 31st March, 1997**

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): On behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:—

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 3 of 1998) for the year ended the 31st March, 1997 (Civil) Performance Appraisals.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-688/98]

- (ii) report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 4 of 1998) for the year ended the March, 1997 (Civil) Other Autonomous Bodies.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-689/98]

**Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Welfare Organisation New Delhi for the year 1994-95 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): On behalf of Shri Ram Naik, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-690/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway welfare organisation, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-691/98]

- (5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Container Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Railways.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-692/98]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up 'Zero Hour'.

Major General Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): We have been raising an important matter for the last few days...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you. I am calling the names as per the list. Please understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I want to raise an important matter. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a total sell-out. We have given notice in this regard. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Major General Khanduri. Please understand. Name of 48 hon. Members are there. I am calling the names as per the list. For the last two days, hon. Members have given notices. Now, please understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have been trying to raise this issue for the last three or four days. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the hon. Members to understand.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Many Hon. Members have given notices in the last two or three days to raise important issues relating to their constituencies in Zero Hours.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have not been considered. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand the problem. Only two days are left. I will come to you after the Zero Hours.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Maruti dealing is more important than any other business. ... (Interruptions) It is a total sell-out by the BJP Government. Please allow. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please allow discussion on this. We all have given notices. We have been trying to raise this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Food towards the acute shortage of foodgrains in the Uttranchal region. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You come to my Chamber, I will talk to you.

(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: (Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Food towards the acute shortage of foodgrains in the Uttranchal region.

Through P.D.S. only six kilograms of foodgrains per ration card is being provided in Uttranchal today... (Interruptions) There may be one adult or ten children on a ration card, but only six kilograms of foodgrains is being given for all.. (Interruptions) I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Food as to how this six kilograms of foodgrains per month is going to be sufficient for ten children.. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The speech of Shri Khanduri only will go on record.

(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will discuss with you in my Chamber.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. We will discuss it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will fix up the time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, I will allow all of you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a point to ponder. Through P.D.S. only six kilograms of foodgrains are being provided in Uttranchal which is absolutely inadequate. There is no production of foodgrains in Uttranchal. Due to this reason, the earlier governments had started the R.P.D.S. scheme in Uttranchal. However, the quota of foodgrains was decreased according to poverty line. Only six kilograms per ration card is being given. I would request the hon. Minister of Food that this system should be changed for

Utranchal and under P.D.S., foodgrains should be distributed per unit per ration card and at least 10 kilograms per ration card must be given. I would also like to request that for this purpose, foodgrains should immediately be released from the Centre, so that the quota of foodgrains can be increased. Gross injustice is being done with Utranchal as no foodgrain is produced in Utranchal and the entire region depends upon P.D.S. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of food that foodgrains should be authorized per unit and the centre should release 10 kilograms of foodgrains per ration card per month.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vilas Muttemwar, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am coming as per the list.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please allow the Member of your party to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swamy, please take your seat. I am calling as per list. This is not good. I will call your name.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling all the names as per the list. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the names of Shri Vilas Muttemwar. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we have given a notice.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai): Sir, why do you not allow Shri V. Sathiamoorthy to raise an important issue? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the government does not pay much attention towards health sector in our country. The neglect shown in this

field should be a matter of concern for us. Medical profession has lost the feeling of humanity and sensitivity and this is very apparent in our hospitals. The staff do not have the feeling of serving the mankind, but only think of their jobs. There has been much neglect towards the health area in Nagpur. I would like to draw your attention towards Nagpur Medical College and Mayo Hospital. This Medical College was once the biggest College in Asia. However, the situation of these two colleges is getting worse day-by-day and the State Government is not paying any attention towards them. Despite having super speciality facilities, all the instruments and machines are lying unutilised. Eco-cardiogram, cat-scan, T.M.T. and M.R.I. test are not easily available and many a time wrong reports were given due to negligence. No test is done in proper way. It is believed that if anyone goes to those hospitals, he will get two more diseases. Such condition is prevailing there. Every where there is filth. Doctors and nurses are not available on time and during the night time, it is so difficult that if any patient has to be admitted in emergency, he many not get the facilities.

I would like to submit that the population of Nagpur has crossed over 25 lakhs and it is an important part of Vidarbha. It used to be the capital of Madhya Pradesh at one time. People from all the districts of Vidarbha come here for treatment. It is so unclear that it does not look like a hospital anymore. One can see so much filth there that nobody will go there for treatment... (Interruptions) Dogs, Cats and other animals room around freely and it looks like a hospital meant for treating animals. There was a time when people used to go there for recreation and to gain better health. However, now those who visit the patients contract diseases ... (Interruptions) Such conditions are prevalent in the hospital and the Medical College of Nagpur. It serves as an education institute as well. If such are the conditions in the Medical College, it is wrong. I would like to submit that Vidarbha is being constantly neglected attention should be paid at least towards the Medical College ... (Interruptions) Medicines should be provided free of cost but neither the medicines nor the Doctors are available. I urge upon you to ask the State Government to pay immediate attention towards the largest hospital of Asia and the Medical College and remove the problems faced by the people... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN (Thiruvanthapuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on certain occasions we should not go by formality. The issue relating to Maruti is a very important issue. It affects the country's economy. Sir, my request is that you may please allow us to discuss about the affairs of Maruti in this Session itself.

Sir, this Government has sold the property worth Rs. 10,000 crore for nothing to a private party, that is, Suzuki Motor Corporation. We surrendered all our rights. This company, which had been built up by the people of this country, is a prestigious public sector undertaking and it is under the leadership of the Government of India.

Sir, unfortunately I was not here when this issue was raised by the Members last time. The statement issued by the Minister of Industry is very much detrimental to the very interest of this public sector undertaking as well as to the Government.

Sir, the company, which invested only Rs. 103 crore, had taken already a lump sum of Rs. 300 crore. Then, they are given the permission to run the industry on their own terms. The Managing Director and the Chairman are the two important functionaries in the company.

Both are given to the Suzuki Company Ltd., whereas either the Managing Director or the Chairman is with the Government. That is given by rotation. Today, you have surrendered everything. *...(Interruptions)* The most important thing is that they appointed a Joint Managing Director against whom there were corruption charges. Unfortunately, Shri George Fernandes is not here. He himself took the initiative. He took action against that official. Now he is appointed as the second man of that company.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH): Sir, it is very important point.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: My request is, to allow a discussion. Not only that...*(Interruptions)* Please appoint a Committee to go into the details. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Murasoli Maran, please.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please understand that I have allowed Shri Maran to speak on the same point.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sathiamoorthy, please understand that I have allowed Shri Maran to speak on the same subject. It is not on any other subject.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: What is this?

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is happening?  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you. Please wait.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not proper. I have not allowed you. Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I have not allowed you. Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, is article 356 a matter to be discussed everyday? They are making a mockery of it. Why are they shouting? They are one of the constituents of the Government and they are doing it everyday. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sathiamoorthy, please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is not proper. This is too much. Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sathiamoorthy, please take your seat. This is not proper. This is too much.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Shri Sathiamoorthy, please take your seat. Madam, you also take your seat.

1220 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri V. Sathiamoorthy, Dr. Subramanian Swamy and some other hon. Members left the House.*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radharkrishnan, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): It is a mockery of democracy. It is nothing but a joke.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Every day they are doing it. How long will this go on? The others in Government are sitting there, not doing anything. The whole House has become a mockery. It is nothing but a joke. (Interruptions) They have left again. They are treating it as an Assembly. They cannot control themselves. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I allowed Shri Maran. Prof. Kurien, I have already allowed Shri Maran. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Is it not a mockery of democracy?

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called Shri Maran. Please take your seat.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: This is a mockery of democracy. This is being done with the connivance of... (Interruptions) The Government should do something.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed Shri Maran. No, no, please take your seat. After that we will see.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras Central): I share the agony and shock of Shri Karunakaran. Maruti is not a Rs. 10,000 crore company, but it is a Rs. 15,000 crore company. It is a *Bharat Ratna* and a gem of Asia. Such a company has been sold out to the Japanese. Now it is a total sell out.

I want to ask only one question. When we appointed Shri Bhaskarudu as the Managing Director—I am reading the newspaper—"Parties programme to support the Government against Suzuki". It was a unanimous decision.

Not individuals, all parties including the Congress, Marxists, CPI, BJP and all had supported it. I just want to mention about a letter written by a VIP.

MR. SPEAKER: this is 'Zero Hour'. You can raise a point. Please understand. You cannot discuss. Shri Maran, you cannot discuss in the 'Zero Hour'. You can mention a point.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if they wish to raise this issue, they should raise it when the Minister of Industry comes to the house. He will reply to it...(Interruptions)

If this issue is to be raised, it should be raised when the Minister of Industry is present. Only then, he can give a reply in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Maran, you can raise the point only.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It should not go on record.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Maran, please understand, you can mention the point only. You cannot discuss it in the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I want to quote a few lines...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker it should be expunged from the proceedings.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Maran, please understand, you can mention the point only you cannot discuss it is the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL (Godhra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of people have been killed in Gujarat which has been hit by cyclone... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I want to quote a few lines... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Maran, one minute please. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Maran, please take your seat. Please sit down. Shri Maran, please understand the situation.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: precious lives have been lost in Gujarat due to flood... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, please allow me to quote a few lines... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

... (Interruptions)\*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: We are, ready for discussion. (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Government has no objection to discuss this matter.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MURASOLI HARAN (Madras Central): Where is the time? (Interruptions).

1228 hrs.

**At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.**

MR. SPEAKER: On this subject, I will allow a short duration discussion tomorrow.

... (Interruptions)

1228 hrs.

**At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.**

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER (Hathras): Mr. Speaker, Sir, two safai karmacharis were forced by their officers to clean the server without putting on their masks due to which, they died... (Interruptions) This problem is restricted not just to Ghaziabad or any particular area. This is a problem which is being faced all over the country by the Safai Karmacharis... (Interruptions) It is necessary that the Union Government should give instructions to all the State Government to provide masks to all the Safai Karmacharis at the earliest. ... (Interruptions) The dependents of the deceased employees should be given compensation of five lakh rupees each and clear instructions should be issued to the state governments to provide a compensation of five lakh rupees to the affected families at the earliest... (Interruptions) Jobs should be provided for their dependent family members because the Safai Karmacharis put their lives at risk by inhaling the poisonous gas emitted in the mainholes... (Interruptions) Such incidents occur every other day ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Maran, this subject is over. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Baalu, this is too much. I have already allowed the discussion.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, please allow Shri Maran to conclude. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): Sir, there should be some silence in the House. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed Shri Maran and the Government also replied that they have no objection to discuss it. I am allowing a Short Duration Discussion. Please take your seats now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: It is not fair on the part of the Chair, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not good on your past also. Please take your seat first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: My point is that I have not concluded. Sir, Maruti is a joint venture...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I will come to you also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras Central): Sir, Maruti is a joint venture. I have no objection to the negotiated settlement. But what does negotiation mean? It means give and take. But what have you given and what have you taken? Everything demanded by Suzuki has been accepted *in toto*...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Please, Shri Maran. You have already made your point. Anyway we are discussing it. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gujarat has been hit by a cyclonic storm and a loss of thousand crores of rupees has been reported...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar): Hundreds of people have been killed...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are not listening to us...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling the names as per the list. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

12.33 hrs.

At this stage Shri Dinshaw Patel and some others hon'ble Members stood on the floor near the table of the house.

...(Interruptions)

At this stage Shri Dinshaw Patel and some other hon'ble Members went back to their seats.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): Please allow us to make a submission about Gujarat.

MR. SPEAKER: I am coming to that.

[English]

I am having the list with me and I am calling the names as per the list. Now I am calling Shri K. Rosaiah.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet): Sir, the House will be surprised to hear that even today there are villages where *Harijans* are denied the facility of taking drinking water. To give an illustration, in Enugupalem village of Vinukonda Mandal of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, *Harijans* are not being allowed to take drinking water provided for the village since the year 1994, though the pipeline was laid up to Harijan Wada...(*Interruptions*). The village leadership is obstructing the *Harijans* to take drinking water. *Harijans* have made several representations to the district administration but all in vain...(*Interruptions*). The *Harijans* also met the Panchayat Raj Department officials to help them in the matter but the officials of the Panchayat Raj Department have expressed their helplessness in the matter saying that the scheme was completed and handed over to the village Panchayat...(*Interruptions*). Thus, for the last four years, the *Harijans* have been going on from pillar to post for the redressal of their grievances but nothing has been done for them...(*Interruptions*)



[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: The Prime Minister has not visited the area as yet...\*(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the comment made by the Hon'ble Member regarding the Prime Minister should be expunged from the record...(Interruptions) This won't do. He has spoken about the Prime Minister ...\*(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will expunge the words. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): This matter is not related to the ruling side or the opposition or even a particular party. A tragedy has taken place in Gujarat. The Minister of Home Affairs has already left for the state. The Session will come to an end tomorrow.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh): You are not allowing discussion on that. The issue of Maruti and a lot of other issues are being raised. Your members are interrupting us. Our members wish to raise the issue of Gujarat and your members are preventing them from speaking ...\*(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. ...\*(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to us.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Ask your Members also to please sit down.

...\*(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow all of you. Please take your seats.

...\*(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura): he is not taking it seriously. Had he taken it seriously, he would have visited the state...\*(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Your party is in power in Gujarat as well as the Centre...\*(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Fatmi, please take your seat.

...\*(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...\*(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, the Minister of Agriculture made a statement yesterday. He explained the situation prevailing in the state in his statement that such a situation has arisen there ...\*(Interruptions). Three days have passed now. The Government should make a statement about the steps taken there ...\*(Interruptions). The Minister of Home Affairs has gone there ...\*(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: He has already stated that...\*(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: the Home Minister has gone there. Report will have to be sought. Hence you should tell us about the measures taken to deal with this problem by today evening or tomorrow. This is our request...\*(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bhopur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we support the Gujarat issue. It is a very important issue. Almost the whole of Gujarat is in great trouble. On such important matter concerning the nation, why should the Government not come out with a *suo moto* statement? ...\*(Interruptions). As on today, further serious damage has taken place.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not appropriate to link natural calamity with politics...\*(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is replying. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Please listen to me. Just now, a member from the other side commented that our party is in power at both the places. Do natural calamities strike keeping in view the parties in power in a particular area. I mean to say that...(Interruptions). Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have stated ...(Interruptions) This is a natural calamity. The Home Minister has gone to Gujarat. He will undertake on the spot study to assess the situation and he will be back by tomorrow or tonight or tomorrow morning and the factual position will be conveyed to the house... ...(Interruptions) I would like to assure the House that ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Suguna Kumari to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving chance to new Members. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Dr. Suguna Kumari. will allow you later on. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government is taking this problem very seriously. A statement was made yesterday and Advani Ji has gone there today. The House will be apprised of the situation.

[English]

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA (Peddapalli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a news report...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only the submission of Dr. Suguna Kumari will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a news report which says that a few days back, computer rebels, that is, three teenage hackers claimed to have entered the Indian National Security Computer Network and stolen sensitive nuclear weapon secrets. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not being allowed to make my point. Hence I am staging a walk-out.

12.45 hrs.

*Shri Narendra Budania then left the House.*

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow the new Member to speak.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): Sir, he said, we are playing politics.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, information will be given regarding Rajasthan and Gujarat which have been affected...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. SUGUNA KUMAR CHELLAMELLA: Sir, they altered the worldwide web...(Interruptions) I want to ask the Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a comment was made from the other side that we are in Power at both the places. Whether such statement is not politically motivated...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, he must withdraw those words...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can I allow everybody without any serial number?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members are not cooperating with me. I am allowing everybody as per the list.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members are not cooperating with me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your submission, Prof. Kurien?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Sikakulam): Sir, let her complete first...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien, I will call you after her.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLANELLA: Sir, the recent news report says that a few days back computer ebels, the three teenage hackers claimed to have entered the Indian national security computer network and stolen sensitive nuclear weapon secrets. They altered a worldwide web site there.

Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister whether BARC is accessible to any Tom, Dick and Harry. What sensitive information is leaked out? Is there any investigation ordered? What are the necessary steps taken to see that it will not happen again in future?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: This is a good point.

MR. SPEAKER: But you were not allowing her to make this point.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow all of you including the Marxist friends.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I would submit only one thing that this House can be run only with the cooperation of the Opposition. I am sorry to say that the way the things are happening here is not good for all of us.

Sir, due to the cyclones in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, more than 400 of our brethren have lost their lives.

It is not an ordinary matter, and it is an emergency matter where urgent action is required. Three days back, the matter was discussed here and the Agriculture Minister...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I have allowed Prof. Kurien.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is not good. I have allowed a particular Member to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There are so many speakers inside this House.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, the hon. Agriculture Minister has made a statement saying that actions are being taken. But so many lives have been lost and it is such an emergency matter that every Member in this House is concerned about it and has a right to know about the actions that have been taken. The Home Minister has already gone there. The Government has got a number of agencies and it can instantly know as to what actions have been taken there. Tomorrow, the House is being adjourned. We are concerned just as you are concerned. It is not that only the Members from Gujarat are concerned, but every Indian is concerned. We are one country and do not try to divide this country in terms of region or language. It is not good. Therefore, our Members want to know as to what actions have been taken. We only wanted a simple reply. Instead of saying that this is what has been done, none other than a Minister of the Government of India is charging us that we are playing politics. This is very unfortunate. I never expected such a reaction from the Treasury Benches. Suppose, a hon. Member finds it sensible to make such an allegation, then we have got a right to reply to that. But if the hon. Speaker, in his wisdom, denies us permission to reply to that, then I confess that I am hurt. This is what I want to say.

Now, I am requesting the Government that if they have any information the actions that are being taken in Gujarat, please share it with us. This is my submission.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek some clarification...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is on his legs. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI MANDAN LAL KHURANA: I agree with what has been stated by Kuriesiji. I have not levelled any charge. I rise to reply what ever you asked. I was pained to hear that somebody from the other side has said that our party was in power at both the places...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Muttemwar, the Minister may be heard first. Shri Fatmi, Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Please listen to me first.

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Khuranaji, what kind of measures have been taken by the Government?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I have not levelled any charge against anyone...(Interruptions) Please excuse me...(Interruptions) I would like to say again that this matter is above politics and Government is serious on this issue ...(Interruptions) Yesterday a statement was given on it and today Advaniji himself has gone there...(Interruptions) After taking stock of the situation detailed information will be given here...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you after him. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said that your party is in power at both the places. Members have supported this issue when this was raised in the House yesterday...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your submission?  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Katheria, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: We should do whatever we can do to help them, All the Members present in this House hope that this Government would work for their welfare. The House has authorised you, the whole country is looking towards the government and it is your responsibility that the government should work properly throughout the country and provide assistance to people...(Interruptions) It means that the Government is incapable to work...(Interruptions) I have said that your party is in power at both the places.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi, not you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, adequate arrangements were made before this cyclonic Storm by the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Keshubhai Patel. MLAs were given responsibility of different areas. Officers and administration was also alerted. Adequate safety measures were taken but man is helpless before the nature. The cyclonic storm was so devastating that. ...(Interruptions) more than 2000 persons were killed in this storm and more than 50 thousand are missing. Advaniji and two local MPS Pushpdanji and Chandresh Bhai have gone there. We have been raising the matter pertaining to Gujarat in this House. You might have listened to the Lok Sabha news bulletin telecast on doordarshan wherein it was stated that the issue of Gujarat could not be heard due to the pandemonium created in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that elected representatives of the public are not sensitive towards the affected people...(Interruptions) I am very sorry to say that people of this country would think that our representatives cannot work together even in this hour of grief caused due to

\* Not Recorded.

natural calamity. *(Interruptions)* Our whole colony was washed away in the sea and people working in salt industry died...*(Interruptions)* you please help them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission in the House that this issue should not be politicized...*(Interruptions)*. There was an apprehension that a terrible cyclonic storm can struck.

13.00 hrs.

There was a possibility that cyclonic storm with a speed of 120-25 km can struck...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? It is not good. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I am requesting you to not make it a political issue. ...*(Interruptions)* about 1500 or 2000 persons have been killed. Please respect our sentiments why are you interrupting again and again ...*(Interruptions)* We should work unitedly in this hour of natural calamity I have been member of this House since 1989. Members of this House always worked unitedly when natural calamities struck as man has no control over nature. About two thousand persons have been killed. Waves rose to the height of 20 meters. Kandla port and the surrounding are has been completely ruined.

Though the administration was alert but no government machinery can endure such a devastating natural calamity. I would like to make a submission that we should not make fun of such a devastating natural calamity which the nation is facing. Please try to understand our feelings. Whichever party may in power but in such an hour of grief this House should take some effective measures to deal with the aftermath of a devastating calamity wherein about two thousands persons have been killed and about fifty thousands are missing property worth three thousand crores has been damaged. The state government has taken up the work of controlling the situation with all the resources at its disposal. The Central Government has also made an announcement to provide assistance. Along with the financial assistance we need the cooperation of this House. I request the House to cooperate with us in such a situation. Advaniji has gone there and I would like to say that a team should be sent there to assess the loss, so that adequate

assistance could be provided by the central government. I request for the cooperation of the whole House is it ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: If you permit me, I will call all the names. Otherwise it is a loss to you only.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling everybody to speak. Shri Prabhunath Singh, please take your seat. I will call you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before beginning my point I would like to say to Shri Rajesh Pilot and Shri Kurien, who are the prominent leaders of Congress Party that we were also in opposition, but the conduct of opposition today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have tolerated them for forty years, they should tolerate us for atleast forty months. It is very difficult to fall the opposition...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards a very important issue. The Telecom System MARR was introduced in 1990-91 and the Government of India spent crores of rupees on it. In spite of spending huge amount in various states and rural areas of the country, this scheme has almost ceased to exist. The poles of telecom system under MARR have been installed but batteries have stopped working. The communication system is not functioning properly in rural areas in spite of spending thousands of millions rupees on it. We can inform the district headquarter in the event of a natural calamity if telecommunication system works properly. I, therefore, through you request the hon. Minister of Communication to get the M.A.R.R. system repaired, especially in my area Agra and Faizabad.

*[English]*

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDARAN (Quilon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter regarding the rural economy of Kerala. The rural economy of Kerala will be disrupted due to the latest announcement of the Minimum Support Price for copra. Yesterday, the hon. Agricultural Minister, by way of a Statement, has announced the Minimum Support Price for milling copra

as Rs. 2,900 and for ball copra, Rs. As 3,145. This is very low as compared to the cost of production of these commodities. I do agree that there is an increase of Rs. 200/-. But compared to the cost of production last year and this year, there is an increase of more than 10 per cent. Now, the increase is just below 10 per cent. As a result of this, as we have already discussed in this House also, the position is so serious that the coconut growers are forced to commit suicide.

So, I urge upon the hon. Agriculture Minister to kindly enhance the Minimum Support Price for copra. In this regard, yesterday, the hon. Chairperson, Shri Basu Deb Acharia had also directed the Government to have a discussion with the MPs who are concerned with this area. So, I also urge upon the Government to have a discussion at the earliest and review and enhance the Minimum Support Price for copra.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I want to raise a very important matter pertaining to a central public sector undertaking. Three hundred employees of the Tea Trading Corporation of India are not being paid their salaries since June, 1997...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow all of you. Please take your seats.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Tea Trading Corporation of India is a central public sector undertaking. Three hundred employees of this central public sector undertaking have not been paid their salaries since June, 1997. I am sorry to say that out of these 300 employees, four have died of starvation. The matter was raised a number of times on the floor of the House but no solution has been found. Both the Ministry of Commerce and the Tea Trading Corporation of India are not taking any responsibility to clear the salaries of 300 employees. Even after the direction from the Calcutta High Court, this has not been implemented. The employees are deprived of their salaries and dues. So, I urge upon the government to take immediate steps to clear the dues and salaries of these 300 employees.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir the public of Bihar is crying for help and there is no law and order for name sake. The funds allocated by the Central Government for Bihar are being looted. Murders, looting, kidnappings and rapes have become order of the day in Bihar. Industries have been closed down and business of kidnapping is proliferating under the protection of the government. Patna high Court has stated thrice in this regard that 'Jungle raj' is prevailing in Bihar. Hon. Governor of Bihar has also submitted a report to Ministry of Home Affairs which has been reported in a daily

newspaper 'Jansatta' on 3rd June. Sir, through you I demand from the Union Government that the Government of Bihar should be dismissed for relieving the public of Bihar from their sufferings...(Interruptions) I demand that Bihar government should be dismissed...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Various seams namely fodder scam Alkatra scam and urea scam have taken place in Bihar Government funds are being looted there. Sir, through you I demand that CBI inquiry should be conducted in this regard and stringent action should be taken against the guilty. All the guilty persons should put behind the bars. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Cabinet Minister is present in the House. I would like to know from him as to whether Bihar is not a part of the country? If it is a part of the country, what action is being taken for welfare of public of Bihar? What is the intention and opinion of the government in this regard. At the time of election the hon. Prime Minister had promised to relieve the public of Bihar from their sufferings...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Except Shri Kondaiah's remarks, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH (Bellary): I am sorry to bring to your notice that there is a constitutional breach by Tamil Nadu Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : I am sorry to bring to your notice that there is a constitutional breach by Tamil Nadu Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Kondaiah's remarks.

...(Interruptions)\*

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\* Not Recorded.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Bangalore is the fastest growing city. Its population is more than seven million. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: I am sorry to bring to the notice of this House that there is a constitutional breach by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring an important matter to the notice of this House. There is a constitutional breach committed by the Government of Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Sir, I want to bring to your notice an important matter.

Bangalore is one of the fastest growing cities of India. It has a population of more than seven million. In order to provide infrastructure and drinking water, the Government of Karnataka is unable to mobilise internal resources. They have approached an international agency, 'The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund' of Japan. This agency has sanctioned Rs. 1,200 crore for the Cauvery Stage IV project for which the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment has also given its clearance. *(Interruptions)* But unfortunately, the Chief Secretary of the Government of Tamil Nadu has written a letter directly to The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan asking them not to consider the request of the Government of Karnataka. It is a very serious matter. *(Interruptions)* It is a breach of the Constitution. Can a State Government write such a letter directly to an overseas agency? This is not good neighbourliness. Such an attempt to scuttle a scheme which is of national importance would give an impression to the international community that our country lacks cohesiveness in approaching bilateral and multilateral funding agencies for major infrastructure projects. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him. Please take your seat.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Can the Chief Secretary of the Government of Tamil Nadu be permitted to write such a letter directly to an overseas agency? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Kondaiah says.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Therefore, I urge the hon. Prime Minister, though you, to take immediate action. The Chief Secretary of the Government of Tamil Nadu should be instructed not to write such letters. This should be rectified. This is a very serious matter. *(Interruptions)*

*[Transliteration]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last two days, I have been giving a notice for the permission to speak in zero hour but you have given me an opportunity to speak on third day. In village Mirdhan Ka Pura and Garhi and in dozens of villages including Mailahan in Phulpur which comes under my constituency. Chair, Koshambhi (U.P.) Muharram's Tazia, associated with the sentiments of people in dozen of villages has not been buried till today. That Tazia is still lying in Mosque. Due to tacit support of state and local administration Tazia was not buried on the day of Muharram. The workers of BJP, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal have encroached the Karbala, the burial ground for Tazia. Tazia was not allowed to be buried by using Dalits. There is resentment amongst muslims population. In Allahabad, Koshambhi and Fatehpur districts of Uttar Pradesh. They are also frightened over it. With the cooperation of all Muslim and Hindu in Chahelum the Tazia is to be buried on 16.6.98. Through you I request the Government and the Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs to direct the Government of Uttar Pradesh to make adequate arrangements for the peaceful burial of Tazia.

*[English]*

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): Sir, the erosion on the Gouranga bridge on the River Ganga is a serious matter. As a consequence, people belonging to my constituency in areas such as Nidya Indrapur, Mayapur, Nabadwip, Swarupgung, Nrisinghapur, Balagarh ghat, Tarapur, Saryakhar, Jagira, Char Madhusudanpur, etc. Are most effected. Nabadwip in birth place of Gouranga Mala prabhu. It is very old eminent town. It is going to destory due to resion. If we do not protect this it will be no longer in future on the other side Gouranga bridge over Ganga in Nabadwip town that also in dangerous condition

pillar of the bridge will be broken any time if we do not look into this pillar of the bridge. ...(*Interruptions*) Thousands of acres of agricultural land have been swallowed by the Ganga erosion and people are being shifted from their places. They are always living in uncertainty as they may be victims of the next erosion. They cannot construct houses as they do not have any land.

The State Government does not have huge funds. So, I urge upon the Central Government to sanction enough funds for the construction of houses. It is a very important matter. Desiltation of the Ganga basin is essential because without desiltation, erosion cannot be checked which is very dangerous for the future. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not yet given the reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have discussed the matter. Please take your seat. I have allowed Shri Yerannaidu.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, probably Hon'ble Minister wants to repeat yesterday's statement. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, you are aware of what I am going to say. The Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti's President, Shri Manca Krishna has begun his fast unto death in Secunderabad since the 5th of June, demanding immediate implementation of categorisation of the Scheduled Castes into A, B C and D categories.

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly also has passed a unanimous Resolution for the categorisation of Scheduled Castes. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is committed to do it. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has also agreed to categories them. But they had asked for some information which the Andhra Pradesh Government had sent.

Meanwhile, the activists in various parts of the State resorted to arson and they turned violent also. RTC buses were set on fire besides damaging Government property worth Rs. 4 crore. Now, the situation is alarming in Andhra Pradesh.

So, my humble request to the Government, through you, Sir, is that the Government of India has to pursue with the National Commission for Scheduled Casters and Scheduled Tribes so that this categorisation takes place. A direction may be given to that Commission. On the advice of the National Commission, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has withdrawn the Special Leave Petition from the Supreme Court. Since the Government of Andhra Pradesh is committed for this categorisation, cutting across the party lines, the Assembly had unanimously passed the Resolution twice. The Minister concerned also has visited the place.

So, my humble request to the hon. Minister is that they have to take immediate steps to pursue the matter with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (ALLEPPEY): Sir, the fishermen of our country have been agitating for quite some time. One of their major demands is about cancellation of the licences issued to foreign fishing vessels. This is a genuine demand. The Review Committee headed by Shri P. Murari has unequivocally recommended for the cancellation of the above-said licences. I therefore urge upon the Government to take immediate action to implement all the recommendations of the Murari High Powered Committee and see that all these licences are cancelled. This is a very important issue and I would request the Government to take urgent action on this matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important issue. The Amarnath yatra will begin on 9th of July. It will last for one month. This is a holy yatra. This Yatra is the symbol of integrity and unity of the country. The holy water from Rameshwaram is offered at Amarnath. Pilgrims from all over the country go to the holy cave situated at 14000 feet above the sea level via Panchtarni, Shesnaag and Chandvadi. But the position of registration fee of Rs. 25 on very pilgrim by the Government of Kashmir is unfortunate. The Government of Kashmir has formally published an advertisement which describes this Yatra as hard and difficult one. As cave is 14000 feet above the sea level, it advises pilgrims not to go for this Yatra. I do object on this kind of advertisement.



I would also like to urge that the decision of imposing registration fee of Rs. 25 should immediately be taken back and Government should provide every kind of facility for these kind of Yatras. The adequate arrangements should also be made at the camps. The adequate arrangement for medicines and other necessary items should be made at every halt on way, so that accidents of past should not be repeated. Coolies and horses should be provided to the people on subsidised rates. It is observed that a cup of tea is sold for Rs. 10 there. Therefore, the Government should make full arrangements. No inconvenience should be caused to pilgrims. Especially, the decision to impose registration fees should be immediately withdrawn.

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know through you whether the Government or the Reserve Bank have refused to accept Rs. 500 currency notes. I would like to draw your attention especially towards the rural region of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh where the nationalised banks are refusing to accept the Rs. 500 currency notes from common people. It has created a situation of uncertainty over there. People elect their representatives and send them to this Supreme Panchayat to discuss and find solutions to their problems. We are giving notice for past four days, but here instead of discussion on genuine problems of people, the uproar is created every time. I would like to draw the attention of House towards the problem prevailing in Gorakhpur.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides that, only four days ago, 10 tonnes i.e. 240 bags full of currency notes have been seized from a factory in Bihar. Whether Government propose to investigate this matter. Why Rs. 500 currency notes are not being accepted in banks of Gorakhpur? Would the Government inquire as to why this is happening? I feel somehow I.S.I. is behind this. They are trying to create tension by provoking the sentiments of people. Therefore, I request you to direct the Government in this regard.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I am raising a very important issue in the House. Sardar Sarovar Project is being constructed in Gujarat and Maharashtra. There Adivasi farmers have been given forest land. According to Sardar Sarovar Award land and irrigational facilities will be given to Adivasi farmers. But till now the water for irrigation is being provided through borewell and reservoirs. That is not fair. There are three tanks: Walheri M.E. tank, Rapapur M.E. Tank, and Amliwadi M.E. Tank. Forest Land should also be sanctioned. I would like to request the Government through you to provide water from these tanks to farmers for the purpose of irrigation.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, four years ago, the Delhi Government had authorised

1071 unauthorised colonies and sent it to the Government of India for final approval. But it has not been granted till date. 15 lakh people are living in these colonies. No developmental work is taking place in these colonies. Meanwhile, the High Court has given stay that roads can't be constructed in these colonies. There is no outlet for dirty water in these colonies. Therefore, I request the Government to authorise these colonies immediately so that civic amenities could be provided there. In Delhi Government's budget Rs. 40 crore has been allocated for the development of these colonies. But the work can be carried out, only after these colonies are authorised. I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister for Urban Development towards this problem and if possible give some assurance also. It is a question of the lives of 15-0 lakh people of Delhi.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the entire House towards a very important issue. I hope that the entire House and all political parties of this House will join me on this issue because it is related to human rights and is linked with the sentiments of lakhs of people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has a proposal for formation of a separate State, of Uttaranchal in Uttar Pradesh. The boundaries marked for it constitutes nine districts. One of these districts is known as Udhham Singh Nagar. Many of the people living there have migrated from Punjab and Haryana. Many people living in Udhham Singh Nagar are from Bengal. Many of them are living there since the partition of India in 1947. They have reclaimed the land for farming by cutting forests. Their language, style of living and eating habits are totally different from people living in hilly areas. Their habits are similar to people living in plains.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the hon'ble Prime Minister's last visit to Punjab a delegation had met him in Amritsar and Shiromani Akali Dal had also requested not to include Udhamsingh Nagar in Uttaranchal a separate state. Through you, I would like to request the Government and all the Members not to suppress the sentiments of any community. They should not be included in the area where they may face difficulties. The Land Ceiling Act is only applicable in plains. Their language is also different. That's why I request not to include Udhamsingh Nagar, which is a plain area. It may be associated with Nainital Commissionery, I request to include it in Bareilly Commissionery.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not against the formation of Uttaranchal or Uttrakhand. We want that Uttrakhand should be formed, but people of a particular area should not be forced to join it. In the end, I request to keep it with plains...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people of Punjab who are residing in Uttranchal should not be forced to join the State of Uttrakhand. I request to associate it with any commissionari of plains. Or they should be given separate area...(*Interruptions*)

13.33 hrs.

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the movement launched by Committees at Panchayat and district level is going on for sometime. They are demanding that they should not be included in Uttranchal. Our friend, Mr. Chandumajra has raised a very important question in the House that the composition of people of Udham Singh Nagar is such that the population there have no link with Uttranchal, but they are being dragged to Uttrakhand...(*Interruptions*)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, suppose 4-5 lakh people migrate from Uttar Pradesh to Punjab and Haryana, will they be given separate state or be separate from Punjab. My hon'ble friend is trying to prove a wrong principle which is neither in the interest of country nor of the region. I am astonished at his statement (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: You must be surprised because you want to include the entire state of Uttar Pradesh in Uttrakhand. ...(*Interruptions*)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the request is being made to accept wrong policies and principle which can never be in the interest of country. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 83% of people living in Udham Singh Nagar don't want to be included in the Uttranchal. They have given in it in writing...(*Interruptions*)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Mr. Chairman, if 4-5 people from any other region migrates to Ambala or Chandigarh, will they be separated from that State?...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, please sit down. Peace should be maintained in the House.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir I am trying to raise an important issue regarding the MPLAD Scheme. I would like all my fellow Members to kindly cool down a little and listen to me.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notices of this House that acute distress is being caused to people because of under and inexplicably long delays in the implementing the projects, under the MPLAD Scheme. This is causing great distress to the poor people, particularly the rural poor. The projects we have sanctioned for providing drinking water have not been implemented. We also have allocated funds for re-structuring the primary schools for the poor children. The primary schools are crumbling down. But nothing so far has been done on these counts.

Sir, I would like to bring to your notice my own experience in the last Lok Sabha. In January, 1997 I had sanctioned projects for providing drinking water and for construction of primary schools which were desperately needed by the rural people. But till this date nothing has been done about these projects.

Sir, we route the projects through the implementing agencies, in this case, the implementing agencies are the Departments of the State Governments like the PWD and the Public Health and Engineering Departments. I would like to have a categorical assurance from the Minister of Planning and Programme Implementation, who is present here, whether the Government could issue instructions to the State Government that these projects should be completed within a reasonable time and whatever we ask them to do should be done. Otherwise, even though the Government has increased the allocation to the Members of Parliament under the MPLADS, yet there is no use of getting money under the Scheme if the projects are not implemented and the poor people are not benefited. May I have a categorical assertion from the Minister of Planning and Programme Implementation about this?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Chairman, normally it does not happen...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you please sit down.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel, it will be beneficial for everyone. That is why I would like to say something on the issue raised by hon'ble Member, Shrimati Krishna Bose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if any hon'ble Member faces any difficulty in the execution of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, he should complain in writing to me. I have personally written a letter and have also sent new guidelines to all the Members. I will try to

ensure the proper execution of work. Under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, the drinking water problem has got no direct relation with the State Government. It is the collective responsibility and if any official is not working collectively or Member feels that official is deliberately delaying or is not working according to the guideline, then.

[English]

The matter could be referred and it would be a breach of privilege if particular officer is not doing the work intentionally.

[Translation]

I would also like to state that I will try to sort out any individual complaint also...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, through you I would bring this fact to the notice of entire House that in my district Collector had spent Rs. 15 lakh...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Write a letter to hon'ble Minister and draw his attention towards it. He has said that if any official does not execute the scheme intentionally, the case of breach of privilege can be brought against him.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say something about my district, Murena. No action has been taken there...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Give the particulars of it in written to the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund): I would like to draw the attention of the entire House towards a very important matter. This is a 50th year of India's independence and after some days we will again assemble at the concluding ceremonies of golden jubilee year. In India, many privileges have been given to Indian Administrative Services. In spite of 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendment being passed people of Indian Administrative Service are playing a key role at state, district or regional level. I would like to suggest through you that Indian Administrative Services should be renamed as Indian Developmental Services.

I would like to draw your attention towards para 167 and 312 of the Indian Constitution. The provision in sub section 2 of All India Services do not bar the change of nomenclature or designation of I.A.S. Therefore, I would request the Government to rename IAS as IDS.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (SHEOHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Administrative agenda of Bhartiya Janta Party should be named as service agenda.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: It is not a question of administration.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN: It is the agenda of your administration.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Communication Minister about the condition of telephone services in Sitamarhi district. Kurimada is in the area of Sitamarhi. Two separate STD Codes have been given for these areas. As a result of which residents of these areas have to use STD codes to communicate on telephone with each other. Two STD codes in one district not only cause inconvenience, but residents have also to pay STD rates. I think two STD codes in one district are not in any other part or state of the country. The distance between Sitamarhi and Kukrimada is just 15-20 kilometres. I request hon'ble Minister to make arrangements to provide local call facility between Sitamarhi-Kukrimada.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) (BIHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of this House towards one important issue. Today a newsitem has appeared in a popular newspaper "Dainik Jagaran" that a new scam involving Rs. 1220 crore has been unearthed in Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever any important news appears about Bihar, It is always about scams. The news which has appeared today says that Rs. 400 crore have been drawn in the name of appointment of teachers. The money misappropriated in such scams namely, Alkatra Scam, scam in health Department etc. Amounts to Rs. 1200 crore. I demand from Hon'ble Prime Minister through you that people of Bihar need help. Therefore Government of Bihar should be dismissed in order to protect them and an enquiry should be conducted through CBI so that 10 crore people of Bihar could have a sigh of relief.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): I think you for the opportunity given to me. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a move to close the project-based Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 at CPCRI, Kasargod. I recall the reply given to my Unstarred Question Number 849 dated 1.6.98. I am very sorry to say that the experience in my constituency is different. The ICAR authorities are going to close that school due to paucity of funds. This year, the finance Minister has provided almost double of the last year's Budgetary provision for education. Thus, it is not correct to say that there is paucity of funds. So, I would request the Minister of HRD and the Minister of Agriculture, not to close the school and given directions to start admission to 1st Standard.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (CONTAI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to a very important issue.

A good number of salt workers are employed in small salt factories in my constituency. They work from before sunrise till after sunset. They get a recess of only half an hour during the day. They are paid very small amounts of money as wages. They get afflicted by TB and other diseases. They do not get proper treatment. I urge upon the Central Government to make a comprehensive law for the welfare of workers employed in salt factories not only in my constituency but all over the country.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT (Jammu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, rivers Chenab and Tawi flow through Jammu Region and every year during rainy season, these ruin thousands of acres of land due to which scores of villages get ruined. The experience of last two-three years' rainy season is that till now government has not made any housing arrangement for those whose villages were ruined by these rivers. They are on the brink of starvation. My request to the government is that if direction of rivers Chenab and Tawi is not changed or if an alternative course is not provided for the flow of water, then this time once again scores of villages will be destroyed. My request is that the government should include the expenditure likely to be incurred in this respect in its central plan so that they may get some relief, otherwise this time also many villages will get ruined and thousands of people will become homeless.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw your attention towards one very important issue of public importance. The pay scale of sepoy and Havildars working under All India Custom Duty and Central Excise Duty is Rs. 775. The sepoy and havildars are on strike since 10th.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: In which state were they on strike?

SHRI ANAND MOHAN: It is the case of custom duty. This issue relates to the entire country. Their pay scale is fixed at Rs. 2610 on the basis of Fifth Pay Commission. They are on strike for the last 25 days over this demand. The opinion which CAT, Chandigarh and Jodhpur has expressed, confirmed their demand. Their duty is similar to that of sepoy working in Central Bureau of Investigation. CAT has expressed its opinion in this connection also. Their strength is around 19000. They are all on strike since 18.5.98 and from 10.6.98 they are

observing fast unto death. Instead of fulfilling their demand they are being subjected to suppression.

My request to Central Government is that since the sepoy of Central Excise are on strike since 18.5.98 and have been observing fast unto death from 10.6.98, as such government should adopt sympathetic attitude towards them, start negotiations and arrive at some concrete decisions. The Government should adopt the policy of equal pay for equal work. Alongwith this, an enquiry should be conducted so that their anger and resentment could be removed.

[English]

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Howrah): Hon. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of this august House and make a mention of a very important matter, urging for an immediate review of the Indo-Bangladesh Agreement on sharing of Ganga water below Farakka Barrage in West Bengal.

I have the experience of two summers since the water sharing agreement was signed in December, 1996 and the only conclusion that can be drawn is that the water level in Ganga and River Hoogly has come down precariously. As a result of the dwindling water level in the river, Calcutta port and Haldia port in West Bengal are seriously affected. The Agreement strangely enough does not provide for sharing of available water, on an agreed proportion, on a continuous basis. Even though I was the Chairman of the Calcutta-Port Trust, I did not have an opportunity or an occasion to see it. I am told that even the Minister of Surface Transport could have an access to that.

The Agreement provides that each country will draw most of water during every alternate ten days' cycle, that means, one country will get till the ten-day period, the whole of water, and the other country will be completely deprived. This is adding to the heavy siltation in the navigational channel and no amount of dredging would be able to effect desiltation at the desired level. Now, this cyclical fluctuation has resulted in heavy siltation, as I said, choking the navigational channel. No action is taken to review the situation on the basis of the experience gathered in the last two summers.

Tens and thousands of cultivators and agricultural labourers of the six riverine districts of Howrah, Hoogly, South 24 Pargans, North 24 Parganas, Nadia and Murshidabad have been suffering because of the shortage of irrigation water. Vast tracks of agricultural land are languishing. ...(*Interruptions*) The United Front Government at the Centre came up with a preposterous

proposal of bringing water from Sankosh River in Bhutan through North Bengal to the Ganga. This is being objected to by the environmentalists. This proposal, apart from the cost involved which, is worth over Rs. 1,000 crore will destroy large forest area. I want to draw the attention of the Central Government towards this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): This is a matter of international treaty between India and Bangladesh, which is a friendly country. Raising of this type of issue will give only a wrong signal. Some people are trying to scuttle this for their political advantage. It is unfortunate. This House is being utilized for this purpose. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)* We should not do politics with this. ...

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Howrah): It is not a political matter. There is no politics in this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It would destabilize friendship between India and Bangladesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West): He was an IAS officer. He was the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust when the agreement was signed. Shri Chatterjee is a politician. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request that Guru Haasidas University, Bilaspur should be converted into Central University. Headquarter of ACCL. Nova Company, Head post office and Headquarter of Railways are situated there and that area is a predominantly scheduled tribe area. Therefore, I request that Guru Haasidas University, Bilaspur should be given the status of Central University.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no law and order in the Murena district of Madhya Pradesh. Problem of dacoits is cropping up again there. In 1972, 400 dacoits surrendered but now the number of dacoits is increasing rapidly. Recently three persons were murdered in my village Babarkheda and three of their family members were injured. Murders have become order of the day in Murena. Two traders were looted in Murena city but so far no action has been taken by the police in any of these matters. I request the Central Government that measures should be taken to improve the law and order situation there.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House and Government towards one very important issue. There are

thousands of shopkeepers and Hawkers in Meena Bazar area of Jama Masjid in Delhi. They are being removed from that place. Unfortunately High Court order has come. But if they are removed then they will be deprived of their livelihood. It is the question of their livelihood. Therefore my only request is that this matter should be considered sympathetically. They should be provided alternative sites before they are removed from this place or if their shops are unauthorised then those shops should be regularised. But it is essential that they should not be deprived of their livelihood. The entire case should be considered sympathetically and immediate attention should be paid towards this issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, whatever Banatwalla Saheb has said is correct. Day-before-yesterday thousands of youths staged demonstration over this issue. Khurana Saheb you belong to Delhi and you are also Parliamentary Affairs Minister. This is very important issue. You know that thousands of such poor people are living in the Jama Masjid area. Though it is court order that they should be removed from that place but it is the responsibility of Delhi Government and Government of India that those who are being removed should be given some alternative site. I demand from Government and support Banatwalla Saheb that they should not be removed from that place unless government makes alternative arrangement for them. If government adopt lax attitude towards this issue then situation of law and order can arise there and matter may become serious also. Therefore, I request the government to give reply in this regard.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Department of Industry has declared the Deoria District of Uttar Pradesh which is a very backward district of Purvanchal a zero industry district. As a result, the unemployed youths are migrating to different parts of country.

14.00 Hrs.

I request the Government through you that Industries should be promoted in districts like Deoria, which is very backward. The British Government had established only few sugar mills there. After that, till now no industry has been set up there. The Government should set up Industries in this district in order to check migration...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one proposal regarding construction of bypass road on National Highway No. 7 at Rewa has been pending for a long time. The proposal is pending

with the Central Government and hence, that road has not been constructed so far. Adarsh Science College, Marthand School and P.K. School are located at the side of this road due to which 4-5 human lives are lost due to accidents. Hence I request that bypass road should be constructed immediately... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence please, let him speak.

[*English*]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to pay my gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I would bring to the notice of the Government through you, the plight of the National Aluminum Company, otherwise known as NALCO. It is one of the few big PSUs, which has been posting profits for the last two years. You will be surprised to know that most steel plants under these steel authority (SAIL) put together make less profit than NALCO. NALCO was also the first PSU of India, which had been registered with the London Metal Exchange.

Sir, lately there has been a lot of mismanagement. Out of 400 pots in NALCO's smelter plant, as of June 10, only 286 are working. Terrible corruption is taking place in the management; because of which 194 pots have failed. Each pot costs Rs. 1 crore. So, Sir, I would request the Government to appoint a committee, which can be asked to go to NALCO immediately to get the entire matter investigated. Senior officers are involved in this corruption and are trying to cover up the corruption. The corruption would come to around Rs. 250 crore. The metal which has been produced cannot be sold because it is not having 99.7 per cent purity. The purity level has come down to 97 per cent. So, it would not be sold in the international market. The Government has to take action immediately. This has been going on for the last fifteen days but no action has been taken by the Government.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please maintain silence you have made your point. Please sit down. Yes, what do you want to say.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

In Mumbai at Ghatakpor Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar the statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar was desecrated.

Maharashtra government had ordered firing on crowd of demonstrators who protested against this desecration... (*Interruptions*) 10-11 persons were killed in the firing. The whole Maharashtra especially Vidarbha, Wardha, Amravati district, Yavatmal district and Nagpur district reacted very sharply to it. People there protested in a peaceful manner. Some casteist elements and government, administration and police administration have tried to crush it. When a protest march was carried out by Buddh dalits in Karanjghate village of Wardha district, which is often known as Gandhi district, Ms. Ramadevi Patil, a dalit woman was stripped naked and beaten. Dalits were falsely implicated, and were put into prisons and cases were registered against them under Section 302. The bail was not granted to them for many days. These are acts of injustice. Yesterday, on 10 June dalit Bodh organisations demonstrated at Jantar Mantar. They had also given memorandum to the honourable President and the Prime Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request the government to pay compensation to Dalit Bodhs for the injustice and oppression done to them.

[*English*]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANSHI (Mangaldai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter, which has become a constitutional crisis in the State of Assam.

Out of the 2.10 crore population in Assam, 60 lakhs are from Koch-Rajbanshi community. They were enlisted as Scheduled Tribe (Place) for the first time by an Ordinance No. 1 of 1996. It was followed by second, third and fourth Ordinances. It was promulgated for the fourth time by the hon. President of India. It has lapsed now. A Bill, No. 21 of 1996, was introduced in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. But Lok Sabha formed a Parliamentary Committee with Shri Amar Roy Pradhan as the Chairman. That Committee went to Assam to take the opinion of different communities. That Parliamentary Committee had also recommended that Koch-Rajbanshi community should be enlisted as Scheduled Tribe... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you given names?

[*English*]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANSHI: The Chief Minister of Assam also wrote letter to the Government of India expressing his opinion on the report of the Parliamentary

Committee. He had recommended for the inclusion of Koch-Rajbanshi as Scheduled Tribe (P).

Now the Ordinance has lapsed. It has become a constitutional crisis for the fourth time. Sixty lakhs people are living in Assam. Neither are they treated as SC nor ST in the State of Assam...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): We people do give in writing, but our names are not called...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not given notice on. Your name is not in the list. Please take your seat...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Normally, the House does not run. Even when it runs, it is run like this. All members have given it in writing. Zero hour lasts for whole day...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANSHI: We are not getting any admission in engineering colleges, medical colleges and in any other institutions. We are not getting any appointment in any place. The Government has refused appointment for us as we are neither SC nor ST. My last submission is that the Government should reintroduce the Bill No. 21 of 1996 in the coming Session so that the 60 lakh people of this community can lead a better life, get admission and appointment in the State of Assam. This is my request.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: A statement is to be made.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Zero hour is over. Notice for calling attention motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it will not be heard. Mr. H.D. Devegowda.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Chairman. Sir, ask hon. Minister to give statement. Yesterday hon. Minister had promised to give statement with regard to deployment of army through civil authorities in Bihar. Today hon. Minister is present here, ask him to give a statement...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANDAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday, the question on action taken by the govt. on Calcutta High Court's decision dated April, 29, 1998 was raised several times. Dr. U.N. Biswas, Joint Director, CBI, Calcutta had filed this appeal against the Central Administrative Tribunal's decision.

Yesterday the Government had promised the House that it will give information on this issue to the house after taking legal opinion. But the legal opinion on Calcutta's High Court decision of quashing the departmental action taken against Dr. Biswas is yet to be made available. According to rules appeal can be made in Supreme Court upto August 12, 1998. After the availability of legal opinion on this matter, the government will taken decision as soon as possible...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: You are trying to put off the matter. The appeal should be filed. You are just trying to put off the matter...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani): This is not fair. The apeal should be filed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Listen quietly. Please take your seats. It makes no sense if everybody speaks at the same time. Please take your seats and listen carefully...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday the government had promised to give information to the House on this matter within 24 hours. It had promised to take further action on this matter. But no action has been taken. The matter is still pending...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: We have done, whatever we had promised...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: We want to know Government's stand on this issue. Whether the Government wants to go to the Supreme Court or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura): Mr. Chairman. Sir, yesterday, the hon. Minister had assured the house that after taking legal opinion, he would be in a position to inform the House about this matter. But today, he has shown no progress. Sir, it a question of the country's system and prestige. I am not against any particular person. The matter is about calling out the army. This is a constitutional question. This is also a fact that I am not a party to this issue. The army and C.B.I. are only two parties to it. Yesterday he had assured the House, but we do suspect that on the pretext of taking legal opinion the Government is trying to protect the culprits. I am not satisfied with the statement, therefore,, I am walking out.

14.12 hrs.

*Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House.*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to conclude by saying this is a prevaricious answer. From whom and how the Government are going to take legal opinion. Government do not want to make an appeal. Government is having Legal Secretary and Public Prosecutors. Government would have taken legal opinion within an hour. The only information required was whether the Government should file an appeal in Supreme Court or not. Government are wasting the time of the House by giving prevaricious answer. We are also not satisfied with the statement and hence we are also making a walk out.

14.13 hrs.

*Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House.*

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: We are also waiking out of the House.

*Shri Jogendra Kawade and Shri Ramdas Athawale then left the House.*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): This is a very important issue. We have to say something about this. Yesterday the hon. Minister gave an assurance ...*(Interruptions)*

It is a serious matter. I want to put across our view also on this because the Government has yesterday assured that they would take legal opinion and make a statement there. But today it seems the Government is evading this issue. It is not an individual's matter. It is a question of a civil servant calling the Army for any purpose, whatever may be whether right or wrong. A civil servant has no right to do that. It is a breach on the Constitution. It should not be taken lightly. It is not a question of an individual matter, whether an MP or an officer. I am sorry to say that the Government is taking it in a very light way.

14.14 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

I would like to know one more thing. Can the Government, at least by tomorrow give an assurance to this House because tomorrow the House is going to adjourn? Hon. Minister, can you give an assurance in this matter?

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the matter which was raised, yesterday has got two different issues. The first issue is whether army should be called or not. This is a different issue. It has nothing to do with this case. The case has got simple facts. Mr. Biswas in Calcutta High Court challenged the Government's decision to conduct a department inquiry against him. High Court has quashed the action against him. Whether Army should be called or not has got no relation with this issue. The question is whether the proceedings are valid or invalid. This matter is in the Court. The question is not whether Mr. Lalu is involved in this matter or not. The decision on whether to file the appeal or not will be taken by legal people. The opinion of Attorney-General, Advocate-General and other legal people will also be taken. It will not be fair, if they are going to pressurise us in this way. If they are going to lay the tradition of filing an appeal because of involvement of many political persons, it won't be fair. Hence it is requested that decision may be taken in favour of the Government. The legal opinion has been sought and if it is recommended therein that an appeal should be made, the Government should go ahead with it. However if the legal opinion rules out the possibility of any arguable point, there would be no sense in filing an appeal. There is time limit upto 15th of August. The Government has got sufficient time. Hence I urge upon the Government not to take the decision regarding filing or non-filing of appeal under political pressure. The decision should be taken on the basis of merits of the case. If there is merit in the case, an appeal should be filed otherwise it should be dropped.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): Sir, it is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jos, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri George Fernandes, would you like to say something?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a clarification. It has been stated here that a civil servant called the army. This is a constitutional matter and a very serious one as well. It is associated with the



Supreme Court, Calcutta High Court and Patna High Court. Patna High Court directed the C.B.I. to write to the army officials stationed at Danapur and seek their help in case the police forces are not available. When such a direction was given, Shri Biswas was not present. He was in Calcutta at that time. The Court gave such directions only when the State Government of Bihar submitted not one or two but six affidavits in the court affirming that if assistance of police force is required to take action against highly placed persons, it will be given irrespective of status of person involved. When the assistance of police force was not made available, the local C.B.I. officials went to the court. The senior most Director of C.B.I. at Delhi directed the local officials to serve the warrants issued by the Courts immediately. The local officials of C.B.I. had the responsibility of serving the non-bailable warrants issued by the court immediately and it was their duty. Hence the Court suggested this course of action to help them discharge their responsibility. When the police force was not provided, the lawyer for C.B.I. went to the court and stated the position. At this the court directed the C.B.I. to approach the army. The letter was sent to the army and army took this view regarding that letter that since it was not a direct request from a civil authority and the order of the Board was based on the orders of the Board was based on the orders of the court and that is why I said that this matter was taken up in Calcutta High Court, Patna High Court and Supreme Court. It is an admitted fact that Justice Jha had given directions to C.B.I. to seek the help of army.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Were these directions given in writing or orally?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The directions were given orally but the court has acknowledged it. The issue is not as to whether the directions were given in writing or orally. This is a matter pertaining to Court. The Court had given these directions and action was taken on it. The then Minister of Home Affairs held an enquiry through the Director General of Railways Protection Force. After an enquiry, the charge sheet was filed by Ministry of Home Affairs. Shri Biswas approached the CAT and CAT refused to intervene. At this, he approached Calcutta High Court. I would like to quote from the judgement given by the Calcutta High Court in this regard:

[English]

"We are clearly of the view that the Central Government has acted illegally and *mala fide* in initiating proceedings against Dr. Biswas as an investigating Officer, who is still in charge of investigation, which will spoil the investigation and the result would be disastrous. The

attitude of the court and the administration are quite different. The court is concerned to preserve and protect the administration of justice and to see that the same is not broken down"...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear him first. After the completion of his statement, you can raise your points.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance later. Please sit down. The Minister has not completed his statement. Please sit down.

Except the hon. Minister's statement, nothing else will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called the hon. Minister. He has not completed his statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Acharya, please sit down. I will give you a chance later.

[Translation:]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the judgment of the Calcutta High Court. The Calcutta High Court has disapproved the role of the Union Government in this case. Now it is for the Government to decide as to whether it will file on appeal or not. Shri Lalu Yadav was granted bail even when it was being opposed by the C.B.I. Still he was granted the bail. The Union Government did not file any appeal in the Supreme Court in this regard. I fail to understand as to why C.B.I. is not given orders to make arrests. The orders for bail are given through the High Court and the Union Government does not approach the Supreme Court in this regard. The Government is then asked as to why an appeal is not being filed. Filing or non-filing of an appeal was in the hands of the Government at that time and it is so even now. The Government will decide it. You can not have it your way by shouting.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghubans Prasad Singh.

...(Interruptions)

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Mr. Chairman, Sir...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute, Shri Jos. I have called Shri Raghubans Prasad Singh.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, I am not surprised to see hon. George Fernandes arguing for the establishment...(*Interruptions*). Last year he was arguing against it, now he is arguing for it...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, in the last four years. I have fought to see that the people who have cheated the treasury are brought to book. I have fought this for four years and he knows it...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Patna High Court gave the judgment that no action can be taken against the C.B.I. Officer. The Government filed an appeal in the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court held that the Government has the authority to hold an enquiry and take action against any C.B.I. officials who might have acted illegally. We have the copy of that judgement. Thereafter when the Government initiated action, Shri Biswas approached Calcutta High Court and the Calcutta High Court then gave the judgement that no action will be taken against him. My submission is that when Patna High Court ruled out taking any action against any official and the Supreme Court held that the Government is free to take action any official and thereafter, the Calcutta High Court held that no action can be taken against that official. Whose judgement should prevail in this case—that of the Supreme Court or the High Court?

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is here. Why are the Members unnecessarily reacting?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Patna High Court has held that no action can be taken against the C.B.I. official whereas the Supreme Court has given a different ruling. Justice Bharucha and Justice Sen held that the Government is free to take action against the officer acting in an illegal manner. When action was

initiated in the light of that judgement, Shri Durai held the enquiry and found that the investigating Director has acted illegally by calling the army. Calcutta High Court quashed that notice and granted a stay. The Supreme Court Judges held that the Government is free to take action. Calcutta High Court granted a stay on it. Now should the judgement of Supreme Court prevail or should the ruling of High Court be followed. Hence it is a fit case. When C.B.I. filed charge sheet against Shri Advani on the behalf of the Government, the C.B.I. approached the Supreme Court and judgement was delivered. Thus a convention is followed by the Government that whenever there is a discrepancy in the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court and the High Court, the judgement of Supreme Court shall prevail and the Government should approach the Supreme Court in this regard. I have high regard for Shri George...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up. You are giving a speech. You are repeating everything.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Please listen to the judgement delivered by Supreme Court I would read it out:

[*English*]

"The warrant against Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav having been issued by the Special Court in which the charge-sheet had been filed after completion of the investigation...There was no occasion for any officer of the CBI to approach the High Court or the Division Bench of the High Court to issue any directions, oral or otherwise, for seeking the aid of the Army for execution of the warrant against Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. On this basis, it was contended that some of the directions given in the impugned order pertaining to the inquiry into the incident relating to the seeking of the aid of the Army, were not matters required to be gone into by the High Court and the directions relating to the same are untenable."

[*Translation*]

The judgement delivered by High Court was reversed by the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court directed the Government to take action and action is being taken in the light of that very ruling...(*Interruptions*). The action is being taken as per directions of Supreme Court and

the Calcutta High Court has no authority to grant a stay...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Please ask the hon. Member to tell what the judgement says. He has not right to mislead the House. Let him clarify...*(Interruptions)* Please go through it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Why are you provoking?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, no more discussion on this matter. I am requesting all the Member that now there will be no more discussion on this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri H.D. Deve Gowda on Calling Attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except the speech of Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, nothing will go on record. There will be no more discussion on this matter. We have discussed this matter elaborately in this house.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The judgement referred to by you was given in 1997 in some other case whereas this judgement was delivered by High Court in 1998...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is the same...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everything is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot change records and judgements. Everything is there on record. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to continue the discussion on the Budget also today. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Mr. Chairman, sir, with your permission...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Shri Devegowda. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The former Prime Minister is on his legs. Please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kurién, I have called Shri Devegowda. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Devegowda's speech.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Devegowda is on his legs. Please cooperate.

*[Translation]*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): This Government is dragging its feet. Muslim League has also stayed a walk out. Our walk-out should be put on record.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be recorded. There is no problem.

14.32 hrs.

Shri G.M. Baratwala then left the House.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: You want to protect a corrupt man.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sukhrām ji is perhaps a great idealist and that is why you have taken him under your wings.

[English]

14.32 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT  
PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Shortage of SOP, 20:20:05 Mixture and Potash in  
Hassan and Mysore Districts of Karnataka**

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (HASSAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of shortage of SOP, 20:20:05 Mixture and Potash in the State of Karnataka particularly in Hassan and Mysore districts resulting in great difficulty to farmers and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member, Shri H.D. Devegowda Ji for drawing the attention of the Government to shortage of Sulphate of Potash (SOP) 20:20:05 and Potash in the State of Karnataka and, particularly, in Hassan and Mysore districts of the State. In respect of SOP, Shri Devegowda Ji had written to me separately also. I shall like to clarify the position in respect of availability of these fertilizers in the State as well as steps taken by the Government.

Sulphate of Potash (SOP) is mainly used for cash crops like Virginia Tobacco, Grapes and Seed Potatoes. The estimated requirement of SOP during 1998-99 is 18,000 metric tonnes. This is met entirely through imports which are made from Germany alone. Imports of SOP are free and can be made by anybody without any special authorisation. However, it is Indian Potash Limited (IPL) alone which is currently importing SOP and making available through their dealers network and State institutional agencies in consultation with the State Governments which have responsibility for arranging intra-State distribution. Indian Potash Limited had made a plan to import 5,000 metric tonnes of SOP in April, 1998. But this could not materialise due to non-availability of vessel

to carry such a small parcel, increase in SOP price in international market and delay in contracting of Muriate of Potash (MOP) from Germany.

It is true that there was shortage of SOP in Karnataka during transplantation of Virginia Tobacco. Against the estimated requirement of 4,500 MT during Kharif in Karnataka, 1,825 MT have been supplied by IPL from their available stocks. This is inclusive of 300 MT which was rushed from the neighbouring States to overcome the shortages during the month of May 1998. In order that the situation of shortages is not exploited to the detriment of the farmers, IPL made 75 per cent of the stocks available for disposal to the State Government agencies in the State of Karnataka. Also, educational pamphlets in Kannada were distributed jointly by IPL and the State Government language to farmers informing them that those who could not use SOP as basal does, could use SOP at the time of first top dressing in July 1998 with the same efficacy.

To meet the requirement of SOP during the remaining period in Karnataka and in other parts of the country, IPL has contracted 10,000 MT of SOP. This is due to arrive in the country during this month and as far as the State of Karnataka is concerned, the material will be positioned before the top dressing season starts.

Muriate of Potash (MOP) is a decontrolled fertilizer. The entire requirement of the country is met through imports which have been decanalised with effect from 7th of June, 1993. The imports are currently made freely on the trade account by several companies including IPL. The supplies to States are made by them directly in accordance with their requirement and in consultation with the State Governments.

For Kharif 1998, the State of Karnataka has projected a requirement of 1.23 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs). So far (up to 31.5.1998) the companies have reportedly supplied 21, 034 MTs of MOP to the State. Against this, sales have been only 14010 MTs till 31.5.1998. The State has thus nearly, 7,000 MTs of stock available. I am hopeful that the balance requirement of the State shall be met in the remaining period of the season and in case of any problems, IPL shall be asked to come to the help of the State Government.

This complex fertilizer is supplied to the State of Karnataka by various companies namely Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF), Gujarat Namada Valley Fertilizers Company Limited (GNFC) and Zuari Agro Chemicals Limited (ZACL). Up to the end of May, the State of Karnataka had cumulative availability of 43, 825

[SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA]

MT of 20:20:05. Against this sales have been only 12, 932 MT. Thus the availability has so far been adequate to support sales. Further augmentation of supplies of 20:20:05 will be made by these companies in the coming months.

Before I conclude, I shall like to assure the hon. Member Shri Devegowda and others that even though these fertilizers are decontrolled and Government has no direct intervention to make as in the case of urea, we will take all possible steps for improved availability to farmers whose interests are uppermost in my mind.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I want to seek clarifications from the hon. Minister with regard to two or three points so that the problem that is now faced by the farmers can be solved in case the Government makes proper arrangements.

Your goodself has said in Para 2 that 4,500 MTs is the estimated quantity but the supply is only 1,825 MT and now to overcome this problem, because you are unable to supply for the basal dose, the officers have started educating the farmers by issuing pamphlets in Kannada language. For the first time, top dressing is going to overcome the problem of basal does if it is not going to be given.

The pamphlets say that top-dressing will help the farmers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this view is supported by any of the technical experts because it could have disease-prone effect on the quality of the tobacco and the productivity. I do not know whether it has been supported by the technical experts or not. These types of pamphlets make the farmers a little more confident about top-dressing. I am unable to understand whether this top-dressing is going to have some effect on the basal dose.

The hon. Minister in his reply has mentioned that about 90 metric tonnes of manure has been supplied to my district. I am not going to argue for my district alone. The issue is that your Government has taken steps only in the month of April. As you rightly pointed out, this material should come from one country, that is, Germany. The agricultural operations start in the months of May-June-July. This is a very important issue and the department ought to have taken certain steps. The respective departments must know as to what is the quantity that is required State-wise. I do not know why there was a lapse on the part of the department, so far as making necessary arrangements to find out the quantity of SOP that is required is concerned. You said that 18,000 MT is the anticipated consumption during this year.

Sir, the second issue is about the MOP. You have mentioned in the last para of the second page that the required quantity is 1.23 LMT and the supply is about 21,034 MT. Already, 14,010 MT of MOP has been used, and the remaining stock is hardly 7,000 MT. For the whole year, 1.23 LMT of MOP is required only in Karnataka. If I am not wrong, the country requires about 15 LMT. What is the arrangement that has been made in this regard? It has been decanalised and, therefore, traders and several companies including IPL are going to import this precious material. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any of the traders have come forward till today to import this material because it has been decanalised. As it has been decanalised, is it not the responsibility of the Government to see that this quantity of 15 LMT, which is required for the whole country, is imported, if necessary under the OGL? Karnataka alone requires 1.23 LMT of MOP. The crux of the problem is that the rupee value has come down — I do not want to go into the merits and demerits of the nuclear test at this stage — and its present value is Rs. 42 or Rs. 42 plus against one dollar. So, the cost has increased by Rs. 700 per tonne, and the private traders are not willing to import this material. The whole country is going to suffer because of this, and there will be a shortfall in the agricultural production this year.

Unless you take immediate steps, you are going to land us in trouble. This is my firm conviction. The Government should immediately take the responsibility to meet that additional cost of Rs. 700 per tonne because the rupee has fallen down. The dollar is now worth about Rs. 42 or Rs. 43/-. On account of this Rs. 700/- per tonne, what is going to be the additional burden? I do not know whether the burden has to be shared with the farmers or by the traders because on account of this problem, either the IPL or the private companies are not coming forward to import either MOP or SOP and other mixtures. I do not want to go into the details.

The months of May, June and July are very crucial periods for the farmers. For the Kharif crop which you have mentioned in your statement, what steps is the Government going to take? Are you going to meet this additional expenditure and allow the private companies to import at the enhanced rate because of the dip in rupee value? Kindly clarify these points.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Hon. Member Shri Devegowda being a farmer himself has very correctly pointed out certain matters. He is worried about the availability of MOP in the State, saying that the requirement of his State, Karnataka is 1.23 lakh tonnes. In my reply, I have mentioned that so far, up to 31st May, these are the figures I have got. The companies

have reportedly supplied 21,000 MT of MOP to the State. We will take all reasonable precautions.

Another question was whether the pamphlets were issued by IPL and the Agriculture Department of Karnataka Government and whether an expert advice has been taken.

The pamphlets were issued only after taking expert advice. For top-dressing also, the same effect can be obtained. A very large quantity of these pamphlets were issued in those areas.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: The hon. Minister in his reply has said that we have got 56,000 MT of MOP. That is what you have said. My State alone requires about 1.23 lakh tonnes. What you have said in your reply, 7,000 tonnes still remains as on 31st May, 1998. That is already consumed in last seven or eight days because this is such scarce commodity potash and MOP.

All types of mixtures are to be manufactured only through the MOP. You all know about it. The available quantity of 7000 tonnes is going to be consumed soon. The Minister has given the position as on 31.5.1998. But today the position is something different. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that 56,000 metric tonnes, which is available now, is not at all going to fulfill the needs of the farmers in this country. The State of Karnataka alone requires 1.23 lakh tonnes. How can it be possible to serve the farming community? Every crop requires MOP. Through MOP, the other mixtures are going to be manufactured. I have not given what is the required quantum of the mixtures. Mr. Minister, you have also not spelt out as to what is the quantum of mixture that is required in the whole country. My only apprehension is this. You have just entered into a contract to import 2 lakh metric tonnes. When is it going to come? But it is not the only issue. The real issue of difference in price is there. It is to the tune of Rs. 700/- per tonne. It is because of the fact that the rupee has dipped to the level of Rs. 42 or 43 per dollar. What is going to be done by the Government? Is this additional burden to be carried by the farmers or the Government of India will come to the rescue of the farmers? Please clarify the position.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I have very clearly mentioned in my reply that already two lakh metric tonnes has been provisionally contracted and it is expected to reach the country by 30th June. So, there should be no apprehension of shortages. I did not say that we would have only 54,000 tonnes that is available with us. We are adding to that whenever it is possible.

The next question is regarding the value of rupee coming down and the rupee touching a low level of Rs. 42 or something per dollar. But that has to be taken into consideration. So far, no concession has been announced regarding the devaluation of the rupee or the fertilizer likely to cost more. As I said, this is not the controlled fertilizer. Anybody can bring it. Even the State Government agencies can import fertilizer or through other agencies it can be imported. So, there is no likelihood of any shortage of fertilizer in the coming days.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: It is not a question of devaluation of the rupee. It is left to the Government of India to take a policy decision in the matter. My only contention is about the additional burden to be borne because of the present situation. I do not want to go into the details. Already, there is an additional burden of Rs. 700/- on the farmer's head. Or, will the Government of India take over that burden? Is the subsidy amount going to be increased? Please let me know.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: The Government of India has not yet decided about it. It is the Agriculture Department which has to decide about it. I will not be able to answer that question now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the apprehension of the former Prime Minister. But there is no apprehension as far as the Government of India is concerned. There is no problem.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Mr. Chairman, you are saying that there is no apprehension. But Rs. 700 is the additional burden that the farmers have to bear with. Who is going to bear that amount? You are a farmer. I know your commitment to the farming community. Since you are presiding over now, you may try to tell the Government to take immediate steps... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government has given the answer. We believe it. If anything is there, we will discuss it.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: All that I request is this. Can you give a direction to the Government to bear the additional burden of Rs. 700/- per tonne imposed on the farmer because of the recent nuclear tests? Everybody knows what happened to the rupee vis-a-vis the dollar. Why should a farmer carry the additional burden on his head? I would request you to give a direction to the Central Government that the additional amount of Rs. 700/- should be borne by the Central Government as additional subsidy. Kindly give that direction. That is only my humble request.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: It has nothing to do with the nuclear test as such. That issue is unnecessarily being brought in. But all the same, as I said, this has to be decided by the Agriculture Department...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Mr. Minister, you are a part of the Government.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Y-s, I am a part of the Government. That is why I say that I will request my colleague in the Agriculture Department to consider this matter seriously.

14.55 hrs.

URBAN LAND (CEILING AND REGULATION)  
REPEAL BILL\*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall take up Item No. 13.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I want to oppose the introduction of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Repeal Bill, 1998. This is unconstitutional. The Urban Land Ceiling Act was passed in 1976 during the Emergency because at the time, the Central Government had the power to enact laws pertaining to State Governments. In Article 252 of the Constitution, it is stated:

"If it appears to the Legislatures of two or more States to be desirable that any of the matters with respect to which Parliament has no power to make laws for the States except as provided in articles 249 and 250 should be regulated in such States by Parliament by law, and if resolutions to that effect

are passed by all the Houses of the Legislatures of those States, it shall be lawful for Parliament to pass an Act so passed shall apply to such States and to any other State by which it is adopted afterwards by resolution passed in that behalf by the House or, where there are two Houses, by each of the Houses of the Legislature of that State."

In Article 251, it is stated:

"Nothing in articles 249 and 250 shall restrict the power of the Legislature of a State to make any law which under this Constitution it has power to make, but if any provision of a law made by the Legislature of a State is repugnant to any provision of a law made by Parliament which Parliament has under either the said articles power to make..."

Here this proposal had been pending for the last five or six years. There had been number of conferences of Chief Ministers and of the Ministers of Housing but there was no unanimity. As there was no unanimity in the past, the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act could not be repealed.

15.00 hrs.

It has been stated that the public opinion is nearly unanimous. How has the public opinion been sought in regard to this repeal of Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act? Our experience is that there are lacunae in the Act and because of that, the purpose for which the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act was enacted by the Parliament could not be achieved. The Government could not get sufficient land for the construction of houses to provide accommodation to the people. That might be the main reason. But those loopholes and lacunae could be removed without repealing the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act.

How the Central Government can ask the State Governments to enact such law when after long persuasion and a number of conferences and meetings, only two Legislature — Haryana and Punjab — passed resolutions empowering Parliament to repeal the Act in those States? But no other State, has passed such resolutions in regard to the repeal of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act.

Sir, in my opinion, if we pass this legislation, it will be an unconstitutional act and, therefore, Sir, I oppose the introduction of this Bill and I request the hon. Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment to withdraw this legislation and call a meeting of all the political parties to

\* Published in the gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 11.6.98.

elicit their views and bring a legislation by amending the existing Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Article 245 of Indian Constitution states have been given power to make laws for areas under their jurisdiction and Parliament has been given power to make laws for entire India. Similarly under section 152, 251 and 250, under certain circumstances, Parliament has also been given power to make laws on subjects under state list. According to these articles, if the Rajya Sabha passes any resolution by two-third majority and subsequently all the legislatures of other states or legislatures of any two states pass that resolution then Parliament of India can legislate on that subject, even if it comes under the state list. In state list 'land' is written at no. 2 & 18. Under which State Legislative Assemblies and legislatures have been given power to make laws on all matters related to land. That is to say, rights in or overland, land tenures including the relation of landlord and tenant, and the collection of rents; transfer and alienation of agricultural land; land improvement and agricultural loans; colonization.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if two state legislatures pass the resolution, then only central government can make law. In 1976 eleven state Assemblies of India which included Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal empower the Parliament by passing the resolution to legislate the law. Today only two state Legislative Assemblies have given powers to hon'ble Minister by passing the resolution, therefore a bill to repeal this law should be presented before the House. I understand this is an extraordinary situation wherein the powers given by 11 legislative Assemblies are being overruled by the powers given by just two legislative assemblies. This is a direct interference in the jurisdiction of state governments. I think Parliament cannot pass this law.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the other thing which I would like to say is that a few days ago Ministers for Housing from all states of India held a conference. I want to know upto what extent the news item appearing in "The Statesman", which is a leading daily of India, is true. It says the hon'ble Minister for Urban Affairs has given a warning to the state Governments that sanctions could be imposed on the states which fail to abide by this law do not help in its execution. If hon'ble Minister has issued this statement, it is unfortunate because neither the State Governments or Legislative Assemblies are subjects nor Government of India is a Monarch. No Minister of Central Government can pressurise State Governments by giving

orders to pass this type of resolution. Mr. Chairman, Sir, that's why I would like to state that this is a direct interference in state's jurisdiction. While seeking leave to introduce the bill, the hon'ble Minister has said that this is an ulcer. I do not want to go into its merits. But I would like to say that such type of legislation is very harmful for the country. The law is anti-poor and anti people. This decision of the Government is an anti-social act. That is why I request you not to give permission to the Government to introduce this bill in the House. This is illegal and unconstitutional.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, your notice has been received at 11.30 a.m. As a former Speaker you know the rules. After the Minister's reply is over if you want to speak, you speak. But you know that processing and everything is there. There is a procedure in the House which should be followed.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): After all what I am going to add will only enlighten the Minister. My learned friend also would agree because I will be dealing with some matters of constitutional propriety only. That is all what I have to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But your notice has been received at 11.30 a.m. It should have been given by 10 O'clock.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It could not be given because the Speaker was not available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Otherwise everybody will ask for time. Everybody will oppose the introduction of the Bill at this stage. Even Congress Members were also asking for time. I said no. Please cooperate with the Chair. I am not deviating from the rules.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Constitutional matters must be raised at any time even without notice. Matters involving constitutional propriety can be raised even without a notice. No notice is required.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who told you?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is very crystal clear in all Houses. When constitutional propriety is involved, Members are allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rule says that every Member has to give a notice to the Secretary-General before 10 O'clock.



SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is a matter which arose from the discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please see Rule 72.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know everything but still you are asking for time. Please tell me how it is possible. Please do not waste time.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I will take only one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not give any time.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Please allow me; I will take only one minute. Please do not create a bad precedent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ram Jethmalani says.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I will agree to anything that you say. But my respectful submission to you is that kindly hear me for a few minutes. I will answer your doubts. If your doubt still persists, after that ask those questions.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is enough if I can speak after hearing him. Will you permit me? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is between you and the hon. Minister but please note that I have not given the permission.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You please hear me. I am opposing you only on constitutional propriety.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, you are a senior Member and you have been a Speaker. You should understand the position.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: On matters of constitutional propriety, all Speakers allow hon. Members to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Already Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Mohan Singh have voiced their objections.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I can assure the hon. Member — I can read his mind — that I know what he is going to say. Kindly hear me for a few minutes. If I do not resolve your doubts, then we will see what to do about it.

At the moment, we are only seeking leave to introduce the Bill. When the Bill comes up for consideration before this House, all the points which are now being argued can still be raised. I do not doubt the right of any hon. Member to oppose the introduction of a Bill, at the introduction stage. Rule 72 expressly provides for it. But if constitutional validity of the law is being talked about, then, on the contrary, the proper procedure is that it should be considered at the stage when the Bill is really being considered. At this stage, questions of constitutional propriety and validity neither are allowed to be raised nor is it usual to raise them. But since there has been a discussion on the constitutional aspect of it, I do not wish to shirk it.

There seems to be some misunderstanding. The other day when a Resolution moved by one of our hon. Members about the Housing Policy was being debated here this misunderstanding arose. At great length, I explained the constitutional position and I wish to reiterate it here.

Land is a State subject. This Parliament has no power to legislate about land at all. It is totally *ultra vires* if we ever venture into the field of legislation on land. Our power to legislate on land arises only under article 252. When two or more States ask us to legislate, when two or more States are unanimous about what law they want and they ask the Centre to legislate, we can just do it. But we are doing it more as their surrogates, as their agents. Equally, article 252 (2) provides for repeal of such a law. The repeal can be effected in the same manner in which the original passing of the Act is contemplated by the article. In other words, if two or more States request for the repeal, we are under a moral, political and almost a binding constitutional obligation to restore to the States their freedom of action.

It is true that originally a larger number of States had asked for the enactment of this Bill. Now, it is a lesser number of States which are asking for the repeal. But the Constitution specifically takes care of that situation

\* Not Recorded.

as well. When we repeal now, the repeal will not become operative in any State which wants the Act to continue. Every State legislature has now to pass an adoption Act. Those who want to continue with the present law are entitled to continue with the present law by refusing to pass an adoption measure. But those who accept the policy of repeal will have to adopt it and then alone will the repeal become effective in those States. Therefore, today we are really carrying out what I regard as a constitutional obligation. As two States want their freedom, we are bound to restore their freedom, leaving the other States to continue to be bound by the old law. They can also accept the repeal and make another law with their own amendments which they want to be introduced.

Now, the picture that has been presented that only two States have asked for the repeal is also not right. It is very very technically right but in substance it is wrong. It is wrong for this reason. A large number of States which participated in the Ministerial Conferences wanted it and one Ministerial Conference asked for an Expert Committee to go into it.

The Expert Committee suggested some 55 amendments. We have no reason or no constitutional right to amend unless all the 17 States which have originally become parties to the adoption of this Statute are unanimous about the amendments. They are not unanimous now. In fact, to cite an example, the UP Government say that we need not repeal it, but amend it. But we have no power to effect merely amendments in this Act. The amendments will be *ultra vires* unless all the original 17 States are agreed upon the nature of the amendments.

Therefore, the only proper constitutional course left is that we repeal it and leave each State free to carry out whatever policies it wants to adopt.

My friend now said that it is anti-poor and pro-rich and so on and so forth. I wish to assure this House that the original purpose of the Urban Land Ceiling Act was a sacrosanct purpose. It is a sacred purpose, a purpose which this Government fully shares. I do not want to go into the details now. We are at the introduction stage. At this stage, I do not want to go into the reasons. But the Act has failed its purpose.

Now I want to bring to the attention of this House, two or three important facts. As a matter of fact, this Government is not doing anything new. The previous Government had threadbare considered this kind of a legislation and ultimately, on the 13th of November 1997, the previous Cabinet passed a Resolution that this Act

should be repeated? Now I am quite surprised to see the situation.

[Translation]

I am somewhat surprised that my hon'ble friends Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav have publicly announced to oppose the bill, despite the fact that they were Members of the previous cabinet. How do the change in seating arrangement of House brings changes in the thinking of persons, is really surprising. I do not understand why this change of heart has taken place.

[English]

We are carrying out the decision of the previous cabinet.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Cabinet is not a political party. We do not accept it at party level.

[English]

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: The previous Cabinet has passed this measure.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: What is decided by the Cabinet is not informed.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I will tell you that on the 13th of November 1997, they have decided; it was a Cabinet decision.

At least two of today's principal opponents of the Bill are those who are parties to that decision. Now let us forget it. We will be going to the consideration stage. At the consideration stage, we will consider everything. I would assure you that if you permit me to mention. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I want to put a simple question. The Minister has agreed. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Please sit down. You are interfering every time.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: But he has agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Please sit down. I will not give you permission. We will discuss it later.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: But he has agreed, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister would have agreed; but the Chair has not agreed. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have a doubt S.r. Will you please clear that doubt? I ask this with the permission of the Chair. By way of a clarification, I want to put this question. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: First let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I remember your doubt. I will not sit down until I clear your doubt.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: My question is very very simple. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If your doubt is not cleared even after the Minister's speech, then you can raise it. Now, you please sit down. The Minister knows your question. You have raised it already on the other day.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I think, the House will be in peace, if my friend's soul is kept in peace. Let him ask that question, I will answer it. Sir, I will yield for a minute: let him ask that question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, you may put your question. You should not take more than a minute and it should pertain to this subject.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The question is very simple. As you know, this House is represented by 25 States and seven Union Territories. Now, let us forget about the present issue. Suppose there is a national question and the Minister at the Centre is not prepared to be concerned about the national consensus, then what will happen?

He has inclined to hear the opinion of only two States and bring in a legislation under Article 252. Simple two

States will do for him without obtaining a national consensus. His attempt will create a very bad precedent for the future to bring in a legislation without obtaining a national consensus. And that will go on record. By obtaining the opinion of only two States and without obtaining the national consensus, any Minister can bring a legislation in this House. If it is at least five or six States, I can understand. What is the difficulty?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't argue with the Minister. You have said whatever you wanted to say.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It will create a very bad precedent in history.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will explain everything. Please sit down.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Why should he hear the opinion of only two States and bring in a legislation for 25 States? Sir, we believe in democracy. Precedents are as good as law. Do you agree or not? Do you want to create such a precedent where any Minister will bring a legislation to the majority of the States without obtaining a national consensus?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: The trouble of the hon Member is, he thinks that his doubts can never be resolved by anybody. We know it. So, there is no point in introducing heat in this matter. It is a very simple thing. If two States ask for a common legislation, the Centre may well oblige and pass a legislation which will bind only those two States.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: How can you bring a legislation without obtaining a national consensus?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: There is no question of national consensus because each State is free to go by its own law. Please sit down. If you do not understand, I cannot help it... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't argue. Please hear the Minister.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Every State is free to have its own law and every State is free not to adopt the repeal. But we are bound to set those two or three States which have asked for the repeal. That is a constitutional obligation.

Sir, it is said that it is anti-poor. I still wish to maintain that the only method by which we can satisfy the requirements of the poor people of this country for whom

this Act has failed to deliver goods is to repeal this Act to proceed in the new economic direction...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: A very bad precedent is being created.

SHRI RAM JETHAMLANI: I will tell you what has happened. One of the evils of this law has been that the State Governments and some very powerful people of the State Governments have kept exempting land from the operation of this Act and those who have managed to get these exemptions have spent stupendous sums of money. Some people of this country are holding land which has cost them millions of rupees which are not accounted for. Now, it is those people who are opposing this Bill because prices are falling and are going to fall. The moment we announced that this Act is going to be repealed, prices have already fallen by Rs. 2000 per square foot in the city of Mumbai...(Interruptions)... The expert opinion is unanimous and we will go by expert opinion. Experts have all said that the prices of land will fall and the houses for the poor will become affordable only if we repeal this Act. It has come to be called as ULCAR...(Interruptions)...Therefore, I beg for leave to introduce this Bill. We can consider the pros and cons at a later stage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976."

**The motion was adopted**

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not right therefore we are walking out from the House in protest.

15.24 hrs.

*At this state Shri Mohan Singh and some other Hon'ble Members left the House.*

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): We also walk out of the House in protest against the introduction of the urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Repeal Bill.

15.25 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Anil Basu and some other hon. Members left the House)*

15.27 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

**(i) Need to provide adequate funds for early completion of ANAS drinking water project in Jaipur, Rajasthan.**

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, to remove the acute drinking water problem of Jaipur city, the state government had formulated Bisalpur Project worth Rs. 1300 crores. Right now Jaipur city has 1600 handpumps, 758 tubewells and 8-10 thousand borwells too deal with drinking water problem. During this summer, the State Government proposes to install 100 hand pumps in the city to overcome this problem. Ground water is being excessively exploited. Vanas Drinking Water Project is the only solution to this problem, but the State Government does not have an amount of Rs. 1300 crore.

I would urge the Central Government to provide adequate funds for the early completion of Drinking Water project in Jaipur.

**(ii) Need to take steps for Cheannelisation of water of swan river and its tributaries in Himachal Pradesh.**

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR) (H.P.): Sir, Himachal Pradesh is a hilly and backward state. The arable land in Himachal Pradesh is very less and even where arable land is available. The farmers are left at the mercy of God due to lack of irrigation facilities. In district Una of my constituency heavy rain and flood cause heavy losses every year. If channelisation of Swan river, flowing through Una district, and its 73 Tributaries is done, losses of crops worth Rs. 300 crores caused due to flood every year in the district can be avoided. And the foodgrains production in Una district of Himachal Pradesh cannot only fulfil the foodgrain requirements of Himachal Pradesh but the same can be made available to other states also.

The channelisation of swan river would not only be in the interest of the state, but also in the interest of entire country. I, therefore, urge upon the hon'ble Minister for Water Minister for Water Resources to formulate

[SHRI SURESH CHANDEL]

special plan for the channelisation of Swan river and its 73 tributaries and provide adequate funds for this during this financial year with a view to providing adequate irrigation facilities in Una district. As a result, the state will not only become self sufficient, but would also be able to produce foodgrains to neighbouring states.

**(iii) NEED for inclusion of Santhali Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution**

[English]

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): Sir, I would like to bring to the kind notice of this august House the need for recognition of Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Nepali, Manipuri and Konkani languages were included in the Eighth Schedule in 1992 but Santhali language was not included though it tops among the 93 non-scheduled languages as per the Census Commissioner of India. As per 1991 Census, Nepali, Manipur and Konkani speakers were 21 lakhs, 18 lakhs and 13 lakhs, respectively, whereas Santhali speakers were 52 lakhs. Besides, Santhali can be *lingua franca* for Munda, Ho, Bhumiji, Mahli and other tribals.

Therefore, I request the Central Government, through your, Sir, for immediate inclusion of Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution and thus honour the Santhals with their constitutional rights as per Article 29(1).

**(iv) Need to increase the amount of honorarium being paid to Village Health Guides**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Village Health Guides working since 1977-78 and having put in service of 15 to 18 years are getting Rs. 50 month as honorarium which is too meagre to subsist at present. Also, the supply of required medicines has been stopped to them. These medicines should be supplied in adequate quantity so that the villagers could avail of the primary health services. The honorarium being paid to the Health Guides should also be raised from Rs. 50 to Rs. 500 per month.

**(v) Need to create a Separate Ministry/department Exclusively for the Welfare of Ex-Servicemen**

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the

Government through you to the conditions of ex-servicemen in the country. There are about 50 lakhs ex-servicemen and their families in the country. There is only one Kendriya Sainik Board which was established during 1917 to look after the welfare of the ex-servicemen, NOK of the deceased, disabled soliders in Action. There are about 12,51,000 ex-servicemen registered with Kendriya Sainik Board awaiting resettlement. Fifty thousand soliders retire every year from the three Services. I will submit that average retirement age of persons below officers' rank is 35 years. It is higher for offers *i.e.* about 50 years. Bulk of the armed forces are made of persons below officers rank. Therefore, ex-servicemen as a category needs to be rehabilitated.

The funds allotted for care of ex-servicemen is very meager, Kendriya Sainik Board is not equipped and organised to look after the welfare of ex-servicemen. In this context it is worth mentioning that USA has a separate Ministry though with a limited ex-servicemen population. Subject of ex-servicemen welfare is left to States whose response is just negligible. On reretiring at a young age the ex-servicemen are at a loss to seek re-employment because they lack knowledge, skill and experience that is required in any civil profession.

Therefore, I strongly feel that there is a need for a separate Ministry for ex-servicemen. However, in case it is not possible, a separate Department must be created under Ministry of Defence totally dedicated to the welfare of ex-servicemen.

15.33 hrs.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey *in the Chair*]

**(vi) Need to Allocate Rs. 45 Crore to the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. Durgapur Unit for Repairing its Boiler and other Machinery.**

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr Chairman, Sir, in order to save the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Durgapur Unit, the only urea producing plant in West Bengal, Government of India should allocate Rs. 45 crore, according to audit Report of the Plant, for repairing its boiler and other machinery so that the plant will start its production. Though we know that HFC has been referred to BIFR, yet it has to await final verdict of the BIFR. It is a long process. The Government is giving Rs. 32 crore per year for preservation of the unit without any production. What is the necessity of it? Whereas if Government allocates only Rs. 45 crore, the factory will start its production. The farmers of West Bengal will get urea from their own plant. So, I urge upon the Central Government to please release Rs. 45 crore so that the HFC, Durgapur could be saved.

- (vii) Need to look into the visa and other problems being faced by the persons of Indian origin displaced from Afghanistan seeking entry into India.**

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the civil war in neighbouring country of Afghanistan has taken a turn for the worse. Although the war is going between its natives, but it has created danger for the people of Indian origin, sikhs and Hindus alike. They have been compelled to leave Afghanistan leaving all their belongings back in that country to protect their lives. Some of such families have incidentally come to India but under Indian laws governing visa, they are facing lot of difficulties.

I, therefore, request the government to intervene in the matter immediately and provide relief to these helpless families of Indian origin.

- (viii) Need to issue no objection certificates to Mumbai Mahanagar Palika for providing basic facilities to the slum dwellers living on the land of Mumbai Airport Authority.**

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, lakhs of people live in the slums adjoining Mumbai Airport. Despite the fact that they are living there for the last 25-30 years, they have been facing the problem of electricity, water and roads etc. For providing these facilities, Mumbai Mahanagar Palika demands NOC from the Airport Authority and the Airport Authority is not obliging. Even after 50 years of independence, people are forced to live in the dark in a big city like Mumbai.

I would urge that the Airport Authority may be directed to take necessary steps to provide facilities to the people living in slums.

- (ix) Need to Sanction Interim Relief for the Employees of the Central Public Sector Units**

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): As per this year's economic survey, there are 239 Public Sector Units and about Rs. 1738.7 billion are plumped into it. We have got about lakhs of workers. The salary revision for the central public sector employees, both workers and officers, are due on 1.1.97. One and a half years have passed. Government has appointed a Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) Mohan, known as Mohan Committee, for

the revision of salary. There is inordinate delay in arriving at conclusion. They have recommended 10 per cent interim relief for the employees of the public sector. National confederation of Officers Association have demanded for 20 per cent interim relief. Government has not taken any decision in this matter. Because of this the officers had to resort to a token strike on 21.5.98. On 14th DPE called a meeting of the representatives of the officers in which they have agreed to pass orders for interim relief at the earliest. The employees of the public sector are quite restive and unrest is brewing among them. I request the Minister of Industry and the Minister of Labour for an immediate decision with regard to interim relief for the Central Public Sector Units.

- (x) Need to construct a by-pass on National Highway No. 37 at Nowgong**

SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI (Nowgong): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the long-standing demand of constructing a by-pass at Nowgong on National Highway 37. Nowgong is the district headquarter and an important business centre of Assam. The National Highway 37 passes through the heart of Nowgong town. The Highway traffic is so dense on this part that a by-pass at Nowgong is very essential. It is the policy of the Government to construct by-pass where the National Highway passes through a district headquarter. Therefore, I urge the Government to take necessary steps for the construction of by-pass at Nowgong on National Highway 37.

15.40 hrs.

BUDGET (GENERAL) 1998-99—GENERAL  
DISCUSSION DEMAND FOR EXCESS GRANTS  
(GENERAL) 1995-96 - CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a list of 60 Members who wish to participate in the General Discussion on the Budget. Earlier it was decided that the house shall sit up to 9 p.m. If the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wishes to say something in this regard, he may do so now.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that I have spoken to Hon'ble Speaker. About 60 members wish to speak and the House may have to sit

[SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA]

late even after 9 p.m. to accommodate all these members. So should arrangement be made for dinner with your permission?

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: All right.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Hon'ble Minister should make the arrangements for dinner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khurana has already mentioned that arrangements will be made for dinner.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I request that all the Members should be given a chance to speak by observing a time-limit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khurana has said that all the members will be given a chance to speak and that is why the House is going to sit late.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, will tell you as to when the reply will be given by the Minister.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (Karnal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a suggestion. Why is the Government in such a hurry? We sit here till late in the night. Instead the Session could be extended by one to two days. It is not appropriate to sit late in the night on regular basis. What is the compulsion? We are not going to bring down the Government. Late sitting has become a daily affair.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The House has sat late in the night earlier also.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House has already decided to sit late.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The decision has been taken after consulting all the leaders. It was decided in the B.A.C. meeting and all the leaders participated in that meeting.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Bhajan Lal ji is also included in those leaders. He is not an ordinary person.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: it was decided in consultation with the leaders of all Parties. It is the sense of the House also that we should sit late and finish the debate.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki): We agreed to what the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said. But it does not mean that merely because leaders have decided, everything can be done. We all accept this with a protest. The number of sittings is coming down but we are sitting late in the night more frequently. This is not a good practice. Instead of meeting on more days we are meeting for less number of days and for urgent purposes we are sitting late. Today we agree to it but we mark our protest against this unhealthy practice.

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has indicated that House will sit late and arrangement will be made for dinner. Why is the Government in such a hurry? We have not turned down your request for having dinner. The question arises as to why is the Government in such a tearing hurry. The Rail Budget was passed after sitting here throughout the night. Similar tactics are being adopted again in this case also. It seems as if the Government is going to remain in power for few days and that is why it is in such a hurry.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Voraji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the budget for the year 1998-99 presented in the House. I am supporting it because it is a very straight forward and good budget and it will meet the expectations of all the sections. The budget was presented last year also and the reaction of the people to that budget was that it was a dream budget. During 1997-98 i.e. throughout the year, we kept on dreaming, however the dreams did not come true. The results were so bad that we were unable to achieve the estimated growth rate. Negative growth was reported from many sectors. The promises made, including the promise of removing unemployment were not fulfilled. Same was the case with industrial production as well. Instead of a rise, negative growth was reported from many sectors. The dream budget presented by the previous Government was highly appreciated, however, nothing came out of it. I

\* Not Recorded.

congratulate Hon'ble Minister of Finance for the present budget because this is a very bold, innovative and growth oriented budget. People were speculating that after the nuclear tests at Pokharan, a very harsh budget will follow. Taxes will be imposed on several items and prices will flare up. The Government will try to tap funds from all possible sources because the sanctions will be imposed by U.S.A. and other countries. However, the sanctions were not imposed. The budget presented by Hon'ble Minister of Finance does not reflect any problems anywhere. Pakistan is our neighbouring country. They have also conducted such tests, however, they have imposed emergency after conducting the tests. Nothing of the sort happened in our country. It clearly indicates that the Government is very cautious and it is also not facing any problem. I would congratulate Hon'ble Minister of Finance for having brought down the fiscal deficit to 5.6%. A growth rate of 8% has been envisaged. About 75% of the population of our country lives in villages. It is a matter of Pleasure and commendable as well that the Central Plan allocation for agriculture has been increased from Rs. 2969 crore to Rs. 3864 crore. I am fully confident that enhanced allocation will prove to be beneficial for the poor and the backward people living in villages where there are no roads and electricity. The House is aware that I used to play cricket for my country. I entered politics for the first time in 1991. I had no idea that our country was so backward and also what was happening inside the country. I fought the election in 1991. When I toured my constituency, I became aware of the extent of poverty and backwardness in the country. Even after 50 years of independence, the villages do not have metalled roads, power or drinking water. The areas having the facility of power, remain without power for five to seven hours a day. I am fully confident that the funds will be spent for the development of rural areas which will prove to be beneficial for these areas. Those living in villages and especially the unemployed are immigrating to cities because there are no avenues of employment in the rural areas. There are no facilities also and whatever facilities have been provided, are insufficient. I congratulate Hon'ble Minister of Finance for having increased the provision for rural development from Rs. 7691 crore to Rs. 8182 crore. Rs. 1600 crore have been allocated for Indira Awas Yojana which will be utilised to construct 13 lakh new dwelling units this year and I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Prime Minister for it. All of us are aware that the poor people do not own houses. Last week, we were discussing in the House that around 2500 people have died of sunstroke and this figure might have touched 3000 by now. As the people living in villages do not have any houses, that is why, so many people have died of sunstroke. Now that 13 lakh dwelling units will be constructed in a year, it will definitely benefit those living below the poverty line.

Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Finance has allocated Rs. 1627 crore in the budget for drinking water. As I was saying that drinking water is not available even after 50 years of independence. Besides Rajasthan, some parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, there are many other backward states and hilly areas, where drinking water is not available. I am confident that when the funds reach these areas, drinking water will be provided for all. The Government has claimed that it will provide drinking water in one lakh new colonies this year i.e. within one year in rural as well as urban areas. The Government has made a provision for the issuance of Kisan Credit Card in order to extend loans and other facilities to the farmers. Hon'ble Jajhar ji is present in the House. He hails from a rural area and always raises the issues of villages. If a farmer possesses a credit card, he will not have to knock at other doors. His credit limit will be decided. If such facility is provided to farmers in the rural area, it will help in checking the operations of private money lenders.

The Government has taken several steps to promote industries, but they have not been of much use. As I said that the industrial growth projected in 1997-98 was not achieved and there was negative growth in various sectors. I understand that our country has witnessed recession in the industrial sector in last one and a half year.

[English]

This has been the worst recession during the last two years.

[Translation]

I believe that with the allocation of funds in the present budget and the facilities being extended to industries as several new facilities have been extended this time because there is a need to encourage, provide special grants to and have a sympathetic attitude towards industries. The Government has adjusted the excise duty. Which will benefit the industries. The Government has proposed 8% special import duty. A demand was being made by the industries for quite a long time that they should be given level playing field because the foreign goods were available at cheaper rates and the indigenous items were costlier. The indigenous goods were lying unsold. The imposition of 8% special import duty will be beneficial for the industries. (Interruptions) Foreign goods have flooded the market. Dumping of goods is taking place. Such goods have been dumped in large quantity in our country in last one and a half year which has been one of the main reasons due to which the industries in our country have become sick. Now the country is



[SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN]

facing recession. The Government has constituted anti-dumping authority. I request Hon'ble Minister to ensure that this authority starts functioning at the earliest. Capital expenditure has been increased by 35%.

[English]

It has been increased Rs. 45,250 crore to Rs. 61,150 crore.

[Translation]

There has been an increase of approximately 1600 crore rupees and as per the plan outlay, the expenditure being incurred in respect of energy, communication and roads will go a long way in promoting the industries. This is not just my feeling, rather this feeling is shared by all those associated with the industries. I would like to make a mention regarding the chamber of commerce. It was stated here. Murli Deora ji had mentioned names of some persons who opined that this budget will not result in growth. I would like to quote here:

[English]

"Reacting to the 1998-99 Union Budget, CII President Rajiv V. Shah stated that the Budget would help in restoring the investors confidence and land the economy a status of a strategic value-adding partner in the region.

Shah said that the Union Finance Minister has initiated a number of bold decisions to bail out the economy from the current slow down.

He said that the increased outlay in infrastructure plan outlay on energy, transportation, communication, housing and roads would vastly improve the situation and get up the economy on a seven per cent CDP.

Shah felt that the increased outlay of these sectors should help in improving the employment situation by kick-starting steel, cement and other downstream sectors."

[Translation]

Sir, I feel that this budget will help in generation of employment in our country. It was mentioned only yesterday that there are around five crore people who are unemployed. Yesterday, an hon. Member was saying that this budget will not help in generating employment. In this respect, I would like to tell him that a provision of approximately 7280 crore rupees has been made in this budget for rural employment and poverty alleviation. Out

of this, Rs. 1990 crore have been allocated for poverty alleviation programme.

[English]

This amount of Rs. 1,990 crore has been kept for providing assured and skilled wage employment of hundred days to those seeking such employment in lean agricultural season.

[Translation]

I have already mentioned the position regarding Indira Awas Yojana and rural development. Provision has been made for animal husbandry and other sectors which will provide employment to the unemployed youth and Rs. 1000 crore have been allocated for khadi and village industries. Apart from this, Rs. 110 crore have been allocated for small scale industries and all these funds will be utilised.

[English]

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana to assist two lakh educated unemployed youth.

[Translation]

Approximately 500 crore rupees have been allocated for Surface Transport. Incentive has been offered to NRI, i.e. all people of Indian origin in this budget. Cash is thus expected to flow in from foreign countries. Apprehensions are being expressed with regard to imposition of sanctions and if sanctions are imposed, the money received from NRIs will prove to be useful. As for the issue of freedom from the Inspector Raj, there are many problems in this regard...(Interruptions) A demand was being made for a long time for the withdrawal of service tax imposed on the transport sector. Its withdrawal will be beneficial. Duty has been waived off to promote the small scale industries upto 50 lakh rupees. A complete exemption has been given. There is a flat rate of 5% upto one crore. Working capital will be doubled in case of small scale industries and the units showing good performance will be given relief in interest.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a demand was made to raise the income tax exemption limit for the salaried class. Hence the limit of forty thousand rupees was raised to fifty thousand rupees. The standard deduction was raised from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000. The salaried class and the middle class people have been benefitted by this budget.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Sir, I am concluding.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, steps have been taken to strengthen the banks. The coffers of banks are full and C.R.R. has been reduced. Approximately sixty thousand crore rupees are lying with the banks...(Interruptions) Trust in industries has been eroded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am calling another Member. Shri Rupchand Pal, please.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: I would like to submit that there is a need to strengthen the Regional Rural banks also. The Regional Rural banks are doing a good job especially in the area of rural credit.

It has also been mentioned here that the outlay for Defence is inadequate. In this regard, I would like to say that approximately forty two thousand crore rupees have been allocated for Defence. Hon'ble Minister has stated that if the funds are found inadequate, subsequent demands will also be met.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is too much. Please conclude you have already taken 17 minutes. There are 60 Members to speak. Nothing will go on record. Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI RUPCHAND PÁL (Hooghly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget. I have risen to oppose it on several grounds, but because of constraint of time, I shall mention only a few major points.

The first thing is that the hon. Finance Minister has failed to make any attempt to reverse the industrial slow down that has been a major cause of concern to everyone of us. He has miserably failed to address that area.

Secondly, he has also failed to learn from the negative developments of LPG, that is, liberalisation, privatisation and globalization. We initiated the so-called economic reforms.

Thirdly, he has also failed to learn from the experience of the so-called Asian tigers. What has happened in East Asia and in South East Asian countries must provide a lesson to us because we had put before us the Asian tigers as models which have failed miserably today. They are reeling under acute crisis on several fronts.

The major factors for the industrial slow down are: firstly, there is a failure in the export front. I am not going into the details. The Minister is also silent on that question. He owes an explanation about his silence on this particular question. It is because the opening up of OGL by the Commerce Ministry, how to comply with WTO rules and all other things have not been covered in the Budget itself. But he proposes to do with regard to export. But my major concern is about the demand depression. Why is this demand depression? It is because there has been a continuous erosion in the purchasing power of the common people and the people who are living below the poverty line, of India.

Then again the stagnation in agriculture has contributed to that erosion. Furthermore, there have been more than four lakhs of units, large, medium and small scale, which are closed or sick. Only during the last two years or so more than two lakhs of people have been losing their jobs from the PSUs and several more are waiting to get out of the units.

I expected that this Government is different. They have been always claiming to be having an able Prime Minister, with a stable Government, with a different programme, different from others, who are more *swadeshi* and many more things. But I do not find anything different in the Budget which is a reflection upon the opportunist alliance of the BJP-led Government.

I am not going into the manifesto of their own party. I am going into the National Agenda for Governance only. They had promised certain things, 'Remove unemployment', 'one crore employment' and so on. But what has been proposed is more joblessness, more retrenchment in the form of more disinvestment. That is the only way they thought to come out of the debt trap. More than 46 per cent of the Central revenues and more than 80 per cent of our fiscal deposits are accounted by interest payment and debt servicing. And we are very much in the midst of a debt trap and the only way being thought out is disinvestment even of the *Navaratnas* and

\* Not Recorded.

[SHRI RUPCHAND PAL]

many of the *ratnas* just like selling the household silver to get out of the debt.

I do not know whether he will be able to mobilise as a result of the proposals of this disinvestment to mobilise the amount or not because the timing, the sequencing and many more things have to be conceded. Had he given a right thought to all these things, had he consulted the concerned Public Sector Undertakings it would have been better. Because they always say that out of 243 central PSUs, many of them sick. It has become the responsibility of the Government to run them. Now they are making profits. Even profit-making units are trying to disinvest. Major shares are going to be sold out. I do not know the modalities. There is no sure thinking about how the proceeds are going to be used. There is a demand from the PSUs that it should only be used for strengthening them, for promoting the PSUs. But there are a large number of units which have grown sick. They have been referred to BIFR. Will it be taken that once a patient is sent to a hospital it is considered that he is dead? That is the approach of the Government. Nothing is said about the revival of the sick units. Only Rs. 1400 crore has been provided for the non-Plan expenditure to make payment most of which will be required for the payment in the coming two or three or four months.

Then again, there is a claim that it is more than what was done in the earlier Budget. It is not so. There should be provision for statutory dues also. This Rs. 1400 crore is far too less and there is no revival package, nothing to help the sick industry.

Then many more industries are being made sick. For example, I remember once an NRI had come to India in connection with taking something and when he was asked, he said that there was no private industry in India, that all of them are run by public money, by financial institutions and he had given some arithmetic also. We find that the financial institutions do have a major stake in private industry. I can mention one, Dunlop India Limited. There is 33 per cent stake in the financial institutions and surreptitiously they have been siphoning off large amounts of money.

Surreptitiously, on the 12th January, when this company in their Board meeting decided to refer it to the BIFR, our financial nominee had been attending some social ceremony, some birthday or something like that. He did not attend the meeting. This is the way the financial institutions are helping the private industries to loot public money. So, I would suggest that the Government should come out with the meaningful package for the revival of the sick industry.

Now, I will come to public debt. The Comptroller and Auditor General's latest report was tabled by the hon. Minister of Finance on the 5th June. It is a telling commentary about our indebtedness, but the Government has miserably failed to address to that very important serious question.

Now, I am coming to certain specifics. This Government had promised in its National Agenda "Education for all and commitment to eradication of illiteracy". I shall mention only a few illustrations because of constraint of time.

As far as Education is concerned, the allocation was Rs. 5,231.63 crore in 1997-98 and in 1998-99 it has been increased to Rs. 7,046.82 crore. Apparently, it is a substantial increase. Out of this, Rs. 2,300 crore step up in outlay is for Education, Rs. 1,600 crore will go for higher education because of the UGC's pay scales and Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations, etc. What will come to Elementary Education? In the last Budget, that is, 1997-98, the outlay was Rs. 2,543.00 crore and now the increase is Rs. 236.95 crore. This Government has assured Education for all. They are committed to total eradication of illiteracy.

I will now touch the District Primary Education. In the last Budget, that is, 1997-98, the outlay was Rs. 650 crore and now the increase is Rs. 1,400 crore although, through their review, they have themselves admitted that it is a very successful project.

Now, I come to the nutritional support, that is, the Mid-Day Meal. It is a great incentive to the children belonging to the poorest sections to attend the school. Here, the increase is Rs. 132.15 crore only. I am told that a large amount of money is unutilised because of failures at certain levels. The Government propose to achieve the universalisation of compulsory education. Now, they are withdrawing from that commitment, as it is reflected in the Budget.

I am not going to other things. I have got a lot of examples. But I will touch upon only one example. As far as Adult Education is concerned, the outlay in 1997-98 was Rs. 129.81 crore and now it has been reduced to Rs. 97.35 crore. So, this shows that they are committed to eradication of illiteracy after substantial reduction. (*Interruptions*).

As far as health aspect is concerned, the hon. Minister has spoken a lot about infrastructure. So far, as I understand, the funding is not a major problem. There

are so many other problems. I am not going into that. But what about the other part of the social infrastructure? I am referring to only three aspects because these three are important in the light of the post-Pokhran scenario. The hon. Minister has not addressed about the sanctions, what it might be and how it can harm our economy, etc.

The first is Malaria Eradication Programme. It is a project with World Bank support. The second is the T.B. Control programme. We do have soft loan from the World Bank for three years.

They have provided just Rs. 290.37 crore for Malaria Control Programme. The increase is of Rs. 97 crore plus only. But there is a resurgence of Malaria throughout different parts of the country. Several times, questions have been asked on the floor of this House about the resurgence of Tuberculosis. Now, there is a provision of only Rs. 35 crore plus for Tuberculosis Control Programme.

The Government has not addressed to the possible impact of sanctions. Just now, I would mention about the news item which had come out yesterday and in which the Core Group of FIPB said that there was a slight concern in the Government over the imposition of sanctions on India by certain countries and their likely fall out, especially in areas like health, education, telecom and power. About Power Grid Corporation, the problems are very well known. I am not going into that.

Sir, this Government has decided to sell out public sector industries, the *Navaratnas*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pal, how much more time will you take? Other Members from your party also want to speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I shall be very reasonable to this House and also to my colleagues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not saying that you are not reasonable.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, why should this Government disinvest VSNL, IOC, GAIL and CONCOR? What is the purpose? What are the modalities? The Government has not learnt from the experience of the last seven or eight years. What is happening? I got a memorandum from the SCOPE. The SCOPE has come out in a telling manner about the demands of the public sector undertakings. They want more autonomy. In one sentence 'before reforming these PUCs, the Government should reform itself', they have made a very significant

comment. Because of the political intervention from the Government side, they have been suffering. They should be strengthened, they should be patronised and they should be promoted so that they can stand up on their own. You should not repeat the story of BHEL. Even after the limitations were imposed by the Government, it had repeatedly struggled and stood up and now, they can face any competition in the world today. So, we should help others also, instead of disinvesting these *Navaratnas*, the *miniratnas*. The Government should rather strengthen them, help them and provide them more autonomy.

Now, let us come to the insurance sector. Last year, we had opposed a Bill for establishing Insurance Regulatory Authority. This time also, we shall oppose it. Insurance is a sector which the Government have been hesitating to open up because of the experience of the outside world, because of the social obligations being fulfilled by these insurance companies, how they are contributing to our infrastructure, housing, roads and many other areas. The Minister says - it has come out in an interview - that it will be opened up to the Indian companies, *Swadeshi* companies. Is there any Indian company today? More than a dozen companies, who intend to enter into the insurance market, are already having some memorandum of understanding with foreign insurance companies.

16.19 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Yesterday I found that there were six foreign consultancy firms Arthur Anderson, Anderson Consultancy, Coopers & Lybrand, Ernst & Young, Deloitte and touche and KPMG & Peat Marwick. All these companies are on the prowl and they are out to set up turnkey insurance operations for Indian players. We know that about five years from now, the WTO is going to impose it on us because we have agreed to open up financial services and our cutoff year is 2003.

Sir, this Government has failed to honour its own commitment given in the National Agenda for Governance. This Government has failed to address the burning problems ailing this country like the industrial scenario, agriculture, etc. On agriculture, the hon. Minister was waxing eloquent and said that he has done a lot and he has raised the allocation. May be, with elections in mind he must have done that. I do not know whether they are getting ready for a mid-term poll or not, with a new constituency in the rural areas. It will not happen, because in agriculture they had promised 60 per cent allocation. But now it is a meagre 3.5 per cent of the total Central Outlay.

[SHRI RUPCHAND PAL]

Sir, I oppose this Government because they have failed to learn; I oppose this Government because they are leading this country to disaster; I oppose this Government because it is reckless and desperate to dismantle whatever be the self-reliance which has been achieved by this countrymen through their hard labour; I oppose this Budget and I shall continue to oppose any such measure which the Government may undertake in future.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Swadeshi budget presented under the leadership of our popular leader, hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee by hon'ble Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha. My hon'ble friends, a special session of last Lok Sabha was held to commemorate 50th year of independence in which we all held discussions for 3-4 days. In those days all hon'ble Members rose above party lines and felt that the country had not made requisite progress in 50 years of independence. Even after 50 years of independence, the condition of this country is showing no signs of improvement, rather it is getting worse day by day. We have not been able to improve the condition of farmers, eradicate poverty, give employment to youth, provide irrigation and potable drinking water facility to villages. We all have been witness to the poor condition of country for the last so many years. All of us felt that our former leaders have not been able to understand the miseries of this country. They have not been able to understand the real situation of this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were completely devastated in the nuclear bomb explosions. But after that Japan has made a gradual progress and at present in terms of prosperity it is among the leading countries of the world. Around that time, our country also gained freedom, but our country's condition became worse day by day and we became poorer day by day. Who is responsible for all this? At that time we all discussed that and came to the conclusion that we all and administration are responsible for the poor condition of this country because we have not implemented the proper policies in this country. Our feelings and love for this country was not upto the required level. Our attention was focussed somewhere else, which was the main cause of poor condition of this country.

Right now, Bhartiya Janata Party is running a coalition government. What we have inherited - unemployment, starvation, troubled farmers, troubled youth, troubled businessmen, and troubled students. Besides, what economic condition of the country did we inherit? All of

you are aware that the economic condition was not good. I would like to say that this budget is a growth friendly, revolutionary and attractive budget. Therefore, basically this is a swadeshi budget. Hon'ble Minister of Finance has presented a swadeshi budget. Therefore, I do compliment him from my heart.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the year 1997-98, economic growth rate came down to 5%. All of you have been witness to this. The desired progress has not been made. On viewing this negative trend it has been found that this year the production of foodgrains has been reduced to 194 million tonnes as compared to that of 199 Million tonnes last year. Due to recession, the growth rate of industrial production has been just 4.2%. The export performance is low for the second consecutive year. How can the country progress with weak performance in the field of exports? The economic condition of the country is getting worse day by day. The new Government of Bhartiya Janata Party and its coalition partners have inherited economy which was on the verge of collapse.

Yesterday, senior members from Congress and some other members criticised the new budget. Let me say that they have no right to criticise the budget. Who has ruled the country for the last 40-50 years? Congress has ruled the country with different names and with different faces. This is the first budget presented by the Bhartiya Janata Party. Please give some time or some years to the Bharatiya Janata Party and then analyse. Yesterday, our hon'ble friend said that this was our first budget and next year's budget would be better than this. I want to say something in the context of this year's budget. There was a great rush of reporters on the main gate of Parliament House on the day, the hon'ble Minister presented the Budget. This is not uncommon. I have been getting elected this House since the constitution of 9th Lok Sabha. The reaction to this budget was not uncommon. It happens everytime at the presentation of budget. Usually people do answer the media person's question for half an hour. But this time some persons were avoiding the reporters. Within five minutes everybody dispersed because there was nothing wrong in this budget only Shri Chidambaram could be held back and that too with a lot of effort. He was interviewed outside the main gate. Everybody was happy with this Budget. Businessmen, farmers and scheduled castes & scheduled tribes were happy with this budget. Common man and business class of the country were also happy with this budget...(Interruptions).

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: But we are not happy with this budget.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Hon. Minister has done commendable job to strengthen the economy. That's why first of all I congratulate him for this.

The economy of rural sector and its dynamism is a backbone of the country. If economy of rural sector is weak, then the country can never be strong. This country is a country of farmers. If villages are prosperous, the country will also be prosperous. And if economy of villages collapses, the economy of the country will also collapse. Therefore, the hon'ble Minister has given more attention to villages about which I will go in details, later. The rainfall in the country is very high. But has ever an attempt been made to save or store the rain water. Today, an hon'ble friend in zero hour was saying that all rain water goes waste in to the sea. But a month after rainy season, farmers do not get water for irrigation. Had an attempt been made to store the rain water, had dams been built on rivers, had ponds of every village been deepened, had water off every rivulet been tamed, then even after 50 years of independence the farmers of country would not have pined for irrigation water, and the youth living in villages would not have been compelled to drink water from the ponds. But during the last fifty years the Government has done nothing in this direction and people in villages have been left with no option but to drink dirty water from ponds.

Hon'ble Finance Minister has shown concern for the villages in his budget. I am thankful to him, I have told you earlier also that only 37% of fertile land is getting the irrigation facility. Farmers of rest of the land are still dependent on rain. Famine situation is prevailing in many parts of the country. Farmers are worried about it. The discussion was held a day or two ago about the reason of suicides by many farmers in the country. For this Bharatiya Janata Party was held responsible, while you people hadn't provided adequate irrigation facilities. If first crop of farmer gets ruined due to any reason, he can again produce the second crop provided the facility for irrigation is available. But if the first crop is not insured, he becomes debtor. The former Governments had not paid any attention to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this budget more attention has been paid to agriculture. I want to congratulate hon'ble Minister for Finance for this. This budget has got special provision to provide irrigation facilities by storing rain water. Farmers have been given priority. I appreciate this also. For this purpose Rs. 517 crore were allocated in 1997-98 budget, but in this budget allocations have been raised to Rs. 677 crore.

Besides, allocation to the funds to provide irrigation facility has been increased by 50%. This will infuse new enthusiasm in farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many 'Krishi Mandis' are operating in our country, but they are not working properly. Government officials and political leaders interfere in their work. The hon'ble Minister has proposed to replace

multistate cooperative society Act 1904 by an ideal cooperative legislation to provide full independence to these mandis, so that nobody could interfere in their working. If that happens, State Cooperative Agricultural Markets can amend their laws to prevent interference from political leaders and official. Thus, they would be able to work independently and would be free from any type of pressure and influence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Finance Minister has expressed concern for the sesame growers also. The price of Til oil is being increasing continuously but the profit is being earned by the oil barons and not by the farmers. Hon'ble Finance Minister has also made arrangement to provide remunerative price to the farmers for til oil.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said about urea. Hon'ble Finance Minister has increased the price of urea by rupee one per kg but when all hon'ble members placed before him the problems of farmers he has reduced 50 paise per kg of urea. But his efforts has been that the land which is being affected by the excessive use of urea, attention of farmers should be drawn towards this and that its excessive use should be avoided. Hon'ble Minister has shown his tender-heartedness in this also.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last 50 years the previous governments have only given slogans to provide potable water. When I was small child, I remember that whenever budget was presented it was said that this time water will be provided in every village but it was not provided. The Constituency to which I belong has no source of water and our women folk have to walk for 3-4 kms to fetch water. There is no water in rivers and in wells, water level has gone down. The level of underground water in the entire area has gone down to a great extent...(Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, they say that this government is counting its last days. But I would say that what to speak of government, they have dried up the resources of the entire country. It will be our party BJP that will bring life to the country...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Varma, you please address the Chair.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am revealing the fact before the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA(Kota): Sir, I am on a point of order.

[SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA]

[Translation]

I am not making my point on the basis of facts which he has mentioned but it is true that in Rajasthan hand pumps are not being repaired. Even nut bolts are not being fixed. You may constitute a Committee comprising Members of Parliament which will go there and held an inquiry in this regard. I am ready to go there alongwith that committee to explain factual position. Even today there are villages where the people have to walk for 7 kms. To fetch water...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Narain Meena, there is no point of order. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a point of order. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)\**

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are raising this issue of hand pumps since Ninth Lok Sabha. This is our issue. Why is he speaking? Hon'ble Finance Minister has kept Rs. 1627 crore for constructing 1 lakh houses for the poor and those who are craving for water, they will be provided water supply facility.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Congress Party raised a slogan 'Garibi Hatao' for years but we saw in all these years that although poverty could not be alleviated instead the poor have been eliminated. So the poor thought that we should have a government which can think for our welfare, can understand our problems. They thought they should have a Prime Minister who can understand their problems. Today their dream has come true and Bhartiya Janata Party is in power in the country. Today people feel that the present government is their own Government and they are looking forward to a better future.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has tried to mobilise adequate funds for the upliftment of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward

classes. The Congress Government was only formulating schemes but it has not done much for the upliftment of these classes. People understood this and thus, they defeated the Congress. Congress Party makes promises but never fulfills them. For the upliftment of these classes government had allocated Rs. 253 crore in the year 1990-91, Rs. 261 crore in 1991-92, Rs. 288 crore in 1992-93, Rs. 373 crore in 1993-94 and Rs. 482 crore in 1994-95. After this it has not increased the allocation rather decreased it and it had allocated Rs. 433 crore in the year 1994-95 and in 1996-97 it has made the provision of Rs. 495 crore. In this years budget our Hon'ble Finance Minister has made the provision of Rs. 634 crore. People belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe have placed their faith in our government. We want that they should get their due. So far no government has made such arrangement for the welfare of these classes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHALALE (Mumabi North-Central): Budget provision increases every year. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, it is not good. You are standing like that.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, provision of Rs. 65 crore has been made to benefit the students of Scheduled Tribes. Provision of Rs. 361 crore has been made due to which 24 lakh people of scheduled tribes will be benefitted.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Finance Minister has given preference to education. Without education we cannot even imagine a good society. A large population of our country is still illiterate due to which our country cannot make progress. In this budget preference is given to education. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken more than ten minutes. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not been given even 10 minutes to speak. So I will speak for some more time. There has been 50% increase in the allocation for the sector of education this year as compared to the last year which means that the allocation which stood at Rs. 4716 crore last year has

been raised to Rs. 7047 crore. Similarly, provision has been made for free education for girls upto graduation level. I appreciate this...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Minister has expressed concern towards youth also. If the youth of this country remained unemployed then they will adopt wrong path and thus harm this country. Therefore, Hon'ble Finance Minister has made provision of Rs. 140 crore under the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana. This scheme is applicable for both urban and rural areas. In this scheme arrangement of Rs. 110 crore has been made under which 2 lakh educated unemployed youth will get opportunity to start their own business so that they can live with dignity. Similarly, provision of Rs. 140 crore has been made for rural youth. Till now, no one paid attention towards rural youth but hon'ble Finance Minister has done a great Job by paying attention towards them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is optimistic and due to his optimistic nature, he has tried to make India No. 1 in the world. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: There are other members who also want to participate in the discussion. Please conclude now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: He has formulated a time bound plan regarding National Information Technology to help the country to achieve top most position in the field of software in the next 10 years. The hon. Minister has tried to give some relief in the Custom Duty to indigenous industries in his Swadeshi Budget. Therefore, I appreciate him for this also. In the last 2-3 years, we have seen slackness in every system of this country. To bring awakening in these the National Agenda...*(Interruptions)* Though people have no cloth to wear, no houses to live in even then Congressmen were saying that our India is great. But this government has promised to provide houses and for this purpose it has allocated Rs. 1600 crore in this budget. It has been said that Rs. 110 crore will be given to HUDCO. Under this scheme a target of constructing 20 lakh houses has been fixed due to which 13 lakh people living in rural areas and 7 lakh people living in urban areas will be benefited. Now people will no longer be homeless. They will have houses of their own. Hon'ble Minister has also given many concessions to Film Industry, Newspaper etc. He has paid attention towards health also. He has increased the duty on cigarettes so that youth of this country should remain healthy. His feelings are that since he is healthy therefore the youth of this country should also be healthy. Alongwith this, he has looked after the interests of poor

people also. Prices of match stick has not been increased. Poor people have no means to send their messages whereas rich people can contact each other through telephone, fax, but how will poor people contact each other? They can send their messages through post card only...*(Interruptions)* For small scale industries. ...*(Interruptions)* The limit has been increased from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 4 crore. If there is no small scale industries then country will not progress. ...*(Interruptions)* This is swadeshi budget. Small scale industries have been given importance by increasing budgetary allocation so that they can give their best performance. ...*(Interruptions)* Importance has been given to National Sports also so that youth of this country can participate in that ...*(Interruptions)* Concession has been given to donors also. ...*(Interruptions)* Due to this, youth living in villages of this country will become powerful. ...*(Interruptions)* can progress. The country should march forward on the occasion of Golden jubilee of Independence. ...*(Interruptions)* This is progressive budget. Progressive steps taken in the field of power, transport, communication, information, technology, education, infrastructure, housing and agriculture are commendable. Similarly steps taken in the field of small scale industries will make country self-reliant. Alongwith this, the steps taken to attract foreign investment are also appreciable.

In the end I would like to say that "Mera Juta Hai Japani, patloon Englishtani, Sar par lal topi, phir bhi dil hai Hindustani". ...*(Interruptions)* We can face any challenge. In order to keep the glory of our country intact, we are prepared to forego one square meal.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Murasoli Maron.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Verma, this is not good.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, I am on a point of order. This is something very serious. Yesterday, around this time, the Minister of State for Agriculture had announced about the minimum support price for copra and jute. There was a lot of protest in this House. All sections of the House joined together protesting against the minimum support price. Then, there was a direction

\*Not recorded.



[SHRI ANIL BASU]

from the Chair saying that the Minister of State for Agriculture would convene a meeting of all the concerned MPs and would discuss with them. But we have not received any information up-till now from the Minister of State for Agriculture. This way, the direction from the Chair has been ignored by the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Shri Maran to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): This is a very serious matter. The Chair had directed that the Minister would call the concerned MPs and discuss with them. So far, he has not done so. We want the direction from you in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: You please direct the Member of the Cabinet in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* How is the right of the Member going to be protected? How is the honour and dignity of the House going to be protected? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government's side?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, the day is far from over. I assure the Members that I am sending a word to the Minister of State for Agriculture in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: He should first apologise for this.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras Central) Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I want to thank the hon. Finance Minister for implementing some of the programmes and proposals which were in the pipeline during the time of the United Front Government like, delicensing of coal and petroleum, repealing of Urban Land Ceiling Act, implementing the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, replacement of FERA with FEMA and others. Therefore, I congratulate you for implementing these measures.

In this Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has increased the allocation for agriculture as also on the social sectors. But the pity is, whatever has been the increase, generally speaking, it has become usual for us to see that the amount has not been spent at the end of the year. For example, on education, the lion's share goes towards the salary of the teachers. Similarly, whatever is allocated to the social sectors, at the end of the year, we see that that is not realised.

I have to congratulate him also for simplifying the income-tax application. I think, he calls it 'Sara'. I am told, it is going to be of one page. Very good. But if you want the common man to understand and if you want more tax-payers to come, then it should be printed in the concerned State's language also. One page can be printed in the concerned State's language also. In Tamil Nadu, you cannot expect people to know the English language. It should be printed in the concerned State's language also so that it may facilitate tax-payers not going to an English knowing person for help. Your aim is to abolish the third man, the entry man or the chartered accountant. It can be fulfilled if you print the form in the State's language also.

At the same time, I have to say that this Budget is a great disappointment to me. As Shri Chidambaram has pointed out, it does not contain any big idea. It has no mission or vision.

There are only two policy announcements. One is regarding Insurance. He says, "Insurance will be opened up." But at the same time, there is no description, there is no explanation as to what is the role of the foreigners, how much percentage of equity they can own and whether they will be allowed or not. These things remain a question mark. The second policy statement is regarding public sector undertakings. It has created a lot of confusion because he says, "The Government share holdings in public sector enterprises will be brought down to 26 per cent." Does the Government think to dismantle all the public sector undertakings except the so-called involving strategic considerations? I think, the Finance Minister should give us an explanation regarding the privatisation of these kinds of public sector undertakings. It is because, the word 'privatisation' has been used for the first time because we have been avoiding the word and using 'disinvestment'. Now, we have come forward without the jugglery of words and straightway call it 'privatisation'. All right. What is your proposal? How are you going to do it? It seems you are willing to strike but afraid to wounds?

So, we could not see the colour whether you are red or saffron or something like that. At the same time, I have to congratulate you also for other purposes. You wanted to reform the reforms. In your manifesto, you have stated like that. You say that you will go for calibrated globalisation but at the same time, I am very happy to note that you are going to double the inflow of foreign direct investment within two years. You have also mentioned to "Pay the tribute to Foreign Investment Promotion Board for having increased inflow to 3.1 billion in the year 1997-98." In fact, well, the FIPB comes under the Industry Ministry. So, this credit should come to me.

I think, the hon. Minister will give the credit to me. At the same time, there is a mention that all foreign investment proposals will be disposed of within a period of 90 days. I am sorry to note that. In fact, during our regime, we had been disposing it of within three to four weeks. There was no delay. I think, the hon. Finance Minister was not properly briefed in this matter.

Regarding the Direct Tax Schedule, the hon. Finance Minister has not touched it. I think, in my opinion, nobody can touch that direct Tax Schedule created by Shri P. Chidambaram. It is going to be the bedrock of our Direct Tax system for many years to come unless there is an emergency. I do not think, it will happen because it requires a lot of courage to change the system, in the sense, there will be public opposition. I think, to use his words it should rest there for some more time.

Before coming to the Indirect Taxes, I have got another point to make. The hon. Finance Minister is given credit for reducing the fiscal balance from 6.1 per cent to 5.6 per cent, that is, he has reduced the fiscal deficit by half a per cent. Sir, if you go into it, it will be seen that the reduction of 0.5 per cent has been done in a very magical way. It is a game of numbers and he has played it very well. According to Mr. Haseeb A. Drabu, who has made the analysis of all the figures, has said that the Finance Minister has reduced the transfers to the states. The transfers to the States have been reduced to the extent of 0.6 per cent. That is why, he could show in the Budget that he has reduced the fiscal deficit by 0.5 per cent. I want to quote from the article "Squeezing the States" of Mr. Drabu. He says:

"The gross transfers to States have been reduced from 5.6 per cent of GDP in 1997-98 to per cent in 1998-99 — a drop of 0.6 per cent, which is equal to the reduction in the fiscal deficit."

The is the magic Shri Sinha has adopted to reduce the fiscal deficit.

Since 1991 the transfers to the State Governments and Union Territories have started going down. I think Dr. Manmohan Singh has started it. Only during Shri Chidambaram's period the transfers have been restored or the transfers have been increased. During Dr. Manmohan Singh's tenure, the total transfers to States dropped from 6.30 per cent to 5.26 per cent GDP. Shri Chidambaram reversed this trend primarily because our Government was based on the principle of cooperative federalism. So, transfer to the States are at the lowest level. I think hon. Finance Minister should look into it. Now it is only 5.02 per cent gross transfer to States.

Last year it was 5.63 per cent. Before that it was 5.92 per cent. So, it has been reduced. But what is the use? It is only an accounting procedure. You have reduced 0.5 per cent here as fiscal deficit. Now you have passed buck to the states. You have reduced it from the State Governments. But, finally when the consolidated deficit of the Centre and the States are taken, the total deficit will be the same. Therefore, next year all the State Governments will come for Grants-in-Aid with a beginning bowl. That is your intention. This kind of accountancy is not good. Therefore, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into it and increase the transfers to the State Governments. According to GDP it is now less. Last year it was 5.63 per cent; this year it is 5.02 per cent. I want him to explain this point.

Regarding indirect taxes what you have done is disappointing. I think it will affect the economy and fuel inflation. You have raised about Rs. 9000 crore. I am not criticising the taxes, but the nature of the tax system. You have stated that it is a defining moment in history. That is how you have started your Budget. But within 24 hours you had to go back and withdraw the tax on petrol and urea. So, the defining moment has become a mortifying moment. All these things are politically ill-conceived. You could have consulted your Petroleum colleague or you could have consulted your political colleagues. I think that exercise has not been done.

Look at these indirect taxes. Because there is no vision I could see a regressive trend everywhere. The tax system generally should be as simple as possible. That is the aim of all Finance Ministers. But what have you done? You have made 23 changes in Customs Duty and 13 changes in Excise Duty. What we were expecting was that you would curb the deficit. But there is nothing to stimulate the demand, there is nothing to attract foreign direct investment, there is no big policy change or initiative. It is our complaint. That is why I used to say I am not criticising this Budget because there is nothing in the Budget. It is a lacklustre Budget.

It looks as if all changes are due to responses to specific demands. I want to give one example. On the dry grapes Duties have been reduced from 125 per cent to 120 per cent. Is it so important? I do not know what is that. You have stated that on dry grapes raising the rates is reduced from 115 per cent to 110 per cent. It seems generally the Finance Minister used to get many representations from the public. So, you have accommodated all these things.

[SHRI MURASOLI MARAN]

17.00 hrs.

I am not saying this but *The Indian Express* which is a friendly newspaper to the Government says this and I quote:

"The past several Governments had given the impression that they were striving to deliver broader economic goals for large sections of people: consumers and taxpayers. That sense is fast evaporating and concomitantly, lobbies which had lain low for some time are coming out of the woodwork."

That is the criticism of the Budget by no less a paper than *The Indian Express*.

Let me come to 'SAD', that is, the special additional duty. You have imposed a special additional duty of eight per cent. It has been called 'SAD' by the newspapers and not by me. I will call it a 'level playing-field duty' or a 'Swadeshi duty'. Is it going to serve your purpose? No. If you want it to help the *swadeshi* local production, it is not possible in the sense that it comes on top of a fifteen per cent depreciation of the rupee. This eight per cent special additional duty means that you are giving more protection to the ever-infant indigenous industries. Our industries claim that they are infants every time, all the time. So, you are going to give them more protection. Even though it is well meaning, it is not going to serve your purpose. It will only give an impetus to inflation.

For example, I know, in the BHEL 47 per cent of the total raw materials are imported. So, they have to pay the SAD or 'Swadeshi' or 'level playing-field' duty of eight per cent on 47 per cent of the raw materials. Now, if somebody imports a transformer from General Electric of the USA instead of buying it from the BHEL, they will not have to pay this eight per cent special additional duty as capital goods are exempt from this duty. So, how can the BHEL fight with General Electric of the USA? This is simply an illustration. Our own domestic industries are at a disadvantage. It is better to import than to buy from indigenous industry according to my illustration. If I import a transformer from GE of the USA, it will be less expensive whereas the local make of the BHEL will not be because they are indirectly paying the 'Swadeshi duty' or the 'level playing-field duty' or the SAD. So, it is going to be eight per cent costlier. This will not help. Rather, this will increase the prices. This will make them less competitive. I want the hon. Minister of Finance to look into this.

Again, on the misuse of the MODVAT credit scheme, he says that he proposes to restrict the availability of the MODVAT credit by five per cent of the duty. I think that

this will create a lot of confusion because it is going to be five per cent as against a peak of thirteen per cent. It will also contribute to a rise in the prices of manufactured goods. There is a lot of confusion regarding this. Is it five per cent plus thirteen per cent? Or, is it thirteen per cent minus five per cent? Naturally, the hon. Minister of Finance will have to explain the position.

I agree that there is abuse of MODVAT. There is no doubt about it. But should he not prevent it? Why should he adopt this method thereby increasing the prices and the inflation? It should be better contained regulation and not by arbitrary limitation. So, I want the hon. Minister to consider this also.

It has been said that there is going to be an increase of excise duty of eight per cent on certain commodities. What are the goods subjected to this eight per cent increase? Let us have a look at it. They are butter, cheese, ghee, milk powder and packaged tea. The poor people buy packaged tea alone as loose, unbranded tea is very expensive. But Hindustan Lever has already raised the price of tea by Rs. 10 per kilogram.

So, package tea comes under it which is a poor man's drink. The duty for spices (branded) has been raised from 0 per cent to 8 per cent and for preparations of meat-fish (branded), it is 0 percent to 8 per cent. Regarding writing inks, you want to help the students and improve educational. It has been raised from 0 per cent 18 per cent. Who uses the specified types of tubes used for animal-run vehicles and by hand carts? They are used only in the villages. Why should they be increased from 0 per cent to 13 per cent? I think you should have a second look at this. I think it is a retrograde step. These prices will push up - in fact, it has already pushed up - the cost of manufacture of both import-intensive and domestic goods. It will damage the industrial revival. Therefore, I am afraid that double digit inflation is a possible gift of the Budget.

We are getting shocking news everyday. If you look at the newspaper, you will find that our credit rating is going down. Recently, Duff and Phelps has lowered our rating of India from stable to negative. Then Standard and Poors, Moody's and everybody have reduced. Why? Our rating is reduced not by one but by all agencies. Why? It is because of our nuclear explosions. This is one of the reasons. We have exploded but what did we do later? We did not get the confidence of the world. We did not get enough support which we ought to have got. Another reason is the Temple issue. You are still going ahead with the construction of Temple. A kind of fear complex is there among the people. Moreover, a jingoism and a war-like hysteria have been aroused. That

is why, the rating is coming down. I would like to quote what Duff and Phelps has said.

"The rating agency has revised its outlook on India on account of the significant fiscal slippage and the potential for balance of payment deterioration in the coming years."

The coming days are going to be worse. Take the issue of rupee into consideration. It has sunk to Rs. 42.45. By now, it would have further come down by now. I do not know the latest position. There is a downhill slide.

About net disinvestment, in less than two-and-a-half months, it had been equivalent to 400 million dollars. In these two-and-a-half months after you took over, 400 million dollars have gone out of the country, probably, this is the highest ever fall in a single week after the presentation of any Budget. There was an avalanche of selling on Monday and Tuesday and circuit breakers were at work at the National and Mumbai Stock Exchanges. There is a fear that the balance of payments position would disclose a net deficit. The FII are fleeing. Actually, one newspaper has said that they are forming a 'Quit India Movement'. In such a way, they are fleeing the country. Under these circumstances, what should we do? The Prime Minister and the Finance Minister should give confidence to the people.

Yesterday, the leaders of the Left Parties met the Prime Minister. What did he say? I would quote from the *Economic Times*.

"Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee today said his Government was yet to make up its mind on the nature of intervention to check the sliding value of the rupee. "Any strong intervention by the Government can deplete the country's forex reserves."

Is it the reply we expect from the Prime Minister? I think he was not briefed properly because this statement itself will be a fillip for the FIIs and other to flee the country. He should have given confidence to the country.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: That is not the Prime Minister's statement. The Prime Minister issued no statement after his meeting yesterday.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras Central): Then he should have denied it. This has come in the first page of the *Economic Times*.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: He cannot go on denying everything.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Shivaganga): It appears as the lead story in *The Economic Times*. Please reflect on that now. What will be the impact on the investors?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I had answered in a detailed manner to a question on this subject just a day before in the other House. I have answered a detailed question on this.

I have set out the policy of the Government very very clear.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: 'Day before yesterday' is the past period. The things are changing every hour.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: So, you wait for the next morning's paper.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Next morning, it may be different also because the overall confidence of industry, business, FIIs, foreign investors, stock-markets evaporates every hour, every minute, every second. So, you also seem to be depending on NRIs. I am happy about it. But our NRIs are not like, what they call, the overseas Chinese. The overseas Chinese have their economy. They are the third biggest economy in the world. But our NRIs, barring a few, are only professionals. They will act like our foreign entities. We have seen it during the year 1990-91. During the crisis, they all ran away. They are coming here not because of patriotism. I am not talking about big NRIs.

Generally, there is a trend all over the world. There is a difference in interests. If you pay more interest, they come. Otherwise, our black money goes there and comes back. So, there is a fear. A crisis similar to the East Asian crisis is brewing. This is for the Government to dispel that out. Dr. Arjun Sengupta, former Member of the Planning Commission said that there was a possibility of a Thailand like crisis. So, it is for that. That means, the people have no faith in this Government. I am not meaning Indian people. Not only the Indian people, but also the world at large are looking at us with doubt. ...*(Interruptions)*

Shri P.A. Sangma said that you may have the confidence of this House but you do not have the confidence of the people. It looks as if it is true. Therefore, it is your duty to dispel the doubts. What is happening? Instead of your coalition partners strengthening you, they are making impossible and illegal demands. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to tell us what he is going to do about this crisis. I am told that there are rumours. I think, it is an open secret that China also may devalue its currency. In that case, our rupee

[SHRI MURASOLI MARAN]

will go down the drain. So, what are we going to do? In common man's language, if rupee depreciates, it means that it is inviting inflation. So, we will again be facing a crisis. If there is a crisis, I think, if we go to the World Bank or the IMF, you know what kind of demands will be there. Therefore, I want the hon. Minister of Finance to make a declaration about policy regarding the falling rupee. Shri P. Chidambaram's Budget use held as dream Budget. Of course, that dream could not be made true. But yours, sir, is a nightmare Budget.

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR (Jalna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Shri Yashwant Sinha and the Prime Minister for the nice Budget. In fact, I have seen 25 Budgets right from Shri C.D. Deshmukh's Budget till the last Budget. ...*(Interruptions)* I saw every Budget like a toothpaste. You use Colgate, Prudent or any other toothpaste. The essence is the same. It is the same thing with the Budget. But I do not know why or how by tendency becomes to oppose it.

[Translation]

Shri Sinha, the difficulty with you is that you are expecting results within two and a half months of formation of the new government. Shri Shivraj, your government too had got five years. Then why, you are not willing to give us the same. We had some expectations or aspirations from Shri Chidambaram's budget. But Shri Chacko, before his second budget, you withdrew the support.

[English]

The entire House is expecting from Shri Yashwant Sinha that he should a like Sachin Tendulkar. He should score runs and keep his wicket safe as well.

[Translation]

I would also say we need a budget scheme which requires less input, but gives more output. But opposition is not letting us do anything. ...*(Interruptions)* We will think about this also, but it will be beneficial to an extent.

I would like to say that unfortunately the condition of Indian farmer is the worst. I want to congratulate you for the 50% increase in the budgetary allocation for farmers. I don't want to go into the merit of statements given by people of my party and other parties. Even today, the farmer has to give a lot of dowry for his daughter's marriage. He is not in a position to give 4-5 lakh in dowry to get IAS son-in-law. The state of farmer is so bad that he has to mortgage or even sell his land for

the marriage of his daughter. This is happening for the last 40-45 years. This was stated just now by Mr. Maran. This is true that depreciation of rupee is on the cards. There was a time when the value of rupee against dollar was Rs. 4. It is happening in every part of the world. In Singapore, 15-16 years back the value of currency was double or triple but today it has slumped. Once, Italy's economy was known as poor one. Now, the value of its currency has become double as compared to Indian rupee. The value of one dollar is equivalent to 200 Lira. Today, every country is trying to strengthen its economy. Mr. Murli is an expert. Upto some extent bureaucrats and politicians of this country are responsible for the depreciation of rupee. Even today the system of our country is British system. We can compare this years budget with that of previous budgets. The climate of our country is hot, it appears very odd in summers, when lawyers, dressed in black coats and ties, go to the courts. This system should be changed. Mr. Sinha has made some efforts in this direction. But I would like to say that effort to end 'Inspector Raj' is a good one but it is difficult also. Sometime ago you were a bureaucrat, but now you are in politics. I would like to say that we should know how to run bureaucracy. But I don't know why you were not able to operate it effectively. The condition would not have been so bad, if you had operated it properly. I am explaining the reality. We would have operated it effectively.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katiyar): Mr. Sinha is both.

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: I know it.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: How can a horse ride another horse?

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: We have to rise above all these things to consider this. I had mentioned about Mr. C.D. Deshmukh's budget. It can't be said what the ideal budget is like. Even today, I agree that every budget has disappointed people in some or other way. I had told Mr. Sinha that this is a difficult task. To repair country's economy, which is on verge of collapse, is very difficult. We will go on criticising. Tomorrow, we may be on other side, then our attitude may change.

Now, I would like to say something about agriculture. All of us say that state of agriculture should be improved. For this, we require water management and seed management. I have seen that there is a provision for water management doesn't include only irrigation water but also drinking water. I am sorry to say that drinking water in our country is available at the rate of Rs. 11-12 per litre. Today the need of mineral water is felt in

our country. This is a result of sins committed by us in the last 45 years, otherwise even 0.05% people of this country can't afford mineral water. Our efforts alone won't check this trend. You have to give sometime for everything. I have told you in the beginning also that you have to understand these things. Water management and seed management are very necessary. I would like to say about seed management because I belong to the area which is the largest seed centre off India. I have also gone to foreign countries. You will find black spots on Indian banana. You are a farmer. You know this very well. But in the month of April, you will find banana free of spots. ...*(Interruptions)* You can see the bananas of South Africa, South America and Brazil. The oranges of Nagpur are very popular because the city is having infrastructure, transport and post harvesting facilities. We need provisions in the budget to provide all these facilities to the farmers elsewhere in the country as well. You are only providing urea to the farmer, but besides urea there are many things which are required by farmer. As I had stated earlier, the state of farmer is such that he has to sell his land for arranging the marriage of his daughter. It is because of your policies. If we really have sympathy for farmers, we have to make some arrangements for them. In this budget the effort has been made to provide seed management and many more things like that.

I want to say something about industry also. Unfortunately for the last few years we are lacking good infrastructure. If we had good infrastructure, we would not have imported cars. Mr. Chidambaram, the cars imported here, whether it is Mercedes, Cielo or many other are the products of new technology. There are many Cielo cars on roads, but have you ever seen any factory of Cielo. The same is true of Washing Machines also. ...*(Interruptions)* You can get Rs. 10,000 for 10-15 year old colour television in exchange offer. Suppose you had purchased an item by paying Rs. 10,000 ten years ago, but today, could anybody pay you the same amount for that item? But you might have noticed the encroachment made by multinationals like Samsung, Toshiba, Whirlpool etc. In industry. Thought should be given to it in the Budget.

*[English]*

I must congratulate you.

*[Translation]*

We can't make progress and our infrastructure will not improve until we adopt new 'know how' and technology. We have to increase taxes for doing all this. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

I must congratulate the Minister. In his Budget he has tried to cater to the needs of almost every section of the society right from the persons below the poverty line to NRIs from farmers to industrialists and from middle man to the service class.

*[Translation]*

I sometimes feel sad that in 'Inspector Raj' officials from Sales Tax Department trouble honest traders. Taxation has completely devastated this country. There should be a provision to fix the acceptability. Here it is stated that public sector is running in losses, but why it is suffering loss? I had worked in the sub-committees of Indian Airlines and many other similar companies. I do feel sad at their system. I feel that cannot make progress until we give its responsibility to bureaucracy. Nothing can be done till adequate funds are provided to agriculture. But would you also have been able to do the same because you are in the habit. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

A chief Secretary's expenses are more than a Minister's expenses. You can go through it and verify. I am saying it with confidence.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You should control it. What are you doing?

*[Translation]*

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : If you see the Protocol ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

The bureaucrats' expenses are more than a Minister's expenses whereas, in protocol the Members of Parliament are one step above them. This is happening. The reason being through we all are accountable, unfortunately we do not behave like accountable persons. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: I am addressing the Chair only.

*[English]*

I am talking about everyone. It is not like that.

I have clearly told you. ...*(Interruptions)* I am addressing the Chair only.

[SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR]

[Translation]

We had said, you can't understand the colour of the budget. I say the colour of his budget is like that of water. He had tried to make an effort. "Pani re pani tera rang kaisa, jis men mila do lage us jaisa." ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He is saying that it is a colourless Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: You have not got the meaning of what he said. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: I would say that we need an ideal budget instead of a cream budget. India has become a dumping ground.

[English]

We have one-third of consumption and one-third of population of the world. I will say this with pride that we have the maximum manpower; maximum minerals are in our land; maximum oil is in our ocean; we have the maximum brains. Even then, what is our status today? The per capita income and expenditure is very less.

[Translation]

You can see that per capita income and expenditure is very less. I am asking all of you, today who is having money? Government employees are having 88% of money. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, circumstances are such that all of us are competing.

[English]

While having competition, we have neglected one thing. We are always comparing those who are availing facilities at the rate of four per cent which is 18 per cent for others. It cannot be done. There is no doubt about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: I am not saying anything which is not agreeable to the opposition.

[English]

I again congratulate Shri Yashwant Sinha. It is an ideal Budget which he has given and I wish him success.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khamman): Sir, through you, I only would like to add a few points to what is already told by Shri Murli Deora when he initiated the debate. He pointed out certain lapses in the Budget. I would say that there is nothing now in this Budget.

As a matter of fact, it is routine ritual document which the officers had prepared and the Finance Minister read. We had also done the same thing in our Assemblies. There is nothing new in this Budget. Important things are missing in this Budget. I myself was a Finance Minister in the State Government and so, I know how we prepare the Budget. It is only the officers who prepare and we just read it out. ...*(Interruptions)* Many important things are missing in this Budget and the real things are not brought forward. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I think that this self-praise is confined only to Shri Bhaskara Rao himself.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Why is it so? It applies to all.

Though we read it out, naturally we take information from them and prepare the Budget. It is my humble submission - with great respect to the hon. Finance Minister - that this is an anti-people's Budget and it is a highly inflationary one. An eight per cent hike in import duty and an increase in various excise duties will definitely lead to a highly inflationary budgetary system.

Till yesterday it was only about five per cent. All of a sudden, it shot up to seven per cent or so. The other day I saw the Finance Minister say on television that it is about 6.5 per cent or so. I say that it will definitely reach 10 per cent. The housewife has already started to feel the pinch of the Budget; she is cursing the Finance Minister. Going by the economic situation that has been portrayed, it will definitely go beyond 10 per cent. It is said:

"Overall economic growth slowed to 5 per cent. Agriculture was negative with foodgrain production dropping to 194 million tonnes from 199 million tonnes in the previous year. Growth of industrial production slackened to 4.2 per cent. Export growth was weak for a second successive year regarding growth in dollar terms not less than 3 per cent. The fiscal deficit worsened to 6.5 cent."

If that is the economic situation, what attempt has been made for encouraging the industry? Only a little attempt is made on agriculture side by introducing the 'Kisan Credit Card'. I welcome that measure. Every *kisan* welcomes it. Except that small green patch, what is there in the Budget for agriculture?

We saw the Bill for repeal of Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, being introduced. Urban economy is growing while rural economy is coming down. The gap between urban and rural economies has further widened. No attempt has been made by the Finance Minister and this Government to narrow down the gap. In the rural sector, an agriculturist is not supposed to own more than 10 to 20 acres of land - the number varies from State to State - whereas in urban areas, one can possess a hundred complexes, a hundred cinema theatres, 200 buildings and there is nobody to question him. What attempt has been made in the Budget to correct this anomaly? The promised 60 per cent allocation that they wanted to give to agriculture has also not found a place in the Budget. It was stated by the hon. President, in his address to both Houses this year that 60 per cent allocation will be made to agriculture. That allocation cannot be seen in the Budget.

As stated by the Minister himself, the economic situation in the country is very serious. Agriculture is showing signs of decline and industry is in doldrums. How is the Minister going to fill these gaps? No concrete policy has been enunciated in this Budget. Dr. Manmohan Singh tried to introduce new policies in his Budgets. I find a remarkable difference between those Budgets and this Budget. This Budget conceives a revenue loss of Rs. 950 crore and yet the Minister aims at mobilising Rs. 8060 crore and odd. Where is he going to get it from? How is it possible for him unless he imposes taxes which will result in a severe price hike?

The Finance Minister expects the overall fiscal deficit to be Rs. 91000 crore. In fact, it will be more than Rs. 1 lakh crore. Even experts are saying this. Developed countries including America do not prefer to go in for deficit budgets but we preferred a deficit budget. This deficit Budget will adversely affect the weaker sections and the common man. It will adversely affect all sectors, particularly the rural sector.

This Budget is silent on economic sanctions imposed on India. Here, the expected inflow of about Rs. 2500 crore will be stopped. There is no answer for it. The expected inflow would be in the form of industry or bank loans to the extent of Rs. 2500 crore of Rs. 3000 crore. That is what the experts are saying. How do we link up all these things? In the field of rural employment, an

increase of Rs. 100 crore is paltry if you compare it with the past where it was Rs. 3900 crore to Rs. 4000 crore. Your Budget is silent on transfer of Central Rural Development funds of about Rs. 10,000 crore. In the earlier Budget, they expected rural development and they tried to provide about Rs. 10,000 crore from Centre directly to the Panchayat and the Municipalities so that they will develop themselves. Your Budget is absolutely silent on this.

There is nothing new about your *Samadhan*. It is not a new thing. The VDIS which was introduced by Shri Chidambaram is another way for the dishonest people to come and deposit money. Except that, there is nothing new. What is new in *Samadhan*? There is nothing new except the VDIS. You tried to show that there is an increase in the Plan outlay to the extent of Rs. 24,000 crore. Actually, it is not so. I have gone through the details a number of times. You have compared the Budget Estimates with the Revised Estimates of the previous year where the Central Plan expenditure was reduced by Rs. 10,000 crore. That is why, your estimate have shown an increase of Rs. 24,000 crore. Actually it is not so. The over-stated receipts and under-stated expenditure perhaps made to think that he is presenting a rosy picture. Actually, when we have through the details, we found that it is not so.

Having created tensions in the Sub-continent, the allocation that you have given to Defence is paltry. You have increased the allocation to the extent of Rs. 500 crore, which is nothing.

Coming to the GDP, your National Agents expressed to achieve a growth rate of seven or eight per cent. To achieve a growth rate of seven per cent, the investment rate should be 20.3 per cent of GDP at market price, which is also not correctly shown in your Budget.

In these circumstances, the Government has to sincerely think about the economic sanctions. The Budget has promised opening up the insurance sector for the private industries. We welcome it. The Congress party, in fact, welcomed it. But it should not result in mushrooming of chit fund agencies or new financial companies. They will spread and ruin the people. They will spoil the people and get away with the money one fine morning. The Government should be very careful about the insurance companies.

Your borrowings incidentally show that the fiscal deficit is equivalent to Rs. 91,000 crore. You proposed to borrow Rs. 91,000 and odd crore but the fiscal deficit is Rs. 90,000 and odd crore.



[SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR]

It is good to know that you have increased the number of houses under Indira Awas Yojana. I expect the hon. Minister of Finance to spell out in his reply that MPs will also have a say in this. Under this programme, 80 per cent of funds are going from the Central pool and all MLAs are deriving the benefit whereas the MPs have not been given any chance at all. The other day, the hon. Speaker was kind enough to give at least 50 telephones and 150 gas connections to such MP so that the MP should also have the benefit. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki): It is a very big disadvantage.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam): It is a disadvantage and at the same time, an advantage to satisfy our leaders and workers at the grassroot level.

When we visit the place where the houses are burnt, we cannot give any houses while the MLA gives ten houses immediately with our money and with the Central funds. So, you please think of it.

I forgot one more factor that the Budget does not mention about National Water Policy which we often think of and talk about. There is no allocation on account of this and because of this linkage of rivers is suffering. As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, we expected Godavri to be linked up with river Krishna, since it is drying up on account of breaches in Karnataka. So, we expected the Budget to have allocated certain funds for linkage of rivers. The hon. Finance Minister was telling us that 58 per cent was allocated to irrigation. But there is no specific mention about that.

Further, the Budget is silent about population control. No allocations are made at all. If the population is allowed to grow like this then all the projects that we thought of or are thinking would be a waste. We cannot give the real results to the people. Looking from any angle, my submission is that this Budget is a lackluster Budget and as our friend just now said, it is a colourless Budget.

With these few words, I take leave of you. Thank you Sir.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY (Adilabad): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Hon. Speaker sir, this Budget is rooted in *Swadeshi*, but *Swadeshi* does not mean isolation. Many fluent speakers have spoken before me about lot of things. The hon. Finance Minister has been ambitious about the current economic growth prospects because the GDP growth has been projected to 8 per cent only. If we see

the figures, the nominal GDP for year 1998-99 works out to Rs. 16,25,440 crore. The corresponding figure for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 14,15,190 crore. This yields a nominal GDP growth of 15 per cent for the year 1998-99.

However, if the GDP fails to grow at the projected level, the fiscal target will automatically come down, the hon. Finance Minister knows this. Shri N.K. Singh, Revenue Secretary has gone on record to say that with regard to indirect tax in the year 1997-98, the allocation fell short by over Rs. 15,000 crore because industry did not grow as project, i.e. at the rate of 10 per cent. It is not clear as to what would be the industrial growth rate for the year 1998-99 because the bulk of revenue mobilisation in the current fiscal year depends on the indirect taxes.

In fact, the excise is expected to grow over 20 per cent in the year 1998-99, i.e. Rs. 5769 crore as against Rs. 7770 crore in the year 1997-98. In customs, as per the figures mentioned, the growth rate of collection is projected at about 18 per cent, i.e. from Rs. 41,000 crore in the year 1997-98 to Rs. 48,148 crore in the year 1998-99. It shows the hon. Finance Minister is heavily depending upon the indirect taxes to boost revenue collection.

On direct taxes, the hon. Finance Minister projected a lower target for the year 1998-99 as compared to 1997-98. Both corporate tax and income tax together are expected to yield Rs. 3,000 crore, which is less than that of the previous year, 1997-98.

Corporate tax during 1997-98 was Rs. 21,360 crore and the estimate for the year 1998-99 is Rs. 26,550 crore. There is a clear variation. However, income tax collection for the year 1998-99 is expected to be Rs. 27,930 crore as against the last year's revised estimate of Rs. 28,750 crore.

On expenditure side, the hon. Finance Minister has not kept his promise in correcting the balance in favour of the capital expenditure as against the revenue expenditure. In the year 1998-99, the capital expenditure is expected to grow by eight per cent, which means that there is virtually no growth in real terms. The capital expenditure has increased from Rs. 53,045 crore in the year 1997-98 to Rs. 57,865 crore in 1998-99 but the revenue expenditure has increased from Rs. 1,82,200 crore in the year 1997-98 to Rs. 2,10,062 crore in the year 1998-99. It shows that there is a clear increase of revenue when compared to the capital expenditure.

I appreciate the hon. Finance Minister for allocating more funds for agriculture. In India, more than 60 per cent of the population depends on agriculture. Still the funds provided for agriculture are not sufficient. Unless public investment increases, private investment would not increase substantially.

In regard to comprehensive crop insurance, I appreciate the hon. Prime Minister and this Government for giving the credit card. Experimental crop insurance schemes are not really serving the interests of the farmers, who are affected by the natural calamities. Especially in Andhra Pradesh, continuously for the last five to six years, the farmers were affected by the natural calamities and suffered so much of loss. Recently, in Rajasthan and Gujarat also, the farmers have suffered on account of cyclones and other natural calamities.

There is an urgent need to modify the Crop Insurance Scheme to cover all the farmers including non-loanees farmers. I request the hon. Prime Minister to consider village as a unit. Since the farmers are not sound in their financial condition, there is a need to subsidise a part of the premium.

Also more funds should be allocated for opening the Krishi Vigyan Kendras. As per my information, in 292 places, KVKs have still to be opened. Especially in Andhra Pradesh, seven more KVKs have to be established, for which the State Government has provided land and the Andhra Pradesh Government is ready to contribute half of the funds.

The farmers especially in Andhra Pradesh and in other places where natural calamities take place are getting much lower support price than the minimum support price. Recently, the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu suggested to the Union Government to give bonus of Rs. 60 per quintal for paddy and rice procured by the Food Corporation of India and other agencies as is being given for wheat in the northern States.

Sir, Cooperative banks and commercial banks are not properly giving loans to the farmers. As you know, Sir, agriculture is contributing 30 per cent to our GDP. I want the Government of India to relax the norms fixed by RBI and NABARD so that more credit is made available through the District Central Cooperative banks and other agencies, which are functioning in the State.

I also congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for giving top priority to the development of infrastructure, especially to power industry. The plan outlay for power rose from Rs. 6,738 crore to Rs. 9,500 crore. It is in the right direction. The earlier Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram had also given more funds to development of infrastructure.

Like this, this Government has also provided more funds for the power sector. But how much is the net budgetary support? That is not mentioned. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to make it clear when he replies.

Also, priority should be given to non-conventional energy. It is because, earlier the UF Government was committed to improve the energy sector, especially the solar energy, there is no mention of solar energy in this Budget. Also, hydroelectricity projects were given top priority. Recently the Government have removed the subsidy given to the bio-gas plants. You are aware that chimneyless *chulhas* are famous in rural India. For this, even though the budgetary support has been increased, the Government have removed the subsidy. With this, all the local units which were depending on this industry, are suffering. That is why, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to see that the subsidy is increased.

If you remove the subsidy, almost all the local units will be closed.

I am happy that tax holding for power sector has been extended up to 2003. The appointment of monitoring officer may not solve the problem because there is already an Investor Promotion Cell in the Ministry of Power. Through that, many projects are finalised. Therefore, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to review this.

Further, the Budget is absolutely silent on the impact of sanctions on our economy and how the Government of India is preparing to face the economic sanctions imposed by the United States and other Western nations. In the Budget, they have not mentioned how the Government is going to solve the problem. The Government is going to rely on borrowed finance. This is a growing expenditure without additional resource mobilization. How about the additional protection given to the Indian industry? This is also not mentioned. The Economic Survey has put the import duty collection rate for 1996-97 at 31 per cent. The domestic market cannot compete with this level of production.

The Minister of Finance did not use the opportunity of cutting unwarranted subsidies against the backdrop of economic sanctions and security issues.

In Andhra Pradesh, so many projects are pending. I would request the Minister of Finance to waive Rs. 663 crore of interest to be paid by Singaroni Colliery. Both the State and the Centre hold 50 per cent of shares in the colliery. Lakhs of people are depending on this industry. It is a hundred year old project. It has to pay Rs. 663 crore towards interest. I would request the Finance Minister to look into the matter and waive the interest because Singaroni Colliery is already incurring losses. If you see the record of production of coal for 1997-98, it is 28.9 million tonnes. In spite of that, it is incurring losses. Therefore, I would request the Finance Minister to waive the interest of Rs. 66.30 crore.

Anyhow, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister, because in this financial indiscipline, he has dared to

[DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY]

simplify the tax returns. For simplification of the tax returns., he has introduced a simple one page income tax returns like the *sarae* and *samadhan* which will apply both to the direct and indirect taxes. With this, I support the Budget.

MR. SPEAKER: Now I will call Shri Bhajan Lal. He will take only five minutes. He is having some urgent work.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (Karnal): Mr. Speaker, sir, I would like to mention certain shortcomings in the budget presented by the hon'ble Minister for Finance. This budget is completely against the farmers, agriculture and rural economy. The farmer and the industry are two key elements of this country's economy. The farmer resides in the village and the labourers work in factories. There is nothing in this budget which suggests of promoting agriculture and rural, economy or industry. For the last two years the state of industry is critical. Nothing has been said about reviving the sick industrial units in this country.

In this budget, the hon'ble Finance Minister has increased the prices of urea. I am also son of a farmer. It is for the first time that the price of fertilizer has been increased at the rate of Rs. one per kilogram. Shri Sinha, fertilizer are not sold in kilograms. One sack of urea is of 50 kilograms. You have tried to fool the people. People may think that the increase of Rs. One per kilogram is not a big deal. But the reality is that you have increased the price of urea by Rs. 50 per sack. Urea is not sold in kilograms but in sacks. I am unable to understand this logic. Everybody knows that the rate of urea in kilograms has got no importance. This is not appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say that this will give rise to inflation in every respect. You have carried out nuclear test. It is good. It enhanced the glory of the country. But this whole programme was started by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. It began at the time of our war with China.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund): Have we gone completely against the policies of Pt. Nehru, but in Mr. Narasimha Rao's time you people had buried the policies of Pt. Nehru...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Please listen to what I am saying ...*(Interruptions)* Have you developed an atom bomb in just three months? It has happened because of the policies of the Congress. We had not done it because

we had displayed our nuclear capability to the world, the other countries would have made more powerful nuclear bomb. That's why we kept in secret. But now what will happen. Many countries of the world will stop aid to our country which will gradually lead to economic downfall of the country. Mr. Sinha, your policies have endangered country's economy. That you will see in future. Your decision to increase the price of urea by Rs. 50 per sack will lead to reduction in production of foodgrains. How would small farmers bear this? The production of food grains can't be carried out unless urea is put into the fields before sowing. That's why it is necessary that you should withdraw the decision to increase the price of urea. Otherwise it won't be good. Alongwith this ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHAMAN LAL TUPTA (Udhampur): The 50% increase has already been withdrawn.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : You know that the increase of Re. one means Rs. 50 on per sack ...*(Interruptions)*. Even the increase of Rs. 25 is not appropriate. Rather you should reduce it. In agriculture, you should give remunerative prices to the farmers. You are aware of the poor state of farmers in the country. Many people have burnt themselves alive, many have committed suicide. The farmers in Punjab and Haryana are also going to tread the same path. Today, the crops of cotton and paddy are reduced to 50%. You can make an inquiry. It has happened in the states of Punjab and Haryana. I belong to Haryana. There, the production of paddy and cotton has been reduced to 50%. An incurable disease has entered this country. This disease has come in the country after the rule of the Congress Party.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh): You people had left this disease before leaving.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: We had cured it, but you people had again carried it ...*(Interruptions)*. That's why please focus your attention on this side ...*(Interruptions)*. At this time I am not talking about politics. I will discuss it later on. Then give replies, and I will also reply to your questions. I am talking about budget and what ever I am saying is correct.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked a question in the context of industries. It was replied in Rajya Sabha, that in last two years, 600 big industries have been shut down. But according to my estimate the actual figure is higher because your policy is to invite foreign companies in the country which will lead to the closure of local industries. And this will lead to cash flow from Indian markets to

foreign countries. You are aware then all foreign countries, whether its USA or UK, protect their local industries by imposing anti-dumping duties. But you have not made provision of any such duty in your budget. You have given an indication but you have not imposed it. The country's industry will remain affected till you do this. The industries are unable to repay the loans taken from IDBI and other banks. That's why they are making a deal at 50% to 60% in some cases. That's why I would like to ask, where your slogan of 'swadeshi' has gone? Have you changed your slogan from 'swadeshi' to foreign or 'videshi'? Please stick to your 'swadeshi' slogan and prevent the closure of local companies. Our country is a country of farmers, villagers, labourers who work in fields and labourers who work in factories. We should try to improve the lot of these people and only then the state of agriculture and industry will improve.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, and hon'ble Minister for Finance, I would like to say that the most important thing for the farmer is irrigation, drinking water and canal but you have made no provision for S.Y.L. canal. The canal is the lifeline of Punjab and Haryana. When are you going to carry out its construction and how much funds would be allocated for this? It is not good that no provisions have been made in the budget. Next for the canal most important thing is infrastructure which covers electricity, water, drinking water roads etc. The country can't progress unless all these things are in order. The country's infrastructure must be very good. But you have not made any significant provision for this also. The poor state of national highways in the country is not a secret. National Highway No 1 runs up to Pak border. It was necessary to convert it into four lanes but you have not made any mention of it in the budget. Similarly, you have not made any provisions for the construction of four lanes on the National Highway No. 10. It also goes up to Pak border via Hissar and Sirsa. The condition of many defence roads is dilapidated. There is a defence road in Hissar, my home town. It takes half an hour to travel a distance of five kilometres on that road. I understand you want be would not be able to find such poor state of defence roads in any other part of the country. Therefore I urge upon you to repair that road.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give two-three suggestions to the hon'ble Minister for Finance. You have done injustice to the state of Haryana. You have not made any provision in the budget to lay a new rail line or to start any new train in Haryana. Survey of many rail lines has been conducted. But no provision for them has been made in the budget. For instance, the area of Mewat is very poor. There is no rail line in that area. There is no train in Firozpur district, from Firozpur Thirka to Gurgaon district, and further to Palwal district. I would

like that attention should be paid in this matter. I would also like to say that the number of accidents and explosions which took place during the last 2 years have not occurred in the last 20 years. So many precious lives have been lost in these accidents and explosions. Shri Sinha, please allocate special funds to railways for Haryana. Please keep provisions for this in the budget. According to the survey, the train should go up to Harjarr, but no provision has been made in the budget for this. Survey has been conducted to introduce a train from Adampur to Fatehabad via Duhara. But money has not been sanctioned for this. We don't want to criticise you, but we want this government to deliver goods. You should be given an opportunity to work. You should also fulfil the promises made to the people. You should give full attention to the country's farmers, labourers and industry. So that sick industrial units of the country can be revived, and the condition of country's farmers could also be improved. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): Mr. Speaker, as I rise to speak on the general discussion on the Budget, I am conscious that I am the immediate predecessor of the hon. Finance Minister and, therefore, in a sense I am the target of paragraph six of Part A of his speech. But I want to assure this House that we on this side wish to be helpful. We sincerely believe, I believe with a great degree of passion, that this country need not remain poor. In the last 50 years, we have lost several opportunities, but this is not the time to apportion blame. Poverty of any nation is not a given and no nation need remain poor at this point of time in man's history. Three hundred years ago, the United States was poor, poorer than India was. Four hundred years ago, Europe was poor. Even 40 years ago, many South-East Asian countries, which appear that they are going through some difficulty today but who are not poorer than India today, were poorer than India. Nations smaller than India, nations poorer than India have overtaken India.

As someone in the BJP benches pointed out, we do not lack resources. We do not lack the instruments to fight poverty and pull ourselves up to the front rank of world's nations. What we lack, I believe, is an understanding of the forces that shape a nation's economy and a willingness to change as the world changes. So, I want to assure the hon. Finance Minister that I want to be helpful, the Opposition wishes to be helpful, and we hope that he will respond in such a manner that we can help him achieve the goals he has set for himself in the opening para of Part A of his speech.

Sir, thousands of words have been written and spoken and I plead guilty that I have contributed to the spoken words and the written words since the Budget

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was presented. The general impression is that the Press has been extremely harsh on the Finance Minister. But I want him to take comfort. It is much better to receive criticism now and praise later rather than high praise now and criticism later. But this criticism is not misdirected.

While I will have many things to say, if time permits or at the time of the discussion on the Finance Bill, today I wish to focus on the philosophy behind this Budget and whether the Finance Minister will be able to achieve the goals that he has set for himself. First, let me quickly run through the aspects of the Budget which I welcome and for which I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister. I have already said so through the Press. I welcome the initiative that he has taken on housing. I welcome the bold statement on public sector reform. I welcome the continuance of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund which was started by Dr. Manmohan Singh. I welcome the initiatives taken by me and my Government, the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, the Swarna Jayanti Housing Scheme, the Kasturba Gandhi Shiksha Yojana, the Basic Minimum Services, the Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme and the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. I welcome the Finance Minister's maintaining the direct taxes rate. I welcome the expansion of MRP in excise. I welcome the extension of the service tax net.

In a sense, I seem to have indirectly contributed several paragraphs of his Budget speech. All these clearly are a testimony to the fact that reforms have come to say and notwithstanding what some hon. Members may speak, there is no way any Finance Minister of any Government in the future, including the present Finance Minister, can reverse these. This is why, many people still believe that reforms are irreversible, reforms are deeply entrenched in this country, reforms have their constituency, both within the country and abroad, and reforms have a great deal of intellectual support. I, therefore, would humbly appeal to the Treasury Benches not to speak of reforming the reforms, not to speak of a Jurassic age which does not exist, not to speak about a throw-back to a romantic idea of India which does not exist in this country and it will not exist even in the next Century. These things have come to stay. This is the direction in which we should go and I am happy that the Finance Minister, after paying formal obeisance to *Swadeshi*, has continued many of the reforms that we started in 1991 and thank God for that.

I also congratulate him for the Watershed Development Programme and for raising the allocation from Rs. 517 crore to Rs. 677 crore. I congratulate him for raising the allocation on education from Rs. 4,716 crore to Rs. 7,047 crore.

I have said all these things in order to prepare the Finance Minister for the criticism that will follow. I criticise him, not because I want to criticise him. I criticise him because I believe that the Budget has misdirected itself. I believe that the budget rests on a very wrong philosophy and I believe that, however well meaning he may be, he will not achieve the targets that he has set for himself, particularly the target of price stability, the target of raising domestic savings and the target of macro-economic stability and target of faster growth. I will explain myself presently and as briefly as possible.

Before that, I want to recall what the Finance Minister told Reuters immediately after he attended the first meeting of the Board of Governors of the Reserve Bank to which he is invited customarily.

I also recall what he said at Washington while addressing the Press Conference after his visit to the World Bank and IMF meeting. I believe that is what the Finance Minister really believes and not what he has said in Paragraph 6 here. Paragraph 6 paints a gloomy picture. But that is not the true picture. For the first time, we have had for three years of single digit inflation which was under five per cent in March, 1998. Reserves touched an all time high of about 27 billion dollars. The economy grew at 7.5 per cent in the first year of the UF Government. It slipped to what is now reported as five per cent. But it will improve after the improvement in the industrial growth rate. Paragraph 6 refers to an industrial growth rate of 4.2. But only day before yesterday, the Government put out that the industrial growth rate is 6.6. Therefore, the year will end with the GDP growth closer to six per cent rather than five per cent. What does that mean? It means that in the two years of the UF Government we have delivered an average growth of about 6.75 per cent. If you take the last two years of the Congress Government and two years of the UF Government, the last four years' growth average is close to seven per cent. Therefore, the Finance Minister has the task of maintaining growth at seven per cent. What did he tell the Reuters and what did he tell to Washington correspondents? He said and I quote:

"The macro-economic fundamentals of this country are strong. Inflation is under control. We have had a set back to industrial growth last year but all other indicators point to a strong economy."

If any further testimony is required I would urge the Treasury Benches to read the 'Status Report-India's External Debt' put out in May, 1998 after my dear friend, Shri Sinha took over. What does it show? The total debt has come down to 92.8 billion US dollars. The Short Term Debt one of the lowest for all countries is at 6.3

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per cent. The Debt Service Ratio has come down to an all time low at 22.6 per cent. It was 35.3 per cent in the year of crisis. Debt-GDP ratio again is at all time low at 25.9 per cent. It was 41 per cent when Dr. Manmohan Singh took over. Interest as a proportion of current receipts is 8.1 per cent which was 15.5 per cent in the year of crisis when the Congress Government took over and ushered in reforms. So, let us not paint a gloomy picture of India's economy. India's economy is fundamentally strong.

But there are serious structural defects. There remain serious structural weaknesses. There are some areas which are weak, for example, exports. Another area which is weak is industry. It is not recession. Recession means negative growth in two successive quarters. Nobody can say that even six per cent GDP growth is recession. Nobody will say that 6.6 per cent industrial growth is recession. It is inadequate growth, decline in export growth and therefore there are serious structural defects. The question is, how does the Finance Minister address these concerns?

Sir, he believes—let him correct me if I am wrong—that spending is the key to stimulate growth. Dr. Manmohan Singh, for whom I have a great respect and I believe that investment is the key to growth and not spending. This is the line which divides this House. This House finds itself divided on many issues. What the commentators have said in the last two weeks is that the change in the paradigm is that the Congress Government and the UJ Government believed that investment is the stimulus to growth and the B.J.P.—rightly or wrongly, wittingly or unwittingly—believes that spending is the key to growth. I want the Finance Minister to please seriously consider whether he is right and if he is right, explain to us how he is right and convince us that what we did in the last seven years is wrong and what he intends to do this year is right. Then I will explain.

What is the key to the Budget? The key to the Budget is Plan outlay. Naturally, he is proud. I remember, Shri C. Subramaniam, as the Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu, proudly stood up and said: "I am the first Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu to present a hundred crore Budget." This is way back in 1961. Shri Sinha is the first Finance Minister to present to this country a Central Plan outlay of Rs. 1,05,187 crore. He has crossed the Rs. 1,00,000 crore mark. It is like Sachin Tendulkar scoring a century.

But let us now examine this figure more closely. Rs. 1,05,187 crore is the Central Plan outlay. How does he propose to finance it? Rs. 42,464 crore is the budgetary support and Rs. 62,723 crore is what is

popularly called IEBR (Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources). Now, as a proportion of total Central Plan outlay, the budgetary support is 40.37 per cent. Last year, it was 41.5 per cent.

The Budget is, therefore, contributing a smaller percentage to the total outlay. Nothing unusual about it. Even the Ninth Plan Document talks about a budgetary support of about 40 per cent. I am not finding fault with 40 per cent. But what I want the hon. Members to understand is that this so-called expenditure of Rs. 1,05,187 crore is not coming out of the Budget. Rs. 42,464 crore will be the real money. The remaining Rs. 62,723 crore will be real money if the Ministries and Departments perform. Otherwise, it will be a big question mark at the end of the year. Why do I say that it will be a big question mark? Take, Sir, last year, the year before, the year of the Congress Government, three years before that and five years before that. But let me talk about last year. Last year, we started with an IEBR of Rs. 55,709 crore. Ministries and Departments of the Government of India were able to achieve only an IEBR of Rs. 47,404 crore—a straight decline of Rs. 8,300 crore. They were not able to raise this money. If they do not raise this money, they are not able to spend the money. This is what is called shortfall in the Plan. What is shortfall in the Plan? Shortfall in the Plan is not because the Finance Minister does not give money. He will give his share, but that is only 40 per cent. The remainder will have to be raised by the Ministries and Departments.

Now, I ask the hon. Finance Minister to please convince the House, how does he hope that the Ministries and Departments of the Government of India in the remaining period of this financial year will be able to raise last year's level of Rs. 47,400 crore to Rs. 62,723 crore? How does he hope to have an increase of 33 per cent in one year? By the time this Budget is passed, by the time the Finance Bill is passed, and by the time the allocations are made, the month of August would have come. How does he hope to have the Ministries and Departments to raise this phenomenal amount of Rs. 62,723 crore?

The answer is obvious to anyone who has sat in North Block even for a shortwhile. This is not possible. He will not have a Plan outlay of Rs. 1,05,187 crore. The Plan outlay will fall far short and as the Plan outlay falls far short, he will not be able to stimulate growth to spend. This is the whole philosophy. Dr. Manmohan Singh used to say that you cannot spend your way to prosperity. You cannot spend your way to high growth. In fact, spending will bring about inflation. It will not bring about growth. I will come to inflation in a moment. The alternative route is to spur investment. Where did I fail last year? I failed last year because I could not assure political stability. Investment is a function of confidence,

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of stability. I could not provide stability. Thirty days after the Budget was presented, the Government fell. Seven months thereafter, that Government also fell. Shri Yashwant Sinha is the Finance Minister of a Government which is a coalition of parties about which they say "We are a stable Government, led by an able Prime Minister." I accept those statements. Why should I criticise them? I accept that you are a far more stable Government than what I was in last year. I accept that you have an able Prime Minister. But where you have an able Prime Minister and a stable Government, you should put your faith in investment, not in expenditure. What have you done about investment? What have you done to promote investment, both domestic and foreign? My criticism of this Budget is, it does nothing. It does not reassure the foreign investor. As my friend Shri Murasoli Maran pointed out, in the last 15 days all that we have seen is negative signals coming from the foreign investor. You may yet come to the conclusion that you do not need foreign investment. I do not need foreign institutional investment. I do not need foreign direct investment. You may say "I do not need external grants, external assistance, multilateral aid and concessional aid." You can say that. But you would not say that. You cannot say that because once you say that, a bulk of your investment dries up. You have said nothing to reassure the foreign investor. You have done nothing to inspire confidence of the foreign investor. If Shri Yashwant Sinha will still consider what he can do between now and the reply, I believe he should take dramatic steps to open up the economy and dramatic signals must be sent to inspire confidence in the foreign direct investor and the foreign institutional investor. What have you done for the domestic investor? What does the domestic investor want? The domestic investor wants political stability. Let me assume for the sake of argument that there is political stability. Let me assume so although deadlines are set for various things. Let me assume that there is political stability. But with political stability, what should you have done? With political stability, you should have created conditions where people will invest in the hope that additional capacity was created, producing goods and services which would be consumed by the people. That requires price stability, tax stability, leaving more money in the pockets of consumers. All that this Budget has done is exactly the contrary. Why does newspaper after newspaper, magazine after magazine - I do not own any of them and none of them was a particular friend of my Government - why do they call this Budget inflationary? Shri Yashwant Sinha knows it as well as I do even better, in fact. He has been both an administrator and a Minister. What has he done? First, he has raised the levels of protection. According to the "Economic Survey", the collection rate is already 31 per cent of the Customs duty. It is a simple arithmetic. Everybody can understand it. Suppose goods were imported at Rs. 100, tax was Rs. 20/-. What is the protection? It is Rs. 20/-. In the meanwhile, the rupee depreciates. It depreciated 11 per cent from 35.37 to 39.40. It has since depreciated another 6 per cent or 7

per cent. If a hundred rupee import is already depreciated, say 10 per cent, it has already become 110. On that if you impose a tax of 20 per cent, the effective protection is no longer Rs. 20/-. The effective protection is  $20+10+20$  per cent of 10. The effective protection has already become Rs. 32/-. To that Shri Yashwant Sinha has added another 8 per cent which is really not 8 per cent. Anybody can show you the calculation which is 14 per cent because it is post-Customs duty. With one stroke of the pen, you have raised the level of protection to something like 40 or may be 45 per cent. Is that the degree of protection under which an industry can become efficient? Is that not a tax on exporters? If you create such a profitable domestic economy, who will export? Why should anyone export? Every Customs duty is a tax on exports. That is an axiom of economics. Everybody understands that. You have created now a huge tariff wall being which industry will continue to remain inefficient. If there is tax on exporters, there will be no export at all. Added to that savage taxation. I deliberately use the word 'savage'. In recent years, there has been no Budget and I want the BJP Members to please understand. In recent years, there has been no Budget which mobilises Rs. 9,000 crore worth of additional taxation.

This is savage taxation. We are going back to the bad old days of savage taxation. Rs. 3304 crore of customs; Rs. 5009 crore of excise duty; Rs. 220 crore of service tax; postal rates hike by Rs. 270 crore and railway passenger tariff bringing in Rs. 450 crore all this is savage taxation. This will leave little money in the hands of the consumers. All this will add to inflation. All this is inflationary. This is textbook economics. It does not require political argument. The higher taxes, higher customs duties, higher excise duties, higher postal rates and higher railway rates will all lead to inflation. Magazine after magazine, author after author, writer after writer have said that inflation will touch the double-digit.

Here is a seminar hosted by the *Business World*. The Finance Secretary attended it. He participated in it. Everybody has given his benchmark on inflation. In fact, I find that I have been the most conservative. I have been the one most on your side. I did not go to this seminar. But, in my view, I have said inflation will touch eight per cent. Everybody believes that inflation will be over eight per cent. In fact, if inflation touches ten per cent, you are doing a great disservice to what we have been doing in this country for the last three years. We not only controlled inflation but we broke the back of inflationary expectation. Inflation in this country has been fed by inflationary expectations. What Dr. Manmohan Singh started in the fifth year of his Government was to break inflationary expectations. We continued it with the U.F. Government. Inflationary expectations were broken in this country. But what this Budget has done unfortunately is to revive inflationary expectations. If inflation touches ten per cent, my dear Finance Minister, you will have a howl of protest. Your friends who are praising you today will be the first to ask for your scalp.

Your friends were saying that this is a growth-oriented Budget. I say this growth is totally illusive. What is the use of six or seven per cent growth with ten per cent inflation? What I believe this Budget does is the temptation to which every Finance Minister is exposed by this officers. You allow inflation to grow a bit today. Why? Inflation is very "good for the Government. Who does inflation benefit? Please consider this point. Inflation is a cruel tax, inflation is a harsh tax. It taxes the rich and the poor alike. The rich man with rupees ten lakhs, if it is an inflation of ten per cent, is taxed at ten per cent. The poor man with a fixed income of Rs. 1000, if the inflation is ten per cent, is also taxed at ten per cent. Who benefits? Inflation benefits the borrower because his debt gets reduced. Who is the biggest borrower in this country? It is the Central Government. Inflation benefits the tax collector. The Revenue Department can always come and say: "I have reached my revenue target." It is because inflation will take you to revenue target. Inflation is also very good for the planner because his plan targets can be met. Inflation will take you to your plan targets. Since the Government is the biggest planner, since the Government is the biggest borrower and since the Government is the biggest tax collector, every Finance Minister is exposed to this temptation and thinks: "Let us allow inflation to rise a couple of points. What does it matter as long as we achieve our targets?"

I would urge my dear friend Shri Yashwant Sinha that your first target must be inflation. If you sincerely believe in what you said - I think you believe in what you said - ensure macro-economic stability and control over inflation. You must assure this House when you reply that you will target inflation, you will keep inflation under control and you will not yield to the temptation, the tempting alternative to buy a bit of growth by allowing the inflation to go up. The duty every Finance Minister owes to the people of this country, the duty every Government owes to the people of this country especially in a country where 40 per cent are poor is to keep inflation under control, is to keep rice stability.

I would, therefore, respectfully urge you to moderate your taxes. I will give you a way out. The CII was the one which asked you for this Special Additional Duty, the SAD duty. The CII has turned turtle now. The CII has issued a statement asking you to roll it back to four per cent. Those who praise you to the skies, those who give you these tempting alternatives today will be the first to pull you down from the pedestal.

The CII was so vocal when it said, "we must have a tax." Now they have turned turtle yesterday because sector after sector represented and said, "we cannot bear this tax." When I imposed two per cent duty in 1996, the

target date fixed was 31st March, 1999. When I added three per cent after the Pay Commission in November 1997, I set the same target date of March 1999. I would urge you, my dear friend, to please stand up when you reply and say, "two per cent and three per cent will surely go on 31st March, 1999. I would urge you to roll back the eight per cent that you have levied to at least four per cent and also declare that that also will go on 31st March, 1999." If you allow the additional duties that were imposed to go way on 31st March, 1999, even if you make the statement when you reply to this debate, you will send a powerful signal that industry has to become efficient, that industry has to become competitive and you are targetting inflation. I would also urge you - I am trying to help you - to roll back many of these excise duties. These excise duties are completely counter productive. I believe that for every rupee that is collected by way of excise, at least excise of one rupee is evaded. Tighten your enforcement machinery. We gave money to the excise officers last year. We created circles. We gave them extra money; we gave them money for office, for transport and for stationery. You go by that route and tell them that they will have to achieve their targets. What is it that you have done? We looked at the whole chapter and said that the whole chapter must have a single rate.

As my friend Shri Maran pointed out, you are looking at tariff line. Please do not do that. Look at the whole chapter. Within a chapter, do not have different rates. Look at the things that you have done. Shri Maran read a few. I want to read a few more. What happens when you impose a tax on tyres and tubes used on animal-drawn vehicles and handcarts etc.? They will not use tyres. They will run their handcarts on the tar road, or, the metal road and break the road. The idea is that they must use tyres and not run the old handcart. Now you are imposing a tax on tyres. The handcart man will simply discard tyres; the bullockcart will run as a bullockcart, the bullock will run as a bullock and the road will break up.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Old tyres are fixed in bullock-cart.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Now look at the next one. Excise on grey cotton fabrics captively consumed by multi-locational composite mills is 0 to 5 per cent; excise on grey fabrics is 0 to 12 per cent. We went through this exercise in a great deal and said, "multi-locational mills should have the freedom to move their goods from one unit to another at zero duty." Why have you imposed this five per cent and 12 per cent duty? Look at what you



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have done. Excise on milking machinery is 0 to 8 per cent; on dairy machinery it is 0 to 8 per cent; and on sewing machines it is 0 to 8 per cent. Why are women Members not protesting? Why are you doing these things?

Further come to tractors of 1600 cc capacity. I know who persuaded you to do that. It is the very charming, young lady in Chennai who runs the TAFE. She would come and plead with you and say, "you make it eight per cent, I will not raise the prices," She tried to charm me also. I said: "I know you will raise prices". Take it from me, my dear Finance Minister, prices of these tractors will go up now. They will tell you that there is over-flow of MODVAT, we will absorb this. They will tell you that. But it will be raised now, tractor prices will be raised.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Who is that charming lady?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Then excise on medical equipment is 0-8 per cent. On spectacle lenses it is 0-8 per cent. Why? Why should these lenses suffer a duty? These are goods of mass consumption. Please roll back many of these excises. This is not the way to raise revenues. This only creates distortion. This only creates protected lobbies. Please do not raise these taxes. Roll back these taxes. Tighten up enforcement. I am glad you believe in the laffer curve. I have made some back of the envelope calculation. You expect corporation taxes to rise by 24 per cent, so do I. I share your belief. You expect income tax to raise by 12 percent, so do I. You expect customs and excise to rise by 20 per cent because of your new levies. I do not believe that. I do not believe that that will happen. In fact, there will be consumer resistance to these products. If they have high excise, there will be great degree of evasion. I would urge you to moderate your taxes. I would urge you to roll back many of your taxes; tighten enforcement and get your revenues. I would urge you to target inflation. I would urge you to target expenditure control. I think, the whole philosophy that you can spend your way to growth, spend your way to prosperity is wrong. You must stimulate investment. 'Spending' by definition is not necessarily good. There is nothing which says, "planned spending is good, non-plan spending is bad." I am glad that you are abolishing that distinction.

Spending is good only if it yields a return. What is the use of spending when it gives you a return of two to three per cent? That is inefficient spending. Therefore, spending is not going to take you to your target. Spending is not going to help you achieve your targets. I would urge you to concentrate on investments, concentrate on inflation control, concentrate on revenue realisation. Sir, having said this, I have a few quick points to make in a telegraphic language. I will wind up in two to three minutes.

You have not factored the cost of sanctions and I say so with a sense of responsibility. The last two meetings of the World Bank that were held for consideration of the Agenda were adjourned not because there were 'no' votes but they were adjourned because there were not enough 'yes' votes. You know what I mean. A large number of Member countries who do not want to vote 'no' also did not want vote 'yes'. They wanted to stay away. That is why the two meetings of the World Bank Board were adjourned to a date not yet determined. On the same day, IFC which finances private sector projects also adjourned its Board meeting to a date not yet determined. It may not affect the Central Government immediately but it will surely affect the State Governments. There are three projects of Tamil Nadu crucially dependent upon the World Bank approval.

There are projects in Orissa. There are projects in Bengal. There are projects in Maharashtra. Take, for example, the most important project, the project which I take pride in the one you referred to in your Budget Speech i.e., 'Community-based Rural Water Supply Programme' which is being implemented in Uttar Pradesh. Rajasthan wanted one. Punjab wanted one. Sitting in the Finance Minister's chair, I promised that 'yes, you send me the proposal. I will send it to the World bank. Now None of them will take off.' The World Bank aid has reached a level of three billion dollars from July to June. ADB reached a level of 850 million dollars which is expected to reach a billion dollars. President State of the ADB has said, 'no more loans will be considered'. It will not affect you in 1998-99 but it will surely affect you in 1999-2000 and in 2000-2001. There will be no disbursal and since I want you to remain in office in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, you will have to answer that in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. Why is it that disbursal is not taking place. So, please do not imagine that there are no cost of sanctions. The sanctions have already begun to hurt.

Point number two. Exim Bank Guaranties are being suspended, which means private sector projects will not reach financial closure. What happens to Enron II? What happens to Cogentrix? What happens to the petroleum exploration projects? What happens to the Telecom project? None of them will reach financial closure. We may be able to tide over in the next two-three months but when they begin to bite, who will answer the people of this country? So, I urge you to please consider it. This is not political rhetoric. Please consider, what is the cost of sanctions and how do you factor the cost of sanctions?

Another quick point about the IDFC. I am glad that you have taken the initiative forward. IDFC's headquarters is at Chennai. Mumbai already has the headquarters of IDBI and ICICI. Delhi has the headquarters of IFCI. We gave the headquarters of IIBI to Calcutta. They are doing very well. You see their last balance-sheet. Dr. Goswamy is very proud of what he has achieved. We deliberately gave IDFC to Chennai and they promised that they will really function out of Chennai. What I hear is, all their Board meetings are being held in Mumbai. Please correct this. This is a slap on the face of the previous Government. This is a slap on the face of the people of Tamil Nadu. IDFC has been given to Chennai as headquarters. They must function out of Chennai. They must hold their Board meetings in Chennai. They cannot convert Chennai into an outpost and have a real functioning in Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*... He will answer that.

Point number three. Securitisation of SEB debts. I do not know who conned you to believe that this conclusion that good. This is bad. You are giving comfort to the State Electricity Boards which are notorious in not being able to pay their debts. If you securitise it, what does it mean? It eventually means that you will have to eventually pay the debts. The guarantee is yours and if they do not pay the debts, you will have to pay it. They will raise money. You are securitising it so that they can leverage it. But if the debts are not paid, eventually, who will pay? In the same category falls this idea, Asset Reconstruction Company. I know, the Narasimhan Committee recommended it in its first Report. It did so in the second Report. But both Dr. Manmohan Singh and I believed that creating an Asset Reconstruction Company will only encourage poor performing banks to increase their NPAs. Because there is an Asset Reconstruction Company which will take it over. I would urge you to please re-examine the securitisation of SEB debt and the Asset Reconstruction Company.

Finally, I want to point out that you have not done enough for Science and Technology and that is unfair. I have done very detailed calculations. There are six Departments of Government of India dealing with R&D in science; Department of Atomic Energy, Ocean Development, Science and Technology, Bio-technology, Scientific and Industrial Research and Space. The rest are all small ones. In BE last year we promised Rs. 2093 crore, we ended up spending Rs. 1920 crore. In BE this year you are promising Rs. 2610 crore. It looks like an impressive jump. But where is the jump? This is only Rs. 133 crore in Atomic Energy and in Space Rs. 531 crore. Out of Rs. 694 crore increase, Rs. 662 crore are accounted by two Departments, Space and Atomic Energy. But what about Ocean Development?

What about the absic Science and Technology? What about Bio-Technology, the key to agricultural revolution? What about Scientific and Industrial Research? You have kept the allocation at Rs. 88, Rs. 107 crore and Rs. 230 crore. This is not enough for Science and Technology. I would urge you to please consider it. You must give greater allocation to the Department of Ocean Development, to the Department of Science and Technology, to the Department of Bio-technology and to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The bulk of our scientists are working in these Departments. They deserve greater support.

Lastly I want to point out about village and small industries. Again all of you believe that something remarkable has been done for village and small industries. I am afraid, you are not looking into the documents. Demand No. 55 and Demand No. 82 concern village and small industries. Last year we started with a BE of Rs. 657 crore and Rs. 220 crore. That is a total of Rs. 877 crore. We ended the year with Rs. 659 crore and Rs. 28 crore. That is a total of Rs. 869 crore. As against Rs. 869 crore in RE last year, on the Demand No. 55 and the Demand No. 82 you have provided only Rs. 877 crore. Where is the money for village and small industries? What is the point of devoting chapters in this speech to promoting small industries? When it comes to the real money, you have allocated only Rs. 877 crore as against last year's RE of Rs. 869 crore.

Within the village and small industries I want you to consider the plight of handlooms. I know there are my friends who will speak up for NTC mills and I do not blame them. But who will speak up for handlooms? There are 28 lakh families, Mr. Finance Minister, who are dependent on handlooms, many in your State. People commit suicide. Not only farmers, handloom weavers also committed suicide five years ago. There are 28 lakh families dependent on looms. Assume three people work on a loom. What does it make? It makes 84 lakh people. NTC mills have a lakh and a half people. They are also our brothers and sisters. They need our help. But 84 lakh people are engaged in handlooms. What does the Government of India - and I include myself, my Government and the previous Congress Government - do for handlooms? For handlooms Plan and Non-Plan allocation last year, BE was Rs. 203 crore and RE was Rs. 174 crore. This year it is Rs. 151 crore. Is this the way you want to treat handlooms? This has nothing to do with *Swadeshi* or *Videshi*. 84 lakh people are working in these handlooms. I have always told the Minister of

[SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM]

Textiles to please increase the allocation to handlooms. This is the third largest industry in the country after farming and after the organised textile industry.

Please consider these things. Put your money where your mouth is. If you have devoted passages in the speech to promoting village and small industries and the handloom industry, this is where the money should go. I am not saying that the NTC mills should not be given relief. They are asking for a Rs. 2,500 crore plant. Give it to them, by all means, if you have the money. But out of Rs. 2,500 crore should you not give at least half of it to the handloom industry where 84 lakh people are involved? I would urge you to look at that.

Finally, I am grateful to you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have been extremely kind to me. I have already taken a lot of time. I would urge the hon. Minister of Finance to reconsider the various aspects: target inflation, target revenues and roll back these protectionist tariffs to more moderate levels. If there are selected industries which require protection, that is a different matter. But across the board, please roll them back. The CII has shown you a way - allow them to have a sunset clause, say, 31st March, 1999. Say and do a few things to promote foreign investment and domestic investment; create a climate of confidence. Then, you will achieve growth.

I see your figures. Take the fiscal deficit as a proportion of the GDP. You are planning a nominal growth of about 14 per cent to 14.8 per cent. If inflation is 8 per cent, your growth will not exceed six per cent. If inflation is ten per cent, growth will fall down to below five per cent. You are not planning for a nominal growth of more than 14.8 per cent. The key, therefore, is inflation control and I think a reasonable growth of about seven per cent.

Finally, I want to state a word about the rupee. I do not want to say anything which will create more difficulties for you. I have been very careful both in office and out of office. I share your statement that all that the Government can ensure is an orderly and a stable market in which the law of supply and demand will determine the value of the rupee. That is good. There is no difficulty about that and if you have stated it, you should state it again.

There was already an eleven per cent depreciation at the time you took over. In terms of real effective exchange rate, there was really no erosion of value. I sincerely hope that one of your colleagues who wanted an exchange rate of Rs. 17 to a dollar has changed her

views. I hope she has changed her views. Well, that day will not come. That is again a Jurassic age. But the 11 per cent depreciation was equal to the decline based on real effective exchange rate. You do not have to tell us what you are doing. What Dr. Bimal Jalan and you are doing is a matter between the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. But if you are targeting the real effective exchange rate, you should send a clear signal. The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and the Minister of Finance must send a clear signal that we are targeting the real effective exchange rate and we will not allow the rupee to be either over-valued or under-valued.

There is a feeling today in the country even among knowledgeable persons that you are allowing the rupee to be under-valued. The criticism last year was that the rupees was over-valued. The feeling is that you are allowing the rupee to be under-valued. But you know the consequences of a depreciating rupee. It will lead to higher exchange rates. A depreciating rupee will lead to a balance of payments crisis. I do not think that this country deserves another balance of payments crises. We have come out of that crisis. We are a much stronger economy today than what we were in 1991. We are growing at about six and a half per cent a year. We have the potential to grow at over eight per cent a year. But we should not fall into another financial crisis. I would urge you, therefore, to consider making whatever statement is appropriate. But please make a statement which will send a clear signal to the market that you will not allow the rupee to be either over-valued or under-valued, that you will insure that there is an orderly and a stable exchange market in which the law of supply and demand will work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much. I sincerely wish that the hon. Minister of Finance succeeds in some of the goals that he has set himself. For that he has to take a number of steps. I am not saying that he can do that between today and tomorrow when he is to reply. But at least when he comes back to us in July he would have had three weeks of reflection. Come back to us in July and please tell us whether you accept some of our suggestions. If you accept to some of our suggestions, you are willing to revise your philosophy, you are able to convince your colleagues that a revised philosophy based on investment is much better than spending, I think, there is a fair chance that you will succeed. Otherwise, I am afraid, you will fail and the country will criticise you for missing another great opportunity to take this country on to another plane of growth.

Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for the nice speech.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Sir, just now my friend Chidambaram Saheb tried to place all points in a very stentimental manner. He has tried to present such a picture which will create an atomosphere of fear and terror. I am not doubting his intension but the position which he is holding and the pressure and influence on him, on that basis it seems to me that after Pokhran blast, the foreign powers were trying to cowdown India. They want to embarrass the country on economic front and want to put the country in crises and he is becoming the victim of their conspiracy. I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Minister whole heartedly.

18.56 hrs.

[Shri Raghuvanash Prasad Singh *in the Chair*]

Not only I, but all patriotic people, who are struggling for the dignity of country and those who want to make this country economically self-sufficient, are congratulating him for introducing indigenous economic policies.

Sir, after 1991, for the first time in this Budget the swadeshi economy of the country has been protected. Hon'ble Finance Minister has said that 1% tax is proposed to be increased, perhpas he has not seen the data pertaining to economic recommendation made from 1991 till date. The legacy of economy which this government inherited was very troublesome and complicated. Economic growth was very slow and there is decline in agricultural and industrial progress. No country can become self-sufficient and economically strong unless the pace of agricultural and industrial development is stepped up. Even if one takes vitamin-B capsule he will not get that much strength which he can get if one eats food. I am congratulating Hon'ble Finance Minister because he has accepted that challenge.

We have also inherited one such scenerio in which it was thought that we will export more but we could not achieve that target. We inherited such a legacy in which our export policy failed miserably. Fiscal deficit was increasing. We were not prepared to strengthen our basic infrastructure whether it is power sector, energy sector, transport sector, water-resources sector or any other sector. In such adverse circumstances he has shown his courage for which I congratulate him.

Shri Chidambaram has mentioned about Dollar also and has said that country will face crises after one year. I would like to tell him that this budget has given a new direction and strengthened the swadesh economy and has also made efforts to deal with the future difficulties arising out of economic sanctions.

19.00 hrs.

He will come to know this when he tries to find this. Just now as I have said that agriculture and industrial progress - these two are basic infrastructure upon which country's economic structure depends. Till now we were very backward in both agricultural and industrial progress but for the first time efforts have been made to strengthen these two sectors which will in turn strengthen our economic system.

I was just going through the figures of budget. 24% of our budget goes in payig interest. I congratulate Chidambaramji but the budget which will be presented in next two years, there will be much improvement in that. I am talking of dollar of terms. Every effort has been made in the budget to strengthen economic system and emphasis has been laid on social sectors. Till now after completion of every Five Year Plan the percentage of unempoyed youths both educated and uneducated has increased. This is an irony. It is a sad commentary on our planning. We are talking of progress but the number of unempoyed person is increasing every time.

In this budget efforts have been made to strengthen economic system and to control unemployment for which I congratulate him. Even though the country may prosper but if the purchasing power of people do not increase and youth do not get employment this country cannot make progress. Unless people get employment the economic system and social structure of this country cannot function properly. This budget raised the hopes of youth that they will get employment and can live with respect.

Sir, education is a basic need. I know that in Kerala, emphasis is given on education and that is why today there is no family planning problem. Had the education been emphasized in the entire country, the country would not have to face all these problems. We cannot prevent increase in population due to lack of education. Till today whenever the issue of controlling the population is raised, many impediments are put in the name of religion though the fact is that in Kerala people belonging to all religions are living but there is no religious fundamentalism. There women know everything because they are educated. They know that for a happy family, population has to be controlled. Therefore, it is good that the emphasis has been given on education in this budget.

Provision has also been made for health in this budget. Today malaria and and TB have re-emerged in the country and are spreading very rapidly. If attention is not paid towards health at this juncture then youth of

[SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT]

this country would be affected. If once this happens then no one can protect the country. Therefore I congratulate him for paying attention towards health. So much emphasis has been given on rural development and agriculture in this budget that it will certainly improve the declining position of agricultural production, provide employment to unemployed rural youth, improve the system of law and order and country will prosper and economic system of this country will be strengthened. After this our export will also increase and no one can stop it. If any one tries to put sanctions or make some other efforts even then we have got unlimited possibilities to export agricultural goods. The country which has courage will purchase foodgrains from us. The budget has been increased for general welfare. Through this budget, emphasis has been laid on social welfare. A new crop insurance scheme has been launched which we have been demanding since long. Since independence the condition of farmers have become pitiable and they are at the mercy of God. If hail storms or storms hit their crops, the farmers are ruined. In this situation if we want to protect farmer and strengthen our rural economic system then Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented strictly. I would also submit that under the dynamic leadership of Shri Vajpayee, a new beginning has been made. Just now one Hon'ble Member was saying that no attention has been paid towards looms. It seems to me that perhaps he has missed it. One technology mission is set up for cotton in which there is arrangement as how production of cotton can be increased and its quality be improved and he is saying that we have not paid attention towards looms. If there is no cotton looms cannot function. Therefore it is essential that emphasis should be given on basic necessities. This was done to solve this problem.

Sir, we used to give the slogan of "Jai Shri Ram" till now our colleague sitting on that side used to say that we are talking about monkeys. But my friends called a legend like Hanumanji a monkey. He was 'van nar' and not a 'vannar'. 'Van nar' means one who lives in the forests. The inhabitants of forests are the symbol of unity, integrity and culture of our country. They are the biggest heritage of this country. Whenever atrocities had taken place inside the country they had fought for it. So a scheme has been brought for their rehabilitation. Non-plan expenditure is 70%. It is the case of subsidy. Subsidy has become an integral part of our country. My friend who was in ruling party earlier used to think that subsidy can be stopped at any time, prices of urea, petrol and diesel can be increased at any time. But this time when prices have been increased he thanks otherwise in this regard. Subsidy has become an integral part of our

economy, that is why he has maintained subsidy. ...*(Interruptions)* They have tried to increase internal resources. They will get sanction and funds. They have made arrangement for domestic saving and has emphasised it. With regard to taxes they are saying that it should be 9000. A hue and cry was raised to make this provision before presentation of budget because my friends had said that this time drastic budget will be presented which will affect voters adversely but instead that budget proved to be rational one. Therefore, today the need of the hour is cooperation of the tax payer as we have to face the challenge of the foreign forces. They want to embarrass our country. Till now tax payers are considered as tax evaders. The Income Tax Officer and Inspector take bribes from tax payers and after that they say that tax payers are tax evaders. For the first time a scheme has been launched to unearth black money which is rational and will become successful also. 'Samman' and 'Samadhan' both these schemes are meant for this purpose but in this budget it has been mentioned that these schemes will be surrendered. I am also an Advocate and it seems to me that for the first time people can file their return through 'Sara' scheme which would be easier for him. There will be no need for lawyers. I will conclude my speech after saying few points. The bureaucracy has tried to defame the government in the matter of increase in the prices of petrol. Just now Chidambaram Sahab was complaining that bureaucrats are misleading the Finance Minister. I do not know whether they are misleading or not, but they have shown their miracle. But everything become clear when he has given clarification. The prices of petrol have been raised so that we can have good roads throughout the country and not to increase government fund. He has mentioned about securitization. As far as electricity is concerned, there is need for securitization. The country cannot progress unless electrification is done in every village of the country. This is one basic infrastructure. By saying this that this is one good budget, I conclude my speech.

Since Hon'ble Finance Minister is present here, I would like to give him one suggestion. The prices of urea which they have increased, should be reduced. I would like to tell him. ...*(Interruptions)* prices should be rolled back ...*(Interruptions)*

My second suggestion is that the limit of SSIs which is at present Rs. 1 crore, should be reconsidered and this limit should be raised to 3 crore. With this, while congratulating Finance Minister once again, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of the disturbing features of this Budget is that it is highly inflationary in character. Though the fiscal deficit is calculated to be at 5.6 per cent, yet many economists find to be totally illusory and stated that it would go beyond 10 per cent. In the background of falling agricultural and industrial production, this will definitely lead to a situation of long term stagflation and result in a big increase in the prices of articles used by common man.

I drew the attention of Shri Chidambaram, on top of all this, a hike of eight per cent in the excise duty on articles like package tea, branded *ghee*, sewing machine, branded spike, skimmed milk, spectacle lens/frames, branded edible preparations etc. Will surely hit the common man. Shri Chidambaram mentioned about women members not protesting and thus I drew his attention.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Shri Chidambaram has now become a Communist.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What has communism to do with this?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Above all this, there is no mention about what the Government intends to do in regard to the Public Distribution System which is not only one of the mechanisms to contain inflation to some extent but also is an outlet for giving some relief to the common man.

Sir, I had collected many figures. But due to constraint of time I would try not to give all the figures and be brief. But I would also beg your kind indulgence to allow me to give some of the figures. Apart from that I would also speak on the general aspects of the Budget as well. I beg to be excused for that.

Sir, the proportion of Direct Tax to Indirect tax or the percentage of Direct Tax in total revenue is coming down every year. It is the same this time also. This is harmful for development. In regard to the widening of the tax net, I would like to submit that there are some sections of the society who are being consistently left out. As for example, the sector of big farm house. This time also they have been left out. While I am against excise duty on agricultural machines, I am for taxing the big farm houses. But, it has not taken place. For an underdeveloped country like ours, the expenditure ratio between developmental and non-developmental sector is

important for development. This Budget has failed to raise the proportion of expenditure in developed sector. It is seen in the Budget, the proportion of revenue expenditure is increasing at the rate of 15 per cent while that of capital expenditure is increasing only at the rate of 9 per cent. This ratio will adversely affect the country's industrial development and all other developments. So, these things should be changed.

Now, who is happy with the Budget? The simple illustration of the Budget is seen from the opinion poll conducted by the *Economic Times* which revealed that 76 per cent of the MNCs and 63 per cent of the Indian companies express their happiness over the Budget. As far as common man is concerned, he generally does not approve the fall out of this Budget.

Now, I must deal with the point with which Shri Chidambaram may not agree with me, perhaps Shri Deora also may not agree to it. It is about the disinvestment sector. We are firmly against it. In the disinvestment scenario, the shares of highly profit-making companies, like GAIL, IOC, VSNL, CONCOR, etc. Have been proposed which will definitely make the public sector more weak. Yielding to the pressure of big business houses, it is proposed that the Government's equity shares shall be brought down only to 26 per cent in non-strategic sector. The worst is, in the public sector banks, it has been proposed to change the bad debt amount as equity share and this will be shown as recovered. It means that those who have taken loans from the banks and have not returned will now become the shareholders of the bank without giving anything from their pocket. This is not only unethical but is a poly to privatise the nationalised banks through backdoor.

Regarding the possible difficulties of resource mobilisation, the Finance Minister's casual attitude towards sanctions following nuclear explosion is not shared by his own colleagues, leave aside others. We have our own apprehensions. Added to this is the external borrowing from the international commercial market whose rate of interest is very high. As a result, the PSUs will face tremendous difficulties if not extinction. Though, the Finance Minister propounded the idea of *swadeshi*, the small scale sector has been allocated only Rs. 772 crore, same as last year's Budget, but in real term it will be less because of the inflation. So, this is the real meaning of *swadeshi* of the ruling party. Not only that, how MNCs have been favoured in comparison to the small scale industries can be found by the fact that while excise duty on pesticides producer MNCs will be 8 per cent, the SSIs who are producing pesticides will have to pay

[SMT. GEETA MUKHERJEE]

18 per cent. Where is *swadeshi* here and where is all the love for the SSIs? This can definitely be done away with.

The class bias of this Budget in favour of big business is very much pronounced in line with BJP's policy. In the name of liberalisation, the entry of foreign capital and their investment without any check has been ensured. The wholesale concessions that have been given to NRIs will also particularly benefit their counterparts, the co-shares of MNCs. This is **actually** the policy that is being followed.

The highest increase made this year is in Defence Budget, particularly in the field of defence research, along with the overall increase of 14 per cent. There is around 60 per cent increase in atomic energy research. Obviously, this is intended for further nuclear weaponisation. A poor country like ours can ill afford such a situation. We should give a serious thought to this. I agree with Shri Chidambaram when he says that except atomic energy no other field of scientific research has been catered to in this manner.

Many things have been said about peasants. Some good things have been said. But I do not understand as to how is it that irrigation which is so important for the peasantry has not been given its due share. It is seen that the total expenditure in 1997-98 for irrigation of all kinds - small, medium and minor - was Rs. 1762.21 crore. But this year's Budget provides Rs. 396 crore for Plan expenditure and Rs. 166.37 crore for non-Plan expenditure totaling up to only Rs. 562.37 crore. Compared to last year, it has come down very much. This is going to hit the rural economy as a whole.

Regarding assistance to the States and the Union Territories, the Budget proposals envisage a total expenditure of Rs. 29,538.01 crore under Plan expenditure and Rs. 21,045.75 crore under non-Plan expenditure which makes a tall claim of Rs. 50,583.76 crore. But when we turn to receipts budget, the real picture emerges and that is not at all a rosy one as claimed by the hon. Finance Minister. According to the receipts budget the total recoveries of loans and interest from the States come to Rs. 29,189.69 crore which make a net transfer to the States and the Union Territories of Rs. 31,394.20 crore only. Due to higher rate of inflation this amount will come down further. On this score I demand an increase in States' share of devolution from the combined pool of relevant Central taxes - Income Tax and Corporate Tax etc., - to at least 33 1/3 per cent in the first phase and then further. I believe most of the State Governments,

including the States ruled by the party in Government at the Centre now, will support me on this score.

The Budget speech of the Finance Minister has declared new scheme 'Samadhan' which, for all practical purposes, is a new VDIS.

But this time the concessions are more and this is available even on those cases also where litigations are on. This facility includes waiving of penalty, interest etc. Moreover, there is no mention about how this money is going to be realised, and how it is going to be utilised. Therefore, I propose for introduction of a scheme so that whatever money is realised from these schemes is compulsorily invested in PSUs to strengthen them.

I would have been really positive if the Central Government had taken into confidence the State Governments to unearth blackmoney through coordination with the State Governments and sharing the proceeds with the State Governments appropriately. By not doing so, the class bias in favour of the rich class is very much pronounced. Not only that, the tendency to centralise power and resources is also once again reflected through these figures. I think, that should be given up.

In his Budget, the hon. Finance Minister talked about his concern about working class and proposed a new VRS package for which a Restructuring Fund would be started. This fund will advance the losing PSUs to meet out the cost of implementing the VRS and after paying the dues of the workers' and others, the assets will be sold, and the proceeds will go to the budgetary expenditure. But through this scheme, not only a huge amount of money will go out of State coffers but a large number of workers will become unemployed belying hon. Prime Minister's claim to provide jobs to a million a year. Through this, the share of public sector in the economic activity of our country will come down substantially. Therefore, this scheme is totally anti-working class and will serve the purpose of the big industries only. Only a paltry sum of Rs. 1400 crore have been allocated for the sick PSUs which is actually meant for payment of wages only and not for revival. This needs to be definitely changed.

In the Human Resource Ministry, though the hon. Finance Minister claimed to have proposed a larger amount this time, but in reality almost 90 per cent of this will be eaten up by the recent pay hike. Of course, he has said that women will be provided with concessions.

I am thankful to that. But that also will not be very much because 95 per cent will go.

Another disturbing element in this educational sphere is the declaration of creation of National Reconstruction Corps to mobilise youth for community-based-nation-building activities. But as the details of the scheme have not yet been announced, there is a big apprehension in the minds of many that it will result in greater penetration of RSS at the cost of the Government.

With a substantial increase in Defence expenditure, a large outgo in respect of interest charges, etc. The total expenditure will be rising to Rs. 2,67,927 crore from Rs. 2,35,245 crore. This huge outgo will necessarily result in the increase in revenue deficit to Rs. 48,068 crore from Rs. 43,686 crore in 1997-98 (Revised).

The net receipts are expected to rise to Rs. 1,16,857 crore. Non-tax receipts are placed higher at Rs. 45,137 crore.

It is not true that there is no alternative. The basic premises of that alternative are land reforms, irrigation, credit and material support for small and middle peasantry. In this respect, I would like to remind the House that in West Bengal we have been able to do all this not to the extent that we wanted to, even then whatever we have done has resulted in regular increase in agricultural productivity at five per cent per annum in the last decade, whereas in Punjab and Haryana this has not been so. Therefore, these alternatives are fundamental.

But as there is no indication of reversal of deceleration in industrial growth so far, there is hardly any reason to believe that this will be accomplished. Instead this will result in larger inflation and the poor will be hard hit. Therefore, I oppose this Budget.

Thank you.

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South): Is the hon. Finance Minister announcing these remedial measures, which Shri Khurana has promised, tomorrow?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Shri Khurana has only promised dinner for all of us.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a

suggestion that it would be better if lady members are given a chance to speak earlier because House will sit till late night today, male members can sit late but lady members face problems in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): The lady members elected for first time should be allowed earlier to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already started by allowing Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee to speak on it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shrimati Bhavana Dave, Shrimati Abha Mahato or the other hon. Lady members are sitting on that side. I request you that lady members from both the sides should be allowed one by one.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a wrong impression should not be created that lady members may be given chance to speak earlier because they attend to house hold duties. All of them are hon. Members of Lok Sabha. You are creating a wrong impression. This is not a marriage party where women are given priority in serving food and sent home earlier. They can sit here for longer period and take part in the debate.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the policy of BJP to allow lady members to speak earlier whether their names may be below in the list. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you and the fellow members of opposition for giving me a chance to speak here earlier. Sir, through you I felicitate. Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Yashwant Sinha. Three schemes, namely Saral, Samadhan and samman have been introduced in this budget. Britishers left this country 50 years ago but their influence is still there. The hon. Minister of Finance has presented this budget for the welfare of common man while removing the influence of mentality of slavery. This budget can be truly termed as a Golden jubilee budget. The budgets from 1991 to 1997 were prepared keeping in mind the interests of multinational companies, foreign financial institutions and foreign brokers. The people influenced by the education system of Macaulay consider Adam Smith as the father of economics. But through this budget hon. Minister of Finance has shown that this is the country of Chanakya who was not only a politician but an economist also. India is a country of villages and agriculture is our main



[SMT. BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE]

occupation. I thank the hon. Minister of Finance for paying attention towards welfare of all the sections of the society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this budget small scale industries have been promoted with a view to encourage self employment. The Government have raised the limit of Excise Duty from Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs. Today some industrialists came to me and told that no change was effected for the last many years but now for the purpose of providing employment to people in villages the hon. Minister has raised the limit of Excise duty from 30 lakh to 50 lakhs.

I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Finance towards another point. We have industries like ceramic industry. The goods produced by those industries can be exported. This would boost our export and we shall earn more foreign exchange. I would like to make a submission that gas should be supplied to such industries for using as fuel so that pace of their development could be increased. The hon. Minister of Finance deserves appreciation for another point. In this budget he has made an announcement that laws and rules of the system of administration would be revised and necessary amendments would be made for removal of Inspector Raj and red tapism. This announcement would help in encouraging small-scale industry and controlling unemployment and red tapism.

We all know that youths are the capital of the country. They have their self respect. They should get work. But now with every Five Year Plan, the employment opportunities have not increased but the number of unemployed persons is increasing. Several unemployed persons had committed suicide due to unemployment and many of them are engaged in anti-social activities. I appreciate the hon. Minister of Finance for making a provision to provide opportunities of self employment to rural as well as urban youths whether they are craftsman, artisan, weavers, vegetable vendors or persons engaged in other business activities. For this purpose the jurisdiction of the scheme of NABARD has been increased which was earlier confined to provide funds to entrepreneurs and self help groups only. Their field of work would be extended further in the next five years with a view to provide assistance to 2 lakh people as self help groups which will benefit 40 lakh families. In this year's budget assistance would be given to 10 thousand groups which will benefit 2 lakh families which is highly commendable.

Housing is as important for a person as parents are for a child. There are several people in this country who do not have a house of their own. I keeping this thing

in mind a target has been fixed to construct 20 lakh additional housing units in this budget. Out of which 13 lakhs will be constructed in rural areas and 7 lakh in urban areas.

Mr. Chairman, upto now, no proper attention has been paid towards problem of housing in rural areas. In this budget a scheme of constructing 1 1/2 lakh houses has been formulated. It should be appreciated. HUDCO has been provided Rs. 110 crore so that people belonging to middle income group could be benefitted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the provisions made for welfare of agriculture and farmers reveal the commitment of the Government towards them. A few days ago the House discussed the issue of suicide committed by farmers. I would like to ask as to why farmers were compelled to commit suicide. The Minister of Finance has shown his concern about such incidents and taken appropriate measures to stop recurrence of such incidents. Now farmers will not be failed for not repaying the loan and they would not be compelled to commit suicide. Instructions have been issued to banks in this regard. Banks have been encouraged to provide relief to farmers. Kisan credit cards have been introduced in this budget. It is a good step. Now farmers will not be helpless at the time of purchasing fertilizers, seeds and pesticides which can be purchased by obtaining loan from banks through Kisan Credit Cards. The share capital of NABARD has been increased by Rs. 500 crore to fulfil the requirements of agriculture sector.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, water is the source of life of this planet. Adequate water could not be provided to villages of this country for irrigation. I know that so far only 36 percent of agricultural land could get irrigation facility. In this budget efforts have been made for improving the position of agriculture sector and priority has been accorded to storage of water and increasing irrigated area. The provision for irrigation has been raised by 58 percent in the estimates for 1997-98 for immediate irrigation benefits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam please conclude now.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, educated citizens are the wealth of the nation. In this budget, allocation for education has been increased by 50% percent. Not only that, the hon. Minister has taken a decision to spend Rs. 100 crore for the education of girls and women and on behalf of women of this country. I thank the hon. Minister for it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the security of the country is also an important matter. In comparison to 1997-98 the budget allocation for the year has been raised to Rs. 41200 crore from Rs. 36099 crore. It is really a good step. The security of nation is necessary. We are not troubling any other country but some countries keep on troubling others. There is a saying - Do not bite but make a hissing sound that no one would dare to attack you. It is essential for safety. I have heard the speech of the members from opposition. In such matters opposition should cooperate with the ruling party but it was not so. On the one hand they are speaking in favour of foreign investment and on the other hand expressed their concern for handloom weavers. I would like to say that both these things cannot go side by side. It should be considered seriously. It is not fair to oppose budget for the sake of opposing only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a good budget has been presented here after so many years. The people of this country would be benefitted by it. The name of hon. Minister signifies glory and this budget is going to create a positive impact and thus hon. Minister of Finance Shri Yashwant Sinha would earn name and fame by it. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Hon. Chairman, Hon. Minister of Finance, I thank the honourable Chairman for having given me this opportunity and for giving me this opportunity earlier, being a lady. I also thank the hon. Member, Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta, who has already been called, for having offered the opportunity to me.

I rise to oppose the Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha on 1-6-1998 for the year 1998-99. In his Budget Speech he has said that a new India is going to be built. Of course, we welcome that. But we are having an apprehension what kind of new India it is going to be with this kind of a Budget! We are fraught with an apprehension that the national security, economic sanctions and above all, the agony and suffering for the ordinary man, a Budget extinguishes the aspirations and expectations of the man in the field, the worker in the factory and the millions of toiling Indians.

The Finance Minister has stated in the Budget Speech that this Budget is rooted in *Swadeshi* and he has also recalled the memory of the Father of the Nation and he has reminded that the faces of the poorest and the weakest came before him when he was preparing the Budget.

The talisman of Gandhiji is being recollected and he has also quoted the hon. Prime Minister's words, "The flag we hold shall never bow, marching steps shall never halt."

Here I have a prayer to make: "While you march, your steps without halting, my prayer is that your steps will not be trampling upon the ordinary man, the toiling masses of this country, with this sort of a Budget."

Sir, let us look at the key objectives and, of course, while looking at the key objectives there is nothing wrong; they are all very good objectives and one of the most important objectives is to reverse the decline in agriculture and strengthen the rural economy. But what I have to say about this is that while the aspiration is to build a new India and reverse the decline in agricultural area and strengthen rural economy, I would like to remind the Treasury Benches about the Exim Policy announced by the Minister of Commerce on the 13th April. With this Exim Policy 340 items were included in the Open General Licence. Most of these items are things which are required by everyone in our day to day life.

As far as my State is concerned, this Exim Policy has actually broken the backbone of our economy, especially the economy which is very heavily dependent on rubber and coconut.

This Government has pronounced its love for the farmers, but I do not find any love for the farmers in the policy already announced by this Government. The coconut and rubber farmers of Kerala and also the rest of India are suffering very much. Yesterday, the support price was announced for coconut at Rs. 2,900/- for mill coconut and Rs. 3,000/- for ball coconut. This, in fact, is much below the cost of production. If the support price of ball coconut is Rs. 2,900/- per quintal, it is Rs. 4.20 per nut and if the support price of ball coconut is Rs. 3,000/- per quintal, it is Rs. 4.21 per nut. So, the cost of production of one nut actually is Rs. 5.53. In fact, this is revealing the love of this Government for the farmers. On top of everything, there is a five per cent excise duty on agro-based rubberised industry. It was in 1960 as part of diversification programme that small scale industries had been opened in 1960. At present 92 units are functioning in different parts of India. Along with these 92 units, there are other small units which are processing latex and also coconut brown fibre. Seventy per cent brown fibre and 30 per cent latex are used for the agro-based rubberised industries. These units are income and employment generating units and thousands of families are dependent on these units. Now, these units are

[PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM]

constrained to close down because they will not be able to manage the cost of production. So, I would humbly request the hon. Minister of Finance to abolish the five per cent of excise duty.

This Budget has pronounced everything for the small scale industries. This is the phrase used by the hon. Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech. This is the total commitment or interest in the small scale industries and that would help the small, medium and big farmers and that would also generate employment. But this is just one example which I am quoting. There are several examples where the small scale industries are the hard hit. So, I do not think that there is any love for small, medium and large farmers. I would very humbly request the hon. Minister of Finance to consider the withdrawal of five per cent excise duty on agro-based industries, that is, rubberised fibre. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I have just started. My senior colleague has limited his speech to give me more time. So, please allow me a few more minutes.

I may now refer to Kisan Credit Card. The banking institutions are not in favour of the small and marginal farmers. Here, I am reminded of the saying of Louis, the XIVth. He said and I quote:

"To borrow high, one has to appear to be rich."

Our small and marginal farmers appear to be very poor. They cannot appear to be rich. So, naturally, they are completely disregarded by the banking institutions. I would humbly request the hon. Minister of Finance to give proper directions and guidance so that the small and medium farmers should be given their due consideration while credit is given to them.

The other objective is about the social sector.

Our course, 50 per cent of increase is made for education. That is very good. There is a commitment by this Government that it will be raised to six per cent of GDP in a phased manner. This is very good, but I wonder whether this goal will be reached with such inflationary tendency in the country. Already, the value of dollar has been Rs. 42.45. This Budget was announced only last week and within one week, the inflation rate has gone up. With this inflationary tendency, I do not think that 50 per cent increase in the Budget is actually going to have 50 per cent effect. Some hon. Members

have already pointed out that a major chunk of this would go to increase in salary of staff due to scale revision by UGC. The result of this will be total neglect of the primary education and also other literacy programmes. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into this matter and do something constructive about this area.

In a recent Press Conference the hon. Minister for Human Resource Development has expressed his apprehension in the light of the nuclear explosion that the economic sanctions are in the way and these economic sanctions will definitely affect every area. So, my opinion is that the effect of this 50 per cent increase will be much below 50 per cent.

Not much has been said about Public distribution System and just Rs. 400 crore have been meant subsidy for sugar and very limited share is given for other foodgrains. In fact, this is why I call this Budget an anti-people Budget because subsidy actually goes to the common man, the poor man, the needy in the country. If the Public Distribution System is strengthened, it means that the foodgrains would be going to them.

I would like to mention about health, water schemes etc., but because of constraint of time, I am not touching them. But I must say something about disinvestment. There are certain sick and ailing public sector undertakings. I do admit that. But I cannot understand why insurance sector is going to be opened to private enterprise. This insurance business was started under public sector. It was started with a moderate beginning, but it has grown like a vast shady tree. It is not only giving employment, but also earns crores and crores of rupees worth profit. It is serving the social sector. Many important social security measures are undertaken by insurance sector. We cannot understand why this sector is being opened up to private sector in India. It is said that it is being opened to private Indian Companies, but these private companies in India would be actually opening the back-door to the foreign companies. We have seen this.

Today, there was a lot of hubbub about Maruti-Suzuki. *Swadeshi* is pronounced to be the policy of this Government. Where is the *swadeshi* feeling or the *swadeshi* as they pronounce it to be? I think, they have something else in their mind when they say *swadeshi*. Do they want to say that it is just the contrary of the word *swadeshi*? When they use the word *swadeshi*, do they mean that they have love for *videshi* and not *swadeshi*? I think that we have to take it like that. The Budget proposal is that IOC, GAIL, VSNL and CONCOR

are going to be disinvested and the Government's share is being brought down to 26 per cent. This will be the fate of the insurance sector also, and in the course of time, it will be opened to the foreign investment. Then, there is a threat that disinvestment is going to adversely affect FACT also.

I would like to give more details but because of the time constraint, I am not able to do it. Now, I must say something about tax proposals.

20.00 hrs.

Sir, as Shri Chidambaram has very rightly pointed out, it is a very rigorous tax policy. Instead of broadening the tax base through direct taxes and taxing the really rich who can afford to pay income tax, the hon. Finance Minister has resorted to a very regressive indirect tax.

As far as the excise duty is concerned, I have already mentioned about the agro-based industry. There are many other items which are effective branded items and which are used by the ordinary man like, for example, tea, sewing machine etc. The indirect tax on the sewing machine is a taxation on women, especially on those who depend on self-employment. This will adversely affect them.

Sir, in the Budget speech the hon. Finance Minister has increased the price of petrol only by Re. 1/- per litre. It was in the speech, but only after getting out of this House we came to know about a steep increase in the price of petrol. The hon. Finance Minister may humbly say that he has taken the House for a ride on that day. On that day, the House was taken for a ride by the Hon. Finance Minister, because there was an increase of excise duty from 20 per cent to 35 per cent on motor spirit.

Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech with a long protest and I oppose this Budget.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget of 1998-99.

I congratulate hon'ble Minister of Finance for presenting a good budget. In this budget Hon'ble Minister

of Finance has made arrangements to make necessary finance available to all areas he deserves thanks for this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am elected for the first time from the Parliamentary Constituency of Jamshedpur in the state of Bihar. I had studied problems of my parliamentary constituency. On that basis I think some budgetary allocation is necessary for the development of my parliamentary constituency. Two main industries of public sector are located in my parliamentary constituency.

1. "Banalopa mine" of Hindustan Copper Limited in the Gathshila Musabani area of my parliamentary constituency has been closed down resulting in unemployment of thousand of labourers. I request the hon. Minister to provide separate budgetary allocation to these unemployed labourers. Besides "Banqola mine" should also be reopened by providing financial aid to it.
2. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hindustan Copper Limited is running in loss. 40% of copper to the country is provided by this industry. Some amount of Gold and silver is also found there. I would like to request through you to save this industry by providing ultramodern equipment to it. It should be saved by studying other reasons for its loss so that Hindustan Copper Limited employees and their families could be saved from unemployment and this industry of national importance could flourish.

My Parliamentary Constituency comes under Vanachal area. In the golden jubilee year of the country, entire vanachal is facing the drinking water problem. The sole reason for this is that tubewells installed every year for drinking water do not work because the area is hilly. I would like to request that arrangements for making drinking water available from wells be made instead of tubewell in the entire region of Vanachal and provision should be made to increase allocation for water supply from Rs. 1627 crores to Rs. 2000 crores.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Vanachal region does not fulfil the norms (of population) set for entire India, in respect of opening a post office. As a result of which, the people of predominantly Advvasi region, are not getting postal facilities in right proportion. I would like to make a request in this context that the provision should be made to open more branches of post offices to provide communication

[SMT. ABHA MAHTO]

facilities to backward areas which are predominantly inhabited by Adivasis. There is a provision in the budget to open 500 branches of post offices. The number should be raised to 750.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, though many efforts have been made in the field of education, yet no separate provision has been made to provide education facility to girl child. However, this year the hon'ble Minister of Finance has made a provision of Rs. 100 crore to provide free education to girls. I would like to request him through you to open a special technical education institute for girls in our area. Alongwith it a central college should also be opened there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, coal is available in abundant quantity in Vanachal region. To deal with the problem of electricity, arrangement should be made to allot a big power project in the public sector to produce electricity. Electrification of villages in Vanachal region should be done on priority basis.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are some areas in Vanachal where even today, people are not having houses to reside. The targetary allocation fixed for the 'Indira Awas Yojana' in this year's budget appears to be very low. It should be raised to Rs. 1600 crore and a separate provision should be made for Vanachal.

Mr. Parliamentary constituency, Jamshedpur is an industrial city but air travel facilities to the people living there are still not available. I would like to request that special provision should be made in the budget for making arrangements to provide direct air travel facility from Jamshedpur to Delhi and Mumbai. Alongwith it the provision to set up a stock exchange in the industrial city of Jamshedpur should also be made so that facility could be made available for investors to invest their money through stock exchange.

In the end, I would like to say that a survey should be carried out in Vanachal to identify Adivasis living below poverty line and backward people so that special ration cards could be issued to them in order to make edible items of daily use available to them at low prices with a view to improving their standard of living.

With this, once gain, I express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister of Finance and wish his good Budget to be successful.

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I thank you for providing me an opportunity to

speack. I would like to state for the first time I have been elected to lok Sabha and for the first time I have got an opportunity to speak in the House. But common people do have their opinion on the problems related to the nation and happenings in the country. I specifically want to state a few points about the feelings of the common people specially women of the country on the budget. Hon'ble Minister for Finance has called this budget as swadeshi, but in reality, swadeshi people are very much worried and terrified after the presentation of this swadeshi budget. Common people are worried about possible price rise. Women are especially troubled by this budget. If any title could be given to this budget, that is 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' I would like to show you the true and real picture of this title. First take 'Jai Kisan' under which hon'ble Minister for Finance has made very attractive promises to the farmers, he has aroused high hopes in vain and has expressed his affection for the farmers through the budget.

But only time will tell this real determination to fulfill these promises. According to analysis by American economists this budget basically reflects the intention of hon'ble Minister to gain political mileage rather than thinking for welfare of farmers and national security. Although it is said in the budget that rural economy is the axis of country's economy but funds allocated for the rural development are much lower than target of 60% of total budget, announced earlier. Although it was pro-farmer budget, but first below of it affected farmers only. All of you are aware, earlier the heavy and unprecedented increase in the price of urea was announced, but later after heavy protest in the House, the hon'ble Minister rolled back the increase. But at that time first blow of it was felt by farmers, as a result of which thousands of farmers assembled in capital, Delhi in protest. We welcome the decision to encourage cottage industries under rural economy but it should be seen whether genuine people will be benefitted. Besides that the terms to recover loans from farmers should not be very hard. A good system to recover loans from the farmers should be introduced so that they should be able to repay it easily. The system of recovery of loans from farmers should not be the cause of tension to the farmers which may compel them to commit suicides. Attention must be paid in the direction.

This budget says that small industries should be encouraged but everybody is well aware of the problems being faced by the entrepreneurs of the small industries. They have to pay bribe at every level. There must be a way out to end corruption.

The increase in the dwelling units has been announced in the budget. We welcome this move, but its effectiveness is yet to be seen. And if in reality needy people get accommodation without any political influence in distribution only then this arrangement would be called meaningful.

A provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made in the budget to impart free education to girls. In this budget generosity has been shown in the direction of providing education to girls, but I would like to know one thing. In Rajasthan, it may be in other states also, the primary, middle and secondary schools are in the same position for the last 10 to 12 years. They have not been upgraded. You very well aware that in today's circumstances parents are mentally not prepared to send their daughters to other villages for studying due rise in crime against women. In these circumstances, such arrangements should be made, so that girls should be able to complete their education in their own village or in the neighbouring villages. The schools should be upgraded from time to time. The upgradation of schools is very necessary to fulfil the aspirations of girls. In my opinion, the use of government budget in this regard would be more significant and would be in the interest of women.

After seeing the price rise proposed in this budget, it appears that the hon'ble Minister for Finance hasn't given thought to the problems of the women of this country. Today, the housewives are troubled with the 8% increase in the price of every essential item. The excise duty has been imposed on every item, whether, its tea, milk, ghee, butter, cheese. The prices of imported components spare parts or any other item of daily use have been increased. Now, the housewives will face problem in providing milk to their children and other essential items to their family members. Now the poor housewives have to think twice before extending hospitality to their guests. The imposition of 8% excise duty on edible items like sweets and namkeen which are used in every family on every occasion will add to the burden on common man. It will affect the pockets of swadesh housewives by 16%. The poor people and housewives of this country would be grateful to the hon. Minister of Finance, if he generously reconsider this possibility, I would like you to consider the edible items of daily use.

People are disheartened by the manner in which postal rates have been increased. In some cases these have been increased by one and a half times. Today rail fares as well as bus fares have been increased and only

option available to common people of this country is to communicate with each other by letters. The increase in postage items will dishearten the poor people. Now, they have to think twice before writing a postcard or an inland letter or buying an envelope.

In the end, I would like to discuss the second slogan of this budget i.e. 'Jai Jawan' 14% increase has been made in defence budget in the name of national security. Two months ago, there was no threat to national security. But suddenly the circumstances changed, how is it possible? We carried out nuclear test in the name of national security. Then we challenged our neighbouring countries. The hon'ble Members of the ruling party Minister, Minister for Home Affairs and hon'ble Prime Minister challenged Pakistan. The challenge was thrown to Pakistan so as to invite trouble. A tense environment was created in the country. It appeared that war could start at any time. People were scared at the possibility of war. After that an increase of 14% has been made in the defence budget in the name of national security. I would like to say it has added to the woes of the poor people of the country.

In this country today we have to fight at many fronts- we have to fight against unemployment, we have to fight against corruption. In some places, there is acute shortage of drinking water. At some places, people are drinking water contaminated with flouride. People have got no other option, but to drink poisonous water. The increase of 14% in the defence budget of the country, which is not having enough drinking water, food and employment for its people, is not fair. We have to fight at many fronts with our own problems, communalism and tensions which are prevailing everywhere. I want to clarify the national security is also important for us. We don't want to make any compromise on this issue. Earlier also, women of this country have donated their jewellery and are prepared to do so, if required in future also, but it is not appropriate to create atmosphere of war on the name of national security. It reeks of political view point. It would be more appropriate if alongwith provisions in the budget, the expenditure on some other items should also be reduced for saving money. It would be better if we try to find ways to form friendly relations with our neighbouring countries. We should not try to find ways to form friendly relations with our neighbouring countries. We should not try to find possibilities of war with them. It is an age of global village, it is the time of world peace, therefore we should try to form friendly relations.

The hon'ble Minister for Finance in the end, I want to express the views of entire population of the country

[DR. PRABHA THAKUR]

in this couplet:

*Vafa karo na karo, vafa ki baat to karo,  
Hamare dard ko dekho, dawa ke baat karo.*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that the dinner has been arranged in Room No. 70 for the members and the press at 8.30 p.m. The same has been arranged for staff also in Room No. 73.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE(Calcutta South): Mr. Chairman, sir, I rise to support this Budget. I welcome the decision taken by the Finance Minister and especially the Government for intrucing the free education to the girl child up to the college level. Moreover, maximum funds are allocated to rural development, power sector and other sectors. Though I was not prepared to speak today because I was busy with other business, yet I have to speak as I heard that today we have to speak and tomorrow the Minister's reply only will be there. That is why I will concentrate on particular subjects which are very necessary to be touched upon.

I support this Budget fully. Thanks to our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, within three or four months after assuming charge, the Government has taken some concrete actions in certain areas. I do not want to disclose all these things because time is very short and our colleagues also want to speak. But I have to make some observations about this Budget.

Firstly, you will appreciate that unemployment is a great problem now-a-days. It is increasing just like a cancer. That is why our National Agenda for Governance has laid stress on "Berozgari Hatao". Of course, in this Budget, this Government has kept the option of providing jobs to two-lakh youth. For the last three or four years, because of the ban on recruitment, though there is a scope for providing five lakh jobs in the Government sector itself, the unemployed youth are not getting any opportunities even for applying for jobs. I would like to request the Government to do something in this direction. While the Government is taking so many concrete steps, I would request the Government to lift the ban on recruitment so that the unemployed youth can get employment. At present, in the Army also, there is a ban on recruitment, so also, in the communication sector and in other sectors. I have collected the information. If you can increase the employment potential in the Army, the North-Eastern people, the people of hill areas and others will benefit. If we have to strengthen our Army, we have to induct young people into the army. They also want to dedicate their lives to the country. This is my first suggestion.

Secondly, I come to the Insurance sector. This is a very important area. I know that privatisation of this sector is the joint venture of the ex-Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram of the United Front Government and the present Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha. It is their aim to privatise the public sector and the insurance sector. May I submit to you one thing? You will appreciate that in the GIC, LIC and the other insurance companies, common people keep their money. Even some companies, housewives, the rickshaw-pullers etc. depend on the insurance companies because they think that these companies are protective places for them to invest.

You talked about *Samadhan, Saral, Samman*. I welcome those things. But can you not give *Vishesh Samman* to the common people of this country? I am telling you this because I have seen them with my own eyes. There are so many investment companies. They just come, take the money from the people, throw them out and thus cheat the people of their funds. There is no guarantee. There is no security of the Government. There must be control on the insurance companies. I am supporting this Budget but I am talking whatever I have heard from the people. If you allow privatisation, then people will be scared to keep their money in these companies. That is why, instead of taking a decision immediately, can you not set up an expert Committee? Can you not take up this matter with the experts also? You can involve common people also. You can have one person from among the farmers, one from among the workers, and one from the other side also who can deliver the goods and then decide about this thing. I think, it will be better if you can give a thought on this matter.

Regarding the PSUs, I know there are some public and private sector units in which some people are mis-utilising these units. This is not a fact that these public sectors are facing acute crisis day by day because of the negligence on the part of the Government or the financial institutions. Now you have set up the BIFR. Do you know, how the BIFR is functioning? I know, there was a proposal to have an alternative instead of the BIFR having authority so that some of the industries can survive. I know right from the inception of the BIFR in 1987, that no financial authority is there with the BIFR. Cases are pending and pending and ultimately it recommends closing down of a unit. Closing down will not solve the problem. I know about the paucity of funds with the Government. We have to encourage the spirit of *Swadashi* like anything. Therefore, the need of the hour is to close down some of the units instead of going in for disinvestment by the Government. My appeal to you

is not to take it otherwise because the maximum number of industries are there in the Eastern part like MAMC, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Wagon Industry, Metal Box, Burn & Standard and so on. We are proud of public sectors. But if you allow this disinvestment, ultimately it will go in favour of the multinationals because both private and public sectors will then have to compete with the multinationals. I know the Government is willing to give oxygen to the private and public sector units. I think, instead of taking a decision on this insurance sector, the Government can set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee or a Task Force so that instead of taking a decision on closing down these units or allowing disinvestment, a decision can be taken formally by all parties. We want this. Let all political parties set up a committee and give them a time bound programme within three months or within six months. Let them give an opinion and then you decide. I am telling you this because I know due to paucity of funds you will not be able to control all those things. But please remember, crores and crores of people are involved in these sectors.

But please remember that crores and crores of people are involved in these two sectors. Whatever I am saying, I am supporting this Budget. I say, Mr. Finance Minister, you have got good areas. If you want, I can tell all this in details also. But I do not want to waste the precious time of the House. These two sectors are very important sectors. Take example, jute sector. Can you ignore jute sector? No. Jute is swadeshi. You have to encourage jute. Similarly, NTC mills. You know about the NTC mills. They are there in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar and West Bengal. Crores of people are involved in this industry. But the fact is that they are not getting even their salaries and dues. So, instead of closing down these units, you please set up an all-party Joint Parliamentary Committee to take a decision in this regard. Do not take their fate in your hands, because you are doing so many good works. Only for a particular point, why should this Government take all sorts of responsibility? Let the Parliament decide about it. Let all the political parties decide about it. So, please give *vishesh samman* on this particular area.

Now, I come to the North-Eastern Region. Of course, every time, the Government gives money for that region. But the problem is that this money is not reaching them properly and it is not being even utilised properly.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati): Only promise are being made. Thousands of crores of rupees are announced but nothing is implemented.

SHRI SATYA PLA JAIN (Chandigarh): That is what your Government was doing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: It is necessary that on everything you should comment? You should not comment like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: We have to look after the North-East. They have got some insurgency problem and other problems also. So, the Government should treat the entire North-East as a child. This time, I must congratulate the hon. Finance Minister because Sikkim has also been included there. Earlier, it was Seven-Sister State and now, it has become a State with seven sisters and one brother, the brother being Sikkim. That is good. It is all because of the hon. Finance Minister. We will also make him take his promises.

Now, I come to the headquarters of the financial institutions. Some financial institutions are situated in Mumbai. Some are situated in Calcutta. Some are situated in Bihar. Some are situated in Kerala or Tamil Nadu or Madhya Pradesh. They are there in all parts of the country. My point is, do not try to withdraw those headquarters of the financial institutions. The *status quo* should be maintained. Why am I telling this? Similar is the case about Bengal. Sir, Bengal is the gateway of North-Eastern region. At the same time, Bengal is the gateway of Eastern region also. Bengal does not combine only Bengal, but it combines Orissa and eight other States.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Many hon'ble Members want to speak .

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Now, I am talking about you only.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: please conclude, now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: My request is that please do not shift these headquarters. What have I heard about the State Bank of India? The government is proposing to withdraw all the headquarters of the SBI, Coal India and Eastern Bank from Calcutta. I have already stated this in the Bengal Package.



[KM. MAMATA BANERJEE]

[Translation]

It won't work properly if headquarters is not situated in Calcutta, only branches are there. We want work.

[English]

This is for your information. You may correct me, if I am wrong. So, again I am requesting that the *status quo* should be maintained. No State should feel that it is being deprived.

Now, I come to the rural economy. Of course, the Government provides money but this money is not being properly utilised. Why is the Government not asking for production of Utilisation Certificate? Even in the MP Funds programme, we have seen that they are not being utilised properly. You are sending the money but they are not utilising it. While giving the money, the Government has the responsibility to monitor whether it is being utilised for the purpose or it is being utilised politically. You have to see to it. About my State, the Central Government has given crores of rupees. But where is that money? For Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, IRDP, NREP, RLEGP, etc., where is the money? No money is there. I do not know how this money has been spent. It is being mishandled. About the PL Account Scam, everybody is aware. I want full investigation to be done about it. What does the audit report say? Mr. Finance Minister, when you reply, please let us know the position of the Audit Report of the CAG about the West Bengal financial situation. We want through investigation in this matter. Thousands of crores of rupees are involved here and this is a very big scam. It is my demand that you should take stern action on it.

That is also my demand. We should not see this as a special case.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Now, I will speak about Bihar. You make uproar for villages, but I want investigation into PL Accounts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Many hon'ble Member want to speak.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Regarding PL Account, you must have received the Audit Report. We

want investigation into it. Regarding foreign tours also, time and again Ministers, including the Chief Minister, are going abroad. Who are spending money for their board and lodging? Instead of FERA you have started FEMA. So, FEMA should be famous for this.

[Translation]

But these do not apply, if someone goes abroad to deposit money in Swiss Bank or any NRI or industrialist to withdraw it.

[English]

I know that the Chief Minister of my State has gone abroad more than a hundred times. I have got the reply given in the State Assembly. Our MLA had asked as to what was the expenditure involved in all these tours. They said Rs. 2 lakh and odd. While in foreign countries, they do not eat, they do not stay anywhere; they just move in the sky. That is the situation. That is why I want an investigation into this matter also.

Regarding BIFR you have to do something. It is actually Board for Industrial Reconstruction; but now it has become "Board for Industrial Closing Down". The BIFR is not delivering the goods. It was the Government proposal to set up an alternative body, so that some important sick industries in the public sector or private sector can be revived. Therefore, the Government has to take an immediate decision with regard to BIFR.

Regarding modernisation of IISCO, it is lying pending in the BIFR. IISCO is a potential unit in the eastern region. BIFR does not have anything for themselves; how will they revive others? That is why I think there must be some alternative.

Regarding price rise, you have the Essential Commodities Act. In every State you have the Essential Commodities Act. But have you asked any State Government at any point of time about this? I asked about it so many times in this House. Why is the Central Government not asking the State Government to apply this Act against hoarders and black marketeers. No. They do not apply this Act. That is why prices are going high. You should ask the price of potatoes in the market at least in my State. In the recent Panchayat elections they were saying that because of Mamata Banerjee and the BJP Government the price of potato has gone up.

[Translation]

There is no potato called, Mamta but there are potatoes called Jyoti. In Bengal, there are two types of potatoes, Chandramukhi and Jyoti. I had to go there to state this Jail.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): When an hon. Member is speaking on the Budget, whether he or she is going into the provisions of the Budget or not is a different matter. But some sort of courtesy should be shown to people like the elected Chief Minister of West Bengal or for that matter of any other State. She is ridiculing him in a manner which is in bad taste, that too after she has got the reply from the people of West Bengal. Even after indulging in all sorts of canards that she is repeating here, she has just gone about showing how much bad taste she can have.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the budget only.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Whatever I say, it comes from heart. I do not go to learn. Do I have to learn from him how to differentiate between good and bad taste. I know very well about his taste. That's why we speak to people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am speaking only about the needs of my State as well as other States. What wrong am I speaking?

[Translation]

If I am not speaking the truth stop me. Please ask them. Whether potatoes come from Hoogly or not. Whether two types of potatoes are produced in Bengal or not. If I am not stating the fact, you can stop me. These are two types of potatoes in Bengal, one is Jyoti potato and other is Chandermukhi. I have not given names to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kufri and Sindhri potatoes are also there.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am not mentioning the name of the Chief Minister of West Bengal because he is involved. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now please conclude.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Why have I given this example? These are facts. I have not given the name; the name has been given by the people in the rural areas many years ago. I am saying this because the prices are going up sky high and the State Government is not implementing the Essential Commodities Act. Wherever the prices are going up sky high, the Central Government has to monitor them. Though it is a State subject, the Central Government has to monitor why the prices are going up sky high, which States are implementing the Essential Commodities Act and which are not. The Government has to take care of the interests of the people.

I hope, I will not be interrupted if I speak on urea. It is a matter relating to our farmers. My request to you is this.

[Translation]

The price of urea should not be increased. I want to request the Hon. Minister to help private sector and insurance.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. The hon'ble Minister for Finance is a very humble person. He had desired to give a solution to the problems of common people through his budget, but his government has deprived him of the honour by common people of the country. It takes two-three months to prepare the budget and that budget gives direction to the country, whether our country is following Leftist or Rightist ideology or the mixture of both. The hon'ble Minister for Finance is very intelligent and experienced, but his government has deceived him. While preparing the budget, the rate of inflation, the target for progress of the country, the number of employment opportunities to be made to the young people of the country are kept in the mind, but the policy of Bharatiya Janata Party is a different one. I can make a claim that when discussion on nuclear tests was going on between

[SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE]

the hon'ble Prime Minister and his colleagues, the hon'ble Minister for Finance was kept in dark. Even if they had informed him, it was just 2-3 hours or even half an hour before the test, otherwise the hon'ble Minister for Finance is aware of the international situation, he is aware of International Monetary Fund's situation, he is aware of World Bank's situation. After the nuclear test, the imposition of sanction was inevitable. We can't escape sanctions. We cannot escape from American mandatory law. It was clear that after sanctions we would have to run the country with the whatever we have available in the country. The hon'ble Finance has been deceived and there is no remedy of it. I have mentioned unemployment because of Minister for Power's has given reply in this regard.

[English]

"The Government expect to achieve zero level employment by the year 2007. The power Minister, Shri P.R. Kumaramnglam said in a reply that the Eighth Plan target fell short by 28 million jobs; the target was to generate 58 million job."

[Translation]

The hon'ble Minister for Finance was well aware that according to the budget estimate of 1997-98, 58 million jobs are to be created. When he and his department were preparing revised estimates they were aware that inflation will rise from 5 per cent to 6.1 per cent. He was aware that fiscal deficit will rise from 2.1 to 3.1 and he was also aware that inflation will rise by 10-11 per cent. I want to remind the House and also wants to give some information to it. In 1992 I went to China. In China also, economic reforms began in 1972. At that time I was the General Secretary of the Congress Party. I met the President of China alongwith a delegation. I went there in 1994 also. At that time he asked that our economic reforms began in 1990 and how in such a short time did we control inflation. He told me that on the other side their economic reform started in 1978 under the leadership of Mr. Deng, and we have not been able to control inflation so far. As the former Finance Minister had said, the growth rate will increase according to the investment. They have said, that hon'ble Minister will explain that growth rate can't increase with expenditure. I was happy to note that in infrastructure sector which includes energy, transport and communication, will increase by 35% But I was not aware that in 1997-98 the budget estimate was Rs. 52,612 crore, and in 1998-99 it is Rs. 61,146 crore. I am not aware whether you have calculated 35% by budget estimates or by revised estimates. If you calculated

it by budget estimate, then 35% of growth is not possible, but it will be only 16.2%. We would be pleased, if you reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: it has been done in the revised estimate.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: The figures available are according to the budget estimate. That's why we want to say if you want to make any correction in the budget, please do it.

I will not speak more than this. He has stated that plan outlay has been raised for Surface Transport from Rs. 1500 crores to Rs. 2700 crores. However budgetary support of Rs. 150 crores has been increased by Rs. 50 crores. Besides this, I don't think he has given any other budgetary support.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to come to major issue. The allocation for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is Rs. 4,000 crores as against Rs. 3900 crores last year. The increase is only Rs. 100 crores though it is an employment generation programme. This Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is similar to Employment Guarantee scheme and it is meant for farmers, poor and illiterate people who do not have any employment and those who have studied below tenth class. Only 100 crores have been increased for those people who are working in villages. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention the target alongwith physical performance. In 1992-93, total fund available was Rs. 3594.63 crores and Rs. 2709.59 was utilised that means percentage of utilisation was 75.38%. In 1993-94 available fund was to the tune of Rs. 4923.03 crores out of which Rs. 3878.71 crores were utilised. In 1994-95 total fund available was Rs. 5418.22 crores and Rs. 4268.33 was utilised. In 1996-97, the total fund available was Rs. 2221.42 crores and Rs. 1033.29 crores were utilised and the percentage of utilisation was around 51.87%. Now I would like to mention about physical performance. In 1992 the target was 7537.95 but we have achieved only 7821.02. I am telling about man days. Accordingly, the percentage of achievement is 103.76. Mr. Chairman, Sir in 1995-98 the percentage of performance is 104 and achievement of man days is 38353. We are cursing unemployment through man days. Only Rs. 100 crores have been increased for rural programmes. I don't know what does this mean? If the Hon'ble Minister wants to do something more he should let us know as to how he intends to make more funds available for the scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rs. 10,000 crores have been allocated for rural development. We want that the people who are living in villages should also progress in this democratic nation and under the provisions of the law the amount which has been allocated should reach villages. But this money does not reach the Zila Parishad, Gram Panchayat and Gram Sabha levels. This needs to be monitored.

I have full faith that our Finance Minister will do this. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for introducing credit card scheme for the farmers. He has done a very good work. We both were members of Rajya Sabha earlier. He has done a very commendable job. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you belong to Bihar and Bihar is a state of farmers. The poor and backward class people are living there. Large number of dalit and backward class people are living there. These poor people possess only small portion of land. If this scheme is introduced then farmers of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra will thank Finance Minister. Vaiko Sahab has left. The farmers of Tamil Nadu are also thankful to him. I am not talking of rich people, I am talking of farmers.

I had presented one Bill in 1993 in Rajya Sabha regarding Credit Card. In my state we have two crops viz. The Rabi and the Kharif in a year. But the farmers do not get any loan for growing these crops. Farmers play vital role in our economy but even then Banks does not accept their credibility. The Bank ask for guarantor and loan is provided only if they either mortgage their property or give some kind of guarantee. The Government should evolve a scheme whereby farmers could raise loan upto Rs. One lakhs on their Credit Cards without furnishing any guarantee. My Bill relates to this only. I would like to give copy of my Bill. Anyone can take copy of this Bill, I have no objection. I had presented that Bill in 1993, it hardly matters whether my name is included or not.

We should take up the case of farmers sincerely and that is what the hon'ble Finance Minister has done and therefore his Government particularly he himself deserves to be congratulated. Had he not thought about them sincerely then this would not have been possible. This would not have drawn government's attention because it always talks about atom and nuclear bombs where will the poor farmer figure in such talks. I, therefore, congratulate Finance Minister for paying attention towards them.

Hon'ble Finance Minister, Sir, I would also like to mention that Shri Narsimha Rao had launched mid-day

meal scheme for the poor and illiterate children of our country. This scheme is meant for those children who used to drop out from school due to poverty. The child labourer is being exploited. They cannot go to school. The mid-day-meal scheme was introduced with the purpose of providing them meal in the school so that parents do not withdraw them and keep sending them to school. This year Rs. 1092 crores have been allocated under the head as against allocation of Rs. 1072 crores of last year only an increase of Rs. 20 crore. There should be a further increase in the allocations because it is a very good programme for the upliftment of poor children.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been an increase of Rs. 3 crores only for the Black-broad scheme. Last year Rs. 301 crores was allocated for this scheme whereas this year Rs. 304 crores has been allocated for this purpose. I fail to understand what can be done with this meagre amount of Rs. 3 crores.

Last year the budget was Rs. 1389 crores for the welfare Ministry.

21.00 hrs.

Revised estimate is Rs. 804 crores and short fall is Rs. 600 crores. Who all are covered under welfare budget? I do not want to blame present government for this. This was done by previous government. We keep saying time and again that justice is not being meted out to Dalits. Various schemes such as Scholarship Scheme, Education Scheme, Scheme for the Welfare of SC and ST, Special Component Scheme and Tribal Sub-Plan Scheme, come under welfare scheme. Today I was informed by a member of Pilot Association that there is a backlog of as many as 60 pilots in the Indian Airlines and the Air India. The Government is not recruiting persons from among the SCs and ST against these vacancies. There is a programme to impart training to SCs and STs under the Welfare Scheme. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance should look into the matter. The Schemes involving rupees one-two thousand and four-five thousand are meant for the people belonging to SCs and STs. Though a scheme for setting up poultry farm had been introduced for them, Government is not providing space to these people to start poultry. When I was Minister in Maharashtra, I had given one suggestion that all schemes worth one to two thousand or five-ten thousand which come under component plan should be clubbed together. There was one spinning mill in the cooperative of people of SCs. I wanted that there should be a spinning mill and a sugar mill in every state and

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funds of the component plan should be utilised on them. ...*(Interruptions)* There was one scheme for installation of a spinning mill in Sholapur. It is an export oriented scheme and functioning well but you have not given exemption in excise duty. Duty exemption is given on the export of diamond but no exemption is given on export of yarn. There should be no such discrimination. I would like to say only this about these mills.

Whether it is Sholapur, Mumbai or Calcutta Textile mills are being closed down everywhere. The Workers who were rendered jobless due to the closure of mills have started Handloom and powerloom business through the cooperatives. They have started their business with 2 to 4 powerlooms. They were manufacturing Jacquards bed sheets and Turkish terry towels. Although their business does not come under MODVAT scheme but they have to obtain certificate from Custom Collector for which they have to go to Pune and Mumbai. Their investment limit is Rs. 30,000 crore now. It should be increased upto Rs.75,000. The Government should find some other way out instead of making it mandatory to obtain certificate from the custom's collector. They do not want to opt any wrong way. But they have to do something. He is protecting you. You are using force but they want to work hard with dignity. I had written letter to Finance Minister about this. I would like to give one copy of that letter.

All plastic goods whether it is a bucket or a tumbler, are used by poor people. Till now 50-10% tax is imposed on it, but in this budget 25% tax has been imposed on the polimer which is a raw-material and 5% tax on finished goods. Today tax including excise duty has become higher. Till now you have not increased this tax.

Today, on German Silver and Steel only 10% tax has been imposed where as 30% tax has been imposed on plastic items which is used by poor people. Hon'ble Finance Minister had given some suggestions about mobilisation of resources but I would like to ask him whether he wants to bring discipline or not? I used to thank that we will have Zero-based tax after economic restrictions. There is need to put a check on wasteful expenditure. Even there also discipline is required. One of my friend was saying today that people are living comfortably even though they are getting less salary. When the country is marching ahead we should enforce some discipline in expenditure. We all are with you to protect the dignity of country and in progress of the country. Till you discipline yourself, the people of country will not follow you and will not give you respect.

First day I felt that this is very good budget but when I went through the budget in detail, I found that not much provisions have been made for the poor people in the budget. I hope that the Government would pay special attention towards the farmers, dalits, backward classes and people belonging to SCs and STs.

You have increased the price of urea. Later on you have reduced its price by 0.50 paise. You should still reduce its prices. I hope that you will extend some more facilities to farmers. You have imposed one percent tax on tyres. If the farmers transport the sugarcane on a cart fitted with steel plates and the condition of roads is not too good it becomes difficult for bullocks to pull the cart and it will move in slow speed. I request that imposition of one per cent tax on tyre and tubes should be withdrawn. I hope much more discipline from the Government. Just as Rose water is sprinkled on the guests attending the marriage ceremony in rural areas, this budget can be compared to that rose water. You should take care lest it turns out to be ordinary. You should lead the nation towards new direction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are still 64 Members as per the list who want to speak over Budget. Hon'ble Members are very much interested to give their views over budget, therefore, I have decided that if they lay their written speeches on the Table of House then these speeches will be considered as the part of proceedings.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon): Sir, those Parties which have not been given an opportunity so far should be given sufficient time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my request is that, every Member may be allowed to speak for five minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* You please listen to me, if you want to make any amendment, Please tell me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Each Member should be allowed to speak for five minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Just now one Member had spoken for 25 minutes. Similarly if all the 64 Members would take the same time to speak then proceeding will not come to an end even by tomorrow night. If they are going to mention every point. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): If only five minutes time is allowed, what is the point in our speaking here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is for you to decide as to how much time one Member should take and at what time discussion would be started whether from 10 O'clock or 10.30 or 11 O'clock so that 2-3 members from this side and 2-3 members from other side can speak accordingly. In this way 8-10 Members can be adjusted in the next one hour. After that, as it has been said that all Members should lay their written speech before 12.00 P.M. that suggestion should be accepted.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMED (Madhubani): If you want us to lay our speech on the table of the House then what is the need of our coming there, we should have stayed at our homes itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: You please can sit whole night. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one representative of each party should be given the opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, What about the suggestion given by Khuranaji about laying of written speech on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what have you decided?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every party has given names of their Members who want to speak. The list of party is very long. It has 64 names.

21.14 hrs.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey in the Chair ]

\*SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN (Tindivanam): Mr. Chairman, at the outset let me heartily thank the electorate of my Tindivanam Parliamentary Constituency who have elected me to be their representative and also the General Secretary of our Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) Puratchi Puyal (Revolutionary Storm) Vaiko who had nominated me to be a victorious candidate from Tindivanam constituency.

Let me welcome the Union Budget for the year 1997-98 presented in this august House by this coalition Government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party. I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam for having presented a very good Budget despite several hardships our economy is passing through at this juncture. At a time when several problems are staring at us and our economy in the form of unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, problems faced by the agricultural sector, inability to provide basic needs and inadequate basic amenities, a viable and good Budget has been prepared by our Finance Minister and I would like to record my appreciation and that of my party.

I hail from a rural background. I understand the problems faced by the village communities better. More particularly I know the problems the farmers have to undergo in our rural areas. I welcome the kind gesture made by the Hon. Finance Minister in increasing the budgetary allocation for the agro and rural sector by about 50%. But at the same time the urea price was increased by Re 1/- per kilo. It has been reduced by 50 paise. You have made an announcement in this regard. Agriculture is the backbone of the this country. We must come forward to redress the grievances and solve the problems faced by the poor farmers. We must attend to their needs and encourage them through incentives to augment agricultural production. Hence I would like to urge upon the Finance Minister to consider withdrawing the 50 paise hike too. The intended hike in urea price may be rescinded totally.

The problems faced by the farmers are one too many. Many of our farmers are often worst hit by natural calamities and disasters. You have identified 26 districts which are found to be prone to natural calamities and disasters like cyclone, floods, heavy rains and drought

\* Translation of speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN]

conditions. An amount of Rs. 100 crores have been earmarked for crop insurance in these districts. I feel it is still inadequate and hence you may increase the allocation to Rs. 500 crores. In a vast country like ours the amount you have apportioned is less and it needs to be enhanced.

I come from Tamil Nadu's Villuppuram-Cuddalore districts which are prone to nature's fury. Hence I request you to extend your crop insurance scheme further and I want you to include our districts also.

At the same time want to impress upon the Government to come out with its agricultural policy. While determining the remunerative prices or levy prices, it would be better to involve those who are involved in agricultural production. As far as paddy and sugar is concerned a suitable and satisfactory remunerative price could not be evolved or introduced. When the Government are to draft the agricultural policy you may kindly consider to involve the agriculturists enabling the farmers to have a say in determining the prices. Particularly in Tamil Nadu, paddy price has come down drastically. Sugarcane is also not getting adequately matching procurement price. You may ensure that paddy fetches Rs. 600 and sugarcane gets Rs. 1000 per tone.

You have introduced a welcome scheme called 'Farmer's Credit Card System'. I welcome that scheme that allows farmers to get loans from the banks to go in for fertilisers, pesticides etc., the inputs required for cultivation. This scheme must be extended to farmers living in areas prone to natural disasters.

As far as irrigation is concerned, you have allocated Rs. 677 crores. I am afraid it is not sufficient. There are several areas in Tamil Nadu which require to have the irrigation facilities augmented. The west-flowing rivers have got to be diverted from flowing wastefully into the sea. If the west-flowing rivers of Kerala are directed to flow towards the east the southern districts of Tamil Nadu would be greatly benefitted. Both the Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu may have talks and then with the active participation of the Centre such irrigation schemes could be implemented. Those viable projects could also facilitate hydel power generation. There is a need to improve the reservoir height of Mullai-Periyar Dam. More water flowing away from that area could be thereby stored. This would enable irrigation to improve further.

Likewise in Dharmapuri District, a project across river Cauvery in Hoganekal is pending for long. A dam that

could come up there would solve both irrigation and drinking water problems faced by several villages over there. I urge upon the Union Government to attend to such long pending irrigation schemes. It is significant that a sum of about Rs. 3000 crores have been earmarked for providing basic minimum needs to the rural people. It is a welcome move. IRDP, RLEGP, Jevan Dhara, Indira Vikas Yojana, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana are the programmes and schemes meant for the upliftment of rural poor and several thousand crores of rupees have been earmarked for the same. All these schemes for which thousands of crores of rupees are spent are being implemented through the State Governments. There should be a monitoring mechanism to ensure that these allocated funds are spent only on those schemes for which they are meant. About 80% of the funds for these various schemes are provided by the Union Government to State Governments. But what happens in the States? They do not publicise that the funds were provided by the Central Government. Only those identified and recommended by the local MLAs become the beneficiaries of these various schemes. The identification of areas for implementation and the beneficiaries of these rural poverty alleviation programmes are decided by those local LAs. Common people are misled to believe that such schemes are implemented by the respective State Governments. They do not mention the name of Central Government though money flows from the Centre. Does this not amount to misleading the people? Hence I request the Union Government to ensure that MPs are involved in such Committees that would consider and decide on various programmes at the local level. MPs should be invited to such meetings that would deliberate about the implementation of these Centrally sponsored schemes. In this regard, a directive should go to the State Governments from the Centre. I urge upon the Union Government to attend to this at the earliest.

Tindivanam constituency is a most backward area. There are no industrial units. It is industrially backward an area. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, several rich mineral deposits that will go for several chemicals are there in our area. You have a vast potential to make use of them and to set up chemical industries in Marakkanam and Vanur areas. I urge upon the Union Government to evolve a policy to make use of the natural mineral resources in every State to the maximum. I wish the Government of India to industrialise the really backward areas in a big way.

It is pertinent to mention about the long pending Sethu Samudram project. It could be a viable project that would earn revenue and could save several crores

of rupees benefitting both the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India. I would like to appeal to this coalition Government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party that enjoys our support to implement this Sethu Samudram project. I appeal to you that you may consider and accept this proposal in toto. Several crores of rupees could be saved. Instead of taking a round-about-route off Sri Lanka, cargo vessels can take a short route via Rameswaram. If the Sethu strait is deepened and Rameswaram Port is improved we would be saving several crores of rupees. We would be earning foreign exchange through this viable short route to reach the Bay of Bengal and our eastern coast from the western ports. As far as Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is concerned, through the implementation of this project the money spent on imported coal shipping which shall be to the tune of about Rs. 10 crores every year.

I come from a backward area which would require attention in many possible ways. Ginjee Fort, an ancient archeological monument is there in my constituency. That Fort is now a preserved monument under the authority of Archeological Survey of India. It has been declared a tourist spot but adequate amenities to give a facelift are not there. In order to attract more tourists and thereby to promote this tourist spot appropriate facilities should be there. Now they are wanting in many respects. A which can be erected to go to the Fort. The Akazhi that is the moat around the Fort needs to be dredged and joy-boat-ride facilities could be introduced there. Union Government may also provide the needed funds to carry out certain excavation work in the Fort and its surrounding area to dig out priceless ancient sculptures that are reported to be lying buried under the earth.

Our coalition Government has proposed to give thrust to the promotion of Swadeshi ventures. But what is happening now? There are about seven and a half-lakh people involved in the hand-made match industry which has been carried out as a cottage industry for many years now in the southern districts. Hand-made-matches-industry provides job to these seven and half lakhs of people of whom many are women. They are the worst hit due to a new budget proposal now. The proposed duty will be affecting them severely. Cottage industry especially hand made matches industry require kind gestures from the Government as they cannot compete with mechanised match work industry. In this regard, our MDMK Party's General Secretary Vaiko met our Hon. Finance Minister and impressed upon him the need to do way with the proposed duty hike that will drastically affect the hand made match industry workers. He has also suggested a viable revised duty structure for various

categories of manufacturers. I urge upon the Hon. Finance Minister to consider this and make a positive announcement during your reply to this Budget discussion.

I would like to draw your attention particularly on to the plight of the people of hand-made-match-industry which has to be deemed to be in the cottage industry sector. They duty structure has been narrowed down detrimental to the interests of the cottage industry sector. I wish the amends can be made this way. The duty structure can be modified and revised on production basis. Duty for mechanised (WIMCO) with the existing production ceiling of 5,000 million boxes can be Rs. 7.20 per unit. Duty for semi mechanised with a production limit of 4,000 million sticks per year Rs. 6/- per unit. Duty for non-mechanised with a production above 1,000 million sticks Rs. 4/- per unit. Duty for non-mechanised with a production limit of above 180 million but below 1,000 million sticks Rs. 3/- per unit. Duty for non-mechanised production of 180 million sticks per year in the cottage sector Re 1/- per unit. I wish these necessary amendments are made immediately. We must save this cottage industry and the people who depend on it. This will not hamper with Government's revenue collection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, it is his maiden speech. He will take only two or three minutes more.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, this cottage industry is in doldrums. Mostly women in the southern districts are affected by this new levy of duty. At a time when the production is far beyond the demand, some industrialists have imported foreign machines worth several crores. The State Government has also recommended the closure of machine-made match industry units. But still they have started producing machine-made matches. They have simply applied CDB with the previous Government. This will affect around 7.5 lakhs of workers in the hand-made match industry. The 1952 Act that sought to give protection through regulation has been diluted by the previous Government.

This budget has also proposed to levy an 8% tax on butter and cheese. The proposal shall be rolled back and rescinded. Tamil Nadu Government has levied a tax of 8% and 4% on ghee and cancelled tax on butter. At the same time our Government is going for a tax on butter. I feel it is not a good proposal. Hence I urge upon the Government to withdraw this tax proposal to levy tax on butter. Because this is something connected with Swadeshi economy.



[SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN]

As far as spinning mills are concerned, 50% of the yarn are manufactured in Tamil Nadu. About a thousand small spinning mill units are in Tamil Nadu. There are about 30 lakh spindles. Cotton scarcity is also looming large over them causing concern giving rise to problems. Price rise is also hitting them hard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: I also urge upon the Government to speedily implement the policy to provide jobs to the heirs of those who have parted with their lands when Neyveli Lignite Corporation acquired land for its mining activity.

It is significant that you have announced compulsory free education upto class V. I request you to raise it upto class X.

Steel re-rolling mills were given a facility to make delayed payments alongwith 18% penalty at any time. But this has been stopped all of a sudden. The mills are being asked to pay the taxes immediately that too with 100% penalty on tax arrears. I request the Government to look into this to ease the burden suddenly heaped on the steel re-rolling mills.

With this I conclude, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: SHRI N.K. Premchandran.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when will you call my name to speak here. I am sitting here since long. My name was quite earlier in the list of members to speak but I could not speak as hon. Lady Members were allowed to speak first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, Mehtaji I will call you also to speak.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: But when, would you call me at 12' O' clock in the night to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, Premchandranji, please let Shri Mehta speak first. Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehtra.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Chirman, Sir, I am very sorry that I have to struggle to get a chance to speak here. The Members of ruling party are supposed to support the budget and Members of opposition party criticize it. But I will neither criticize the budget nor support it. I would try to find out the consequences of this budget.

What may be the reaction of a blind man if he is told that ghee has been served with his food. He can know about it by the taste of the food only. In the same way there is no use of supporting or criticizing the budget unless we know its consequences. I have no option but to criticize budget. You have seen that value of rupee is continuously decreasing since 19th of the last month. The manner in which the devaluation of rupee has taken place during the last 10 days it seems that value of rupee will go down further. It will affect our economy adversely. On 19th May the value of a dollar was Rs. 40.50 but on 10th of this month one has to pay Rs. 42.24 for a dollar. I have apprehensions in my mind that it will cross Rs. 45 in next few days. Our economic structure will totally crumble when this will reach near Rs. 50 Then we will have to pay more on servicing of debt. Our on going projects will come to a standstill. For the purpose of solving the problem of unemployment how would we be able to create more avenues of employment in such a state when our resources would be exhausted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there will be price rise with the devaluation of rupee. Similarly 8 percent excise duty has been imposed on commodities of daily use which will cause more price rise. Many ambitious schemes have been announced for providing loan facilities in rural areas. But farmers will not get loan through these schemes. Unless the farmer has ownership rights of the property he cannot get a loan. I fully agree with the views of the hon. Member speaking prior to me that farmers should get loan upto Rs. 1 lakh on their own guarantee. For this purpose there should be land reforms and farmers should get ownership rights of the land. The legal problems obstructing the process of land reforms should be removed for its easy implementation by States.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this budget fiscal deficit of 90 thousand crores has been shown which comes to 5-6 percent. This deficit will, obviously, be made good by printing more currency notes. This will result in price rise and fall in value of rupee and the actual amount of loan will decrease due to it. In this way this deficit of 90 thousand crore has been divided equally as indirect tax and direct tax have not been increased at all. It means that poor people have to bear the burnt. The tendency of recession will increase due the slow pace of economic development. The demand of domestic production has decreased due to reduction in the income of people which has resulted in recession. The people who require the goods produced by domestic industries do not have money to purchase it and people having purchasing power for it, already possess these goods and they will try to have more imported luxury goods.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, no provision has been made for service tax. The provision made for it in the previous budget has also been withdrawn. ...*(Interruptions)* Why should I conclude? I still have some time. No proper provision has been made in this budget to complete the major irrigation projects. I have heard that a water agreement has been concluded with Bangladesh for lean period. There is very little water in Ganges during the lean period and as per this agreement we have to live without water for ten days. In such a situation I would like to make a submission that multipurpose high dams should be constructed on river Kosi in Varah area and water should be collected in the reservoir. The Ganga water which goes waste during rainy season should be utilised properly.

The allocation made for rural development will not be of much use because of price rise and this increase in allocation will be set off by the price rise. The 14 percent hike in defence allocation is not enough because the prices of traditional arms have increased 2 or 3 fold since then. In spite of 102 percent rain during the last 11 years the rate of development and production of agriculture has declined continuously. It would have been better if it was reversed but nothing has been done by the Government in this regard.

As you know that contribution of agriculture is 84 percent in the Gross National Product, but the prices of urea have been increased. I have an apprehension and objection to it that inspite of a rise in the price of urea, it will not be timely available to farmers. Even today, farmers are not getting it in time. I would like to emphasize that the Government may increase the prices of urea but there should be a guarantee that it would be available to farmers at the right time. I would like to make another suggestion for farmers. The provisions and allocations made for the welfare of farmer are usurped by the middlemen. Arrangements should be made to ensure that farmers should get the benefit of the provisions made for him. It is essential that they should get remunerative prices of their produce. For my area I would like to make a suggestion that Patna airport should be converted into an International Airport so that green vegetable produced in northern Bihar could be exported. Cold storage should be constructed in adequate number. Though two-three cold storages have been constructed but these can not be considered adequate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: The result was that the bumper crop of potato and onion last year was spoiled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mehataji, please conclude now.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: I would take just one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said that you will make a brief speech. So please conclude now.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: In this budget no provision has been made for encouraging horticulture in the hilly regions of my area. Chhota Nagpur is a hilly region. Farmers will be benefited if due encouragement is given to horticulture there. ...*(Interruptions)*

The entire responsibility of meeting the on slaughters of natural calamities has been thrust on the State Governments and no provision has been made for it in this budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. I have called Shri Premchandran earlier than you and I am calling him now.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Sir, I raise a procedural point. First, how are you calling him before me? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: My Party is having five Members in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

*[English]*

I know that. I have called him. I am calling you also.

*[Translation]*

PROF. AJIT KUMAR: There should be a provision in the budget to combat the aftermath of natural calamities.

With these I thank you for allowing me to speak and I conclude while not supporting this budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request the hon. Members to be brief so that maximum number of Members could be given a chance to speak. As the Minister of Parliamentary

[MR. CHAIRMAN]

Affairs has stated just now that time allotted for discussion on the budget should be utilised properly only then we will be benefited by sitting late.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon): Sir, I am the only speaker from my Party. At the outset, I think you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on behalf of my party. I rise to oppose the Budget for the year 1998-99 presented by the hon. Finance Minister. This is the first Budget of the BJP-led Government. I would like to say that the main slogan of the BJP in the last election was a stable Government, able Prime Minister and good governance of this country. I would like to say that within a short span of two months, they themselves have provided that they are not able to provide stability, ability and good governance to this country. The latest example is the Budget and the Finance Bill which is commended to this House by the hon. Finance Minister.

In the Budget speech, he has announced that the petrol price hike will be by one rupee. But on the same night, the Petroleum Ministry enhanced it up to rupees four and four point something. Even before starting the discussion on the Budget the price of urea has been decreased. What does it show? Is it good governance of the country? It is not. I would like to say that even the sanctity of the Budget and the Finance Bill is lost from the inception of the Budget, from the time of commending the Budget to this House. Hence I oppose the Budget.

I also oppose this Budget because it is lacking a proper direction and vision. This is also a continuation of the policy of globalisation pursued by the previous governments. All those governments pursued the policy of globalisation. But there is a slight difference in this Budget. It is having the mask of *swadeshi*. Just like that of the National Agenda for Governance of the BJP alliance, some issues are being hidden in the hidden agenda. When you remove the mask, you can really see the face of globalisation. That is seen in the Maruti Udyog Limited in the latest issue.

I would also like to say that it is very pertinent to note that for the last so many years when we were formulating the proposals, the people living below the poverty line were absolutely ignored. India is a country having 40 per cent of people who are living below the poverty line. The interest of the downtrodden masses of the country, the toiling masses of the country has not been taken into account in formulating the Budget. The Budgets all these years were oriented towards the big business houses and the corporate houses. That is followed in this Budget also. In this Budget, there is

nothing new. Perhaps it may be the first Budget since Independence which does not have any new projects, proposals and schemes. What are the schemes which are enunciated? I do agree that there is an excess plan allocation. There is an increase in the total plan allocation. The Accelerated Irrigation programme, the RIDF, the Swarna Jayanti Housing Scheme, the Kasturba Gandhi Shikshana Yojana, the Basic Minimum Service programmes etc. were there in the previous Budget also.

There is only an enhancement in the total Plan allocation of each and every subject. What is new in the Budget is the three 'S' of the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, that is, *Saral*, *Samman* and *Samadhan*. There is nothing new in this Budget and hence I oppose it. As regards the present economic scenario which has already been enunciated here, we are very proud of saying that we have completed Eight Five year Plans and 1997-98 was the last year of the Eighth Plan. In 1996-97, the economic growth was 7.5 per cent and in 1997-98, it had declined by one-third, that is, to five per cent. The drop in the GDP growth was mainly due to two reasons. One is the decline of agricultural and industrial production. My question is whether this Budget is able to cover these defects or deficiencies. The statistics or the figures which are shown in the Budget very clearly convince that this Government is not able to overcome the deficiencies in agricultural production and industrial growth also. The Budget anticipated a revenue receipt of Rs. 1,76,900 crore, an expenditure of Rs. 2,67,000 crore and a fiscal deficit of Rs. 91,225 crore. This fiscal deficit would be overcome or will be reduced by direct taxes or indirect taxes also. The Finance Minister is anticipating Rs. 5000 crore from the disinvestment of the public sector undertakings. According to me, the Finance Minister will fulfil his dreams about all these things if he is able to achieve all these targets. Then three per cent of the GDP will be the revenue deficit and 5.6 per cent will be the fiscal deficit. What does it show? I would like to say that these dreams are not going to be fulfilled. One reason for this is, last year's total tax collection was Rs. 14,736 crore. Now we anticipate a very low amount than the Budget estimates. We anticipate Rs. 16,055 crore. That is the tax collection anticipated. It is not going to be fulfilled.

The second reason is disinvestment. The former Finance Ministers, Shri P. Chidambaram and Dr. Manmohan Singh tried their level best to disinvest the public sector undertakings. They could not succeed in that matter. Now, the Defence expenditure is Rs. 41,200 crore. If these will be the circumstances, it will also enhance in future. Therefore, fiscal deficit would go

beyond six per cent. The Finance Minister cannot restrict the fiscal deficit target upto 5.6 per cent.

I would conclude my speech with a very important point regarding disinvestment and privatisation. The resultant effect of these is inflation. There is no doubt about it. The fiscal deficit and all these things would result in high inflation and the country would go into a crisis as far as balance of payments is concerned. It has been discussed elaborately by eminent personalities.

Coming to disinvestment, I strongly oppose disinvestment and privatisation of the public sector undertakings. If these are the prides of our country and national assets of our country and if you kill our public sector undertakings, that is, the national assets, then you will be distracting the national assets. I would like to refer to one document and with that point, I would conclude my speech.

It is about National Conference and Annual Session of the Confederation of Indian Industry. What do they say about the public sector undertakings? I would quote from page 6: "Similarly, how do we ensure higher returns from the public sector units?" I would like to underline one sentence here, that is: "There is no need for privatisation as such." They are not the words and sentences of the United Front or the Communist Parties. It is said like this.

"There is no need for privatisation as such. But nothing should hold back the much needed autonomy for the PSUs. There is need for bold initiatives for rejuvenating the PSUs and bringing out their best potential. It is time to act. They have much greater potential to generate savings and, needless to say, higher PSU savings would reduce the need for government borrowing."

I would like to say that disinvestment as well as privatisation of our main industry, that is, insurance industry will adversely affect the economic situation in our country. It is adverse to the national interest. Therefore, the Government should withdraw and go back from these two proposals.

As far as unemployment is concerned, there is not even a single word about it except in the place of rural development, self-employment scheme and all these things. The Government has offered one crore of job opportunities in one year. It still remains a dream. Therefore, this Budget is lacking in direction and vision.

There are no innovative project schemes and proposals in order to rectify the decline in industrial and agricultural growth. It is not a growth-oriented Budget. On the other hand, it will result in high inflation. So, I strongly oppose this Budget. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Please pay some attention towards the members of BJP also. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHKAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir while participating in the discussion on this Budget. I would like to submit. ... (Interruptions) Let me speak, why are you wasting time? I would not reiterate whatever has already been said and enlogize the Budget any further. Due to time constraint would directly come to the subject would like to row the attention of the hon'ble Minister for Finance to a few points.

The gift tax, has been withdrawn in this budget. Now the receiver of the gift will have to pay tax for it under the income tax. Earlier the parents could give to their children and other family members. The were exempted from tax. But you have withdrawn it with one stroke of pen. You should reconsider it and some rebate should be given on it.

Another point is regarding taking initiatives in some new areas. I am referring to the sale proceed mentioned in the budget. It has been stated that,

[English]

'purchase and sale of immovable property'.

[Translation]

You have not made it clear. Although your proposal is commendable, we accept it, but you should have made it clear forty percent population of the country is living below the poverty line and if person having one, two or four acres of land, wishes to get his land registered for the purpose of his children's marriage from where will he show permanent account number. It has been mentioned in the detail 'high-value transaction'. But what does high-value transaction mean it should be clarified. You should clarify what you want to convey. You have also mentioned the requirement of permanent account number for opening a new account in the bank. But if a poor man living in

[SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA]

a village wants to open a new account in the bank with a meagre sum of Rs. 100, from where will he give permanent account number. But you have not clarified it in your speech. You should mention it clearly.

No incentives have been provided for small savings. It appears that you want to reduce the business and deposits of banking sector else, I fail to understand what you are upto. It would be better if your clarify this point while replying to the debate. Our private industry is under recession. These days the private industry which is a tax payer industry cannot compete with small scale industry which donot pay any tax. The goods of private industry remain unsold as imported goods are available at a cheaper price in the market. It should be looked into seriously. The exemption in excise duty particularly in the new areas, where rubber wood is being used, should be given. It would be better if some, attention is paid in this regard.

I would like to draw your attention to another point which has not been mentioned in the budget proposals. You are talking of Swadeshi, but were is your Swadeshi. You must be aware of the boundaries of Swadesh. You have not mentioned anything in the budget about Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which is union territory. A certain package has been introduced for north-eastern region. I support them. It would be very good, if those packages are implemented. But you have not paid any attention towards the remote areas as to what are the conditions prevailing there. As regards the security of our area is concerned. The hon'ble Minister for Defence has stated in reply to a question.

[English]

The details regarding the vessels and crew apprehended year-wise are indicated below:

[Translation]

In 1995, number of vessels-six poachers, number of crew-48; in 1996, 15 and 140, in 1997, 39 and 150, till May 1998, 12 and 154 number of crew. It is therefore quite evident that people from different countries inter these islands regularly it prevention is not left to Navy or Defence. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has sent a proposal for deploying Marine Police Force to prevent unlawful entry of poachers. For the past three years, this proposal is pending, and till now, no decision has been taken on it. It is a matter which involves national security and attention should be pad towards this side.

The recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission are being implemented for Government employees, but incase of employees of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[English]

The fifth Pay Commission has recommended that this grant of special compensatory allowance for our employees be paid at double the existing rates. Further, this has also been approved by the Ministry of Finance, Department of expenditure by a Resolution dated 30th September, 1997.

[Translation]

But till date no notification has been issued in this regard and employees are still agitating over it. You can resolve this matter by paying some attention and framing some rules regarding union territories. Look at the situation prevailing in Cambel, an Island in Nicobar on the boundary of India covering an area of 1200 kms surrounded by countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Mynmaar. A single person is administering there. Whatever Lt. Governor says is right. There is no democratic process. This issue has been discussed many times in the House, but there are no guidelines in this regard. The Nicobar district is predominately unhabited by Aadivasis, by they have no system. They are not having Panchayati Raj system. They have been demanding for constitution of an autonomous council under the sixth schedule but no provision have been made in this regard. We belong to a remote area. ...*(Interruptions)* I know that, you are an expert.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know that. I have visited his place.

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: That's why I don't want to say much. There is problem of unemployment. The P.M.R.Y. has been implemented over there. But banks are not ready to sanction loans even to a single person under this scheme. The lead bank, State Bank of India have talked to them a number of time, held review meetings. The lead bank, but nothing fruitful has been achieved. The sentiments of the people of remote areas should be honoured and problem of unemployment, inter-island shopping services, transportation facilities should not be overlooked. You have given enough power to administrator. They have to send all papers to centre for final approval. The powers given to them regarding implementation of scheme or plan for generating

employment are very less. Correspondence is going on for the last two or three years, but no policy has been formulated in this regard. 'In a meeting held with honble Home Minister a few days ago he endorsed our view officers of the Finance Minister were also present in the meeting. Attention should be paid towards remote areas and union territories. There are six territories of this land.

22.00 hrs.

You should pay attention to them also. I want that the Sikkim also in the same package should be introduced for as has been approved for north-east, and if backward territory of Andaman-Nicobar islands are also provided with such package, then people will also be benefitted from it and it is not very difficult for you I urge upon you to respond to this point while replying to the debate.

You have lifted the ban on recruitment. If a post not filled for two years it is abolished. Since long the ban was imposed on recruitment. This should also be taken into consideration otherwise people of the farflung areas will face much problems. Our employment potentiality will reduce if nothing is done for the island people. Young generation will face a lot of problems. Your supporters are heaping praise on you. I am ready to shower more praise on you if you direct to revive and fill up the posts abolished in Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Secondly, I would like to submit about land reforms, our country is an agriculture based country. Unless land reforms are implemented properly and farmers get 'patta' of land, the infrastructure of the country can not be developed. Fiscal, revenue and other deficits have been mentioned in this Budget. Now it is high time to ratify Central Government should formulate a national economic agenda in cooperation with all State Governments. It will help to run the country in unanimity with all. By making such efforts the present economic condition of the country can be improved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I have much more to speak but due to scarcity of time I have tried to express my views briefly in the House.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Mr. Chairman, I want to seek a clarification.

[Translation]

Members of the major parties can be called to speak but it is not necessary to allow all of them to speak before the Members of other parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will also call you. Just now I am calling Shivraj Singh Chauhan.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Congress is a major party. All its members will speak. It is right that Shri Manoranjan Bhakta is a senior and intelligent member but it is not necessary to call all the members of Congress party. Small parties should also be given an opportunity to speak.

[English]

You cannot measure all the time and then ask us to speak. This is not correct. This is unfair. I want the procedure to be set on scientific basis.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the Minister of Parliamentary Affair has stated just now that the time is very limited and 60 members have to speak. Debate can go on for hours. Therefore, he had made a proposal that the members who would like to lay their speeches on the Table of the House, can do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, please lay your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I lay my suggestions and views in writing on the Table of the House. They may please be accepted and be included in the record of the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget presented by hon'ble Finance Minister.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am the next speaker. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is in the list. Already two hon. Members have spoken from your party.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: When am I going to be called? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have called Shri Chauhan.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Hon'ble Finance Minister is a very sensitive person. He has great imagination and strong determination. In such a situation no better Budget can be formulated than the one presented by him. Opposition can oppose it only for the sake of opposition but personally they also accept this fact. This budget is an effort to streamline the economic condition of the country. It is a step to build a self-reliant and prosperous India.

India is an agriculturist country. 70% of the people are engaged in farming activities or agriculture based occupations. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of our independence but remained unable to formulate an agricultural policy. Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated to formulate an agriculture policy, I welcome it. The condition of the farmers in the country is miserable. He takes birth in debt, grows in the same condition and even dies under the burden of debt. We all know their condition, it does not need any elaboration. I visited my constituency by jeep. People started running here and there to see a jeep. I was not aware of the reason for the people running like this. When I alighted from the jeep, they recognised me. On being asked as to why they were running like that, they replied that they mistook my identity as the bank people coming for recovery of loan. This is the situation there.

Today, many cases of suicides by the farmers have been noticed. The view expressed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the farmers can be saved from such conditions, is wroth commendable. Weather conditions are not under the control of farmers. Sometimes, it occurs hailstorm, sometime flood or sometimes famine struck the farmer. But it is not the fault of farmer. If this crop is damaged for one year he has to bear the brunt for the next five years. He is not able to repay the loan and has to take the loan again to run the house. In such circumstances he gets trapped in this vicious circle of debt and remains unable to come out of it. I welcome what the Hon'ble Finance Minister has said to improve the culture of repayment.

I would like to give two suggestions in this regard. If a farmer takes a loan of Rs. 5000 and repays

Rs. 10,000 even then a debt of Rs. 5000, remains outstanding against him. If he takes a loan of Rs. 5000, he has to repay Rs. 15,000. My submission is that he should not have to pay more than double of the loan taken. You have mentioned about the effective Crop Insurance Scheme on experimental basis. Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced that the Crop Insurance Scheme would be implemented throughout the country. I welcome the step to provide the Credit Card facility to farmers. We have 37% arable land. I welcome the provision made by you in this regard.

Linkewise, you have mentioned about handicrafts and artisans. About 20 years ago, the occupation of potter, carpenter and blacksmith were there in villages. But these small occupations died eventually. In order to remove the rural unemployment, such small occupations are required to be revived. I also welcome the proposed scheme to provide collective help to such occupations. I request that the scheme should be extended throughout the country. There are several schemes to remove rural unemployment and I.R.D.P. is one of them. We want to raise more people above the poverty line. However, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Finance Minister towards the fact that the implementation of the schemes is not proper. Poor people try to get the loan under I.R.D.P. but do not get the adequate amount of loan. Corruption is prevailing in all schemes causing hinderance for the proper implementation. Poor people do not get full amount of the loan sanction to them. Bank Officials usurp half of the loan. If the implementation of the schemes is not proper there is no use of making provisions in the budget.

58% increase has been made in the budgetary allocation for education and it is a commendable step. 33-34% People in our country are illiterate. You have assured us that more provisions will be made for education and grant will be increased upto 6%. I welcome this arrangement. Sir, hon'ble Minister has specifically mentioned to set up a National Core. Youth of the country are filled with patriotism and would like to work for the country. But they do not have the proper direction. I hope that an effort will be made through this scheme to give a new direction to young generation.

Sir, the problem of drinking water has been included in our national agenda and it has been stated that within 5 years pure drinking water will be made available in every village. It is unfortunate for our country that even after 50 years of our independence, pure drinking water has not been made available in rural and even in some urban areas. I would like to tell you that when I visited my constituency, the people there told me that nobody wants to marry off his daughter in our village. On being

asked what an M.P. can do in this regard, they stated that drinking water is not available there and they have to fetch water from 3-4 km. Away. Therefore, people of the nearby villages do not marry off their daughters with the boys of our village as they fear that the lives of their daughters would be spoiled by fetching water. That's why their boys remain unmarried. An arrangement should be made so that their boys could get married. I hope, Hon'ble Finance Minister will definitely be able to provide pure drinking water in every village within 5 years.

Sir, you are asking me to conclude by pushing the bell and I am also understanding the feelings of the hon'ble Members. To honour their feelings, I would like to tell the hon'ble Finance Minister that the way you have present the Budget, will certainly bring revolutionary changes and a new picture of our country will emerge. We are with you in this task.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, please give your ruling. It is right that CPI is a major party but it is not necessary that the third person who speaks should be from the same party.

[English]

It is because you have to give a sense of participation to parties. I represent Jammu and Kashmir State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will allow you.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: He can speak after that. You give time to CPI(M). You give enough time to Congress but why cannot you give us time that we deserve.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am calling you after Shri Radhakrishnan.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: This is the procedure that is being misrepresented. Suppose Congress Party has seven Members to speak, it is not necessary that all the seven will speak and then you will invite smaller parties. I have told you that I can finish within five minutes.

[Translation]

I can sum up the entire thing within few words.

[English]

I am very sorry because the seniority is not being considered. I will put this into the Business Advisory Committee agenda. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to lower the level of debates in this august House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, I would request you to please allow him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati): My name is there. I am keeping silence and giving cooperation to the Chair does not mean that I should be called late. I am the leader of the Republican Party of India and that too, I am senior Member. ...(Interruptions) I am speaking on behalf of my party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call you.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati): My name is there. Is it because I am not catching your eyes, you are not calling me? I am keeping silence in spite of my name being there. ...(Interruptions) It does not mean that we are ignored.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Many Members are sitting here from 11 O'clock. They also want to speak. I am calling you. You please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I want to speak only for four to five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Many Members are sitting from eleven O'clock. They also want to speak.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramula): Mr. Chairman, I was very glad that Shri Chidambaram gave some praise to the Finance Minister for the good points. But he also made some valid points of criticism. I will request, through you, that the Finance Minister would take notice of the part of the criticism that Shri Chidambaram offered. But even before he spoke I had a couple of points for the General Budget.

I feel that I have to bring in Jammu and Kashmir. I feel that this Budget will generate some information. But the Finance Minister knows better than myself how he will control inflation and raise exchange value. In my mind I have some apprehension that the value of the



[PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ]

rupee will come down. On the question of sanctions, I do not want to say anything in an elaborate manner. But it is my request to the hon. Finance Minister that when we meet in July he should declare on this question of costs. If he is confident that this country will not have any cost on account of sanctions, we shall go the whole hog with him. But in July it will be the right time for him to take this august House into confidence at that point of time.

Now I come to Jammu and Kashmir. There are other points. I cannot repeat the points that have already been mentioned before. This Budget should have some concern for Jammu and Kashmir State. I feel like saying in Urdu, "Mujhe Gila Hai, Shikayat Hai".

We passed through a spell of eight to nine years of armed militancy, sponsored terrorism by the neighbouring country. There is no doubt on that. There is no need to bring in that the neighbouring country is sponsoring terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir State. But there are some inner factors like unemployment. We have free education from Primary to Ph.D. There is lot of educated unemployment. In fact, there should have been a special package, economic package. That was missing. Even now there is time for an independent Finance Minister like Shri Sinha to offer some package to the State and employment is the first thing that should have attracted his attention.

Then, infrastructure, we lost our infrastructure and there is nothing in the Budget to show that he will rebuild the infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

Then, I come to the security concern.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your four minutes are over.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I am looking at my watch.

On the security, there was a meeting on the 18th of May. The hon. Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir held a meeting with the hon. Home Minister, the Defence Minister and the Governor of the State were also there. The Home Minister had committed - it was decided - that Rs. 326 crore would be offered to augment security in certain areas. Now it has been slashed down to Rs. 175 crore. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look into this.

As for other things tourism is there. You can promote tourism because of the climate now, the climate of normally. You can see tourists now going to Jammu and

Kashmir State. By promoting tourism in Jammu and Kashmir which has a very vast potential, you can help it for gains to the whole country. You can have a special funding for that. As against that, there is nothing for promoting tourism in Kashmir particularly and even on a project like Dal Lake, the previous Government committed Rs. 291 crore. This Government should not drag its feet because the Dal Lake can attract tourists from all over the world. That should be done.

I am completing in one minute. On the industrial development side we are not on the map. I cannot mention Railways as Shri Bhajan Lal mentioned because that is a different subject. But the Finance Minister has to have an overall view on that. But I will not drag the question of railways here. But on industry. I want to say that I raise a question with the Industry Minister. Whether he was prepared to set up eco-friendly electronic industries there?

In a reply to an Unstarred Question, the Minister admitted that they did not have any proposal. Why do they not have a proposal? Because we have only HMT unit there. In 1984 that constituted 0.03 per cent of the national investment. While the hon. Finance Minister answers these queries he should clarify. He will have to say whether in Kashmir he will provide some funding for the development of eco-friendly industries.

Instead of doing that, the Minister of Industries has shifted the showroom of HMT outside the State. I have raised objection to that. I would request him to kindly look into that because we are not on the industrial map of India.

I have many more points which I am not raising them, but I would request that the hon. Finance Minister should answer my points specifically when he rises to give the reply.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Thank you for giving me this opportunity. Now, I am constrained to oppose the Budget proposals of the hon. Finance Minister. Every Budget is the reflection of the political will of the party in power. This Budget is also a political reflection of the party in power. In another sense, the economic stability of a country is related to the political stability. Without political stability, there cannot be economic stability. Now, I must congratulate the Finance

Minister for skillfully playing the role of a circus master. He must be congratulated because a circus can be filled with flight.

When he was presenting this Budget for financial stability, was there any stability in his camp? One of the major constituents of the ruling combine had suspended their support until further orders. So, he started from there. Now, he is ending at a place where another major party is boycotting this House everyday. Does he not feel ashamed about parliamentary manners and decency? Has he ever heard in the history of the whole world of a situation like the one which is everyday enacted here. ...*(Interruptions)* How can he say that there will be economic stability? This is what we see in the House. When he started, there was suspension of support and when he is completing, there is a boycott. This is the position of his Government. How can he claim that his Budget will bring economic stability?. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, I am not going into the details of this case.

I must stress on one or two points. The first point is about the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission regarding sharing of taxes. Our State is a Federal State. So, there must be complete unanimity and complete understanding between the States and the Centre regarding sharing of taxes. The Tenth Finance Commission has recommended that it must be on the basis of 15 years taken together, that is, the gross proceeds of the Central taxes must be determined on the basis of taking into account 15 years together. Nothing is mentioned in the Budget about this proposal. There is another proposal, I do agree, that it must be decided on the basis of successive five years because the Constitution provides for appointment of a Finance Commission once in five years. So, the constitutional impediment is there. Apart from that, what action have they taken with regard to strong recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission for bringing some federal nature in the matter of sharing taxes? Since he has not spoken anything about it, now can we say that we represent a Federal State? The sharing of taxes is one of the major issues. He is quite silent about it.

Now, I am coming to the other aspect: He is trying to speak about education. That is good and he has given certain concessions also. But what about national literacy? The United Nations has declared that by the turn of the century, the world should be free from illiteracy. But I tell you that by the turn of the century, India will be the only country, the largest country having the largest number of illiterates. We will feel ashamed. What has he to say in this matter?

Did you even utter a word in your statement, in your speech, about this aspect, about the national literacy programme? We have to be proud of our nation and we must be able to say with pride that we represent a country having cent per cent literacy. I represent a State having total literacy.

There is much criticism and much talk that we have implemented 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments instituting panchayati raj system. We have implemented that provision. Panchayats have been constituted. Boards have been constituted and district panchayats are also constituted. We have not mentioned anything about their growth. What is your role in developing the three-tier system in panchayati raj institutions? Many States have implemented the decision. So, about decentralisation of powers, a Committee has been appointed. Nothing more than that. These institution will be strengthened. What is the role of the Central Government? India is for proper functioning of the panchayati raj system. You had not said anything about it. What is the crucial point in Indian economy? Unemployment is the most important problem. Did you even mention about unemployment?

As per the *Economic Survey* given to me, in 1994-95 we had 3,204 lakh people below the poverty line. What is the remedy? Did you make any suggestion either in your speech or in your statement about unemployment problem? You know specifically about Rozgar Yojana. Those schemes have not proceeded further. Unemployment is the crucial issue so far as India is concerned. But my friend, the Finance Minister did not say anything about that. Without solving unemployment problem, without bringing the people above the poverty line, how can you say that a new India is rising? Your India is full of illiterates. Rising India is full of illiterates. Your India is full of unemployed youth. That is your India you have visualised. What is that new India? By the turn of the century, India will be having the largest number of illiterate people and unemployed youth. Shri Yashwantrao Sinha, you are visualising that India. You have not suggested any measure, any programme, to get rid of these social evils.

With these words, I strongly oppose the Budget proposals of the Finance Minister.

SHRI R. S. GAVAI: At the outset, I extend my thanks to you for allowing me to speak.

I will be very brief keeping in view the time constraint. The Budget is not a routine phenomenon but I do expect

[SHRI R.S. GAVAI]

that Budget should be inspiring, dynamic and imaginary. Hon. Yashwant Sinha is a dynamic man, but the Budget submitted by him is disappointing.

I will raise a few issues. I want to seek your cooperation to express my view, being the single speaker on behalf of my political party. I know about the transaction of the Business. As a matter of fact, the first round is to be completed by the major political parties. I was presiding over the Upper House of Maharashtra. I know about transaction of business. Here, we are giving three or four chances to each of the various major political parties which have expressed their views. But it does not mean that a party which has lesser representation does not have a say on the floor of the House.

As far as employment guarantee programme is concerned, there is no imagination. Fortunately, I had an opportunity to have a discussion with the hon. Finance Minister at Mumbai. What is the achievement in this field? I discussed with him saying that the Government of India has an Employment Assurance Scheme and it is not guaranteed. The Government of India has a partial guarantee, not a permanent guarantee, that too it provides employment for hundred days in a year. Why should I lay stress on imagination? If providing work is a slogan, then we must be in a position to provide jobs to the skilled and the unskilled workers. In Maharashtra, I had my little contribution in the formation of the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Myself being the Chairman of the Upper House and the Chief Minister Shri Vasant Naik doctored the Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is guaranteed. It has a Budget.

While speaking on the unemployment problem and not the scheme here, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to have the imagination and think on the pattern of Maharashtra by providing employment guarantee at least to the agricultural labourers.

As far as the skilled unemployed is concerned, any scheme which deals with skilled employment such as cottage industries, small-scale industries aside the self-employment generating schemes, should be encouraged and supported. Regarding removal of poverty, there is no mention in the Budget. As far as providing due share to the weaker sections of the nation, particularly the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes etc. is concerned, they have a constitutional safeguard. It is a moral and bounden duty of all of us to provide certain safeguards to them.

As far as the scheme which deals with the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, the Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan, is concerned, I have gone through the performance of both the schemes. The result I find is that a downward growth is there. The performance indicates that the reservation in jobs is decreasing instead of increasing which is a matter of great concern. The plan allocation to the Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan is not in keeping with the proportion of population of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Regarding extension of social services, some of my friends said that malaria and TB had not gone by have created a fatal situation nowadays. So, what is the amount that has been rendered for social security? The Ministry of Social Welfare has allocated, as Plan outlay, a sum of Rs. 13,089 crore for 1997-98. The revised estimates is Rs. 600 crore. It is a scheme under the purview of Ministry of Social Welfare. So, the cut in the Budget of the Ministry of Welfare and Scheduled Castes and Tribes is to the tune of Rs. 7009 crore in one year. It rather indicates the apathy towards the weaker sections of our people.

Regarding reservation policy, for the first time in the history of India since Independence, the then Chairman of Scheduled Castes and Tribes Commission had ultimately submitted a report directly to the President and the Prime Minister of the country. It is a sorry state of affairs that all these reports are kept under cold storage. As a matter of fact, it is a constitutional obligation of this House to discuss this report. I would like to draw your kind attention: knowing your social aspect fully well. Perhaps, you may not be aware of these things. I would request you to look into the matter.

I would like that maximum thrust should be given to agriculture, agriculture being the key and basic industry. It is being neglected. Unfortunately, this must be the first time in the history of the nation since Independence that the present Budget has sought to bring the food processing industry within the purview of taxes. It had never happened. For the first time, it is the reversal of the long-standing policies of the various Governments till today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: I am raising only a few points. And I am a single Member speaking on behalf of the Republican Party of India. You are a thorough gentleman. You will understand me. I will take a few minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to understand.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: I do understand. But you have to regulate the debate. It is one of my job. You are supposed to regulate the debate. It is the job of the Speaker or the Presiding Officer. That does not mean that I will defy your direction.

The food processing industry in the rural sector is hampering and suffering. Probably, there had been along debate on this. You may be kind enough to take back the increase in the price of urea. I hope you will do so. I could read the psychology of your face.

The Report of Gupta Committee of the Reserve Bank of India recommends that the routine approach towards the agricultural sector should be discouraged. Credit flows to the agricultural sector should be doubled. If we believe that agriculture is the key and basic industry, what is wrong in that? You have earmarked a certain amount for funding the farmers who grow paddy.

The disbursement of credit should be simplified. Now, it is a complicated process. The funding should be extended to activities, such as, dairying, poultry, piggery, sericulture, etc.

The agricultural produce should be kept in godowns. And funding for this purpose should be extended to the farmer to the tune of 98 per cent. These are the recommendations of the Gupta Committee constituted by the Reserve Bank of India. In order to avoid distress sale, the storage facilities should be in an area where the agricultural products exist and not in the urban areas. It should be in an area inhabited by the rural people. We have storage facilities in the urban areas. It does small of corruption.

There should be a target to raise the production of foodgrains to the extent of 50 per cent in order to meet any eventuality like growth in population.

Cutting across the party lines, the hon. Members of this House have expressed grave concerns over the present spate of suicidal deaths among the farmers in the country. The Members strongly attacked the Government for its failure to take remedial measures to prevent the recurrence of suicidal deaths of farmers in the country. The statement made by the Prime Minister on 27th of May in reply to Starred Question No. 2 indicates inefficiency on the part of the Government. It was stated that the deaths of farmers were: 236 in Andhra Pradesh, 29 in Karnataka and 51 Maharashtra. These

suicidal deaths occurred as a result of damage to the crops and due to natural calamities. I want to narrate a tragic and befitting story of one Shri Sham Kanare from village 'Dharti'. 'Dharti' means 'earth'. We call: "Dharti ke Lal, dekho unke haaf". He committed suicide. He made a dying declaration stating therein the first cause as failure of the crop. The other cause was that there was no hope to have further cultivation and the third one was: how to have livelihood of his family. There was no other alternative than to force him to commit suicide. This is the dying declaration made by the farmer. That indicates the condition of the farmers in the country.

Taking into consideration and to have imagination, I will request you to have a comprehensive and perspective planning and long-term policy regarding agriculture, agricultural products, funding facilities, irrigation, improved seeds, insecticides, water management, computer management, watershed, underground water and so on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI R. S. GAVAI: I will conclude in a minute. As far as irrigation is concerned, there has been a long-pending scheme suggested by learned persons, like Shri Vishvesvaraya and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, for linking up the northern rivers with the southern rivers to have irrigation and drinking water facilities and also to control the floods. I would like you to come forward with a comprehensive scheme and a long-term policy regarding agriculture and farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI PARASNATH YADAV (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on the budget for 1998-99. I do not rise to oppose the budget but I would like to make a critical analysis and give some suggestions in this regard. The budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance is anti-farmer, anti-poor and directionless. There is nothing new in this budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, budget is presented every year and through it the future course of the country is decided. It also reveals the policy of the Government towards development of the country and solution of nation's problems. Ours is predominantly an agricultural country. Even today 76 percent population depends upon agriculture and 80 percent people live in villages. But unfortunately even after 50 years of independence we could not raise the standard of living of people living in rural areas. It was a common view that overall development of the country cannot be achieved without

[SHRI PARASNATH YADAV]

developing villages. It was a dream to provide food and work for all without which nation cannot develop. Now 50 years after the independence impressive speeches have been made, policies have been formulated, the slogans of poverty alleviation have been raised for economic upliftment of people living below the poverty line but what actually happened not poverty but poor people have been eliminated. I, therefore, criticize this budget.

Hon. Minister of Finance has shown a fiscal deficit of 5.6 per cent in this budget. This will add to the burden of poor as well as rich. In this budget, no attempt has been made to mobilise resources to provide relief to poor and similarly no effort has been done to raise additional revenue from the rich. I criticize this budget because it is against the interest of poor, people living below the poverty line and backward and economically weaker sections.

Hon. Minister of Finance has tried to depict that as amount of allocation has been raised for education and rural development. Rural Development Schemes, whether it is Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Guarantee Scheme or Rural Engineering service but all these schemes have not been able to provide any substantial benefit to the poor. Unless the misuse of funds allocated for rural development is stopped nothing can be done whatever amount you may raise in the budget?

On housing sector, I would like to say that the country cannot make progress unless the corruption in allotment of houses under Indira Awas Yojana or any other housing scheme is stopped. I would like to say that there should be proper utilisation of funds allocated for various schemes so that the problems before the country can be solved and pace of development can be stepped up. The way the funds have been misappropriated in the name of development during the last fifty years of independence. The status of villages and farmers have not changed. On education I would like to say that even today there are 33 crore illiterate persons in the country. This figure would have been doubled had the NGO's not worked in this field. If we go by official data, we will find that our primary and basic education is in shambles. Now days nursery and private schools are being encouraged. We have not been able to provide primary education at governmental level. Even today only 37 per cent of cultivable land is irrigated. Our country is known for its natural resources like rivers, mountains and forests. No scheme has been formulated for converting uncultivable land into cultivable land. During the rule of Samajwadi Party when Mulayam Singh Yadav was Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. I am calling other hon. Member to speak now.

SHRI PARASHNATH YADAV: He organised a 'Bhoomi Sena' for making uncultivable land into cultivable one, so that thereafter it could be given to poor people on lease but now this scheme has been withdrawn. Sir, through you I would like to request the Finance Minister that proper arrangement should be made for irrigation of cultivable land as the farmer depends on it. If it is not irrigated he had to depend on nature and fate. If our irrigation system is not proper our country cannot increase agriculture production. Therefore we cannot become developed, our economy cannot be improved. I request the hon. Finance Minister that education system should be improved and big carpet factory should be opened so that farmers who have small holdings in my constituency i.e. Jaunpur District can get alternate employment as it is a low industry district, and people have to go to farflung places like Mumbai, Calcutta and other places in search of employment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Yashwant Sinha has presented budget for the year 1998-99. Now 11 days have been past since budget is presented. People of this country had high hopes from this budget but they have been disappointed. Difficulties have been faced in the beginning itself. Slogans were raised like 'Abki baari, Atal Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* I am saying that people of this country hold high expectation from him. But on the very first day, the budget of 1998-99 put an additional burden on common man in the form of an increase of the price of petrol by one rupee per litre. Hon. Finance Minister if you worked out the data for the whole country, it comes to Rs. 5000 crore. He is a learned Finance Minister and this is his second budget. He did not get the opportunity to present the first budget and a vote of account has to be taken. This budget of yours put an additional burden of the 5000 crore on common man of the country. Wherever required the finer points of budget will be appreciated. It is, therefore, I feel that you should have few admirers.

"Nindak niyre rakhiye, angan kuti chhavaye"

A number of people will praise you for excellent budget but people of the country have got nothing out of it. The farmers, who play a vital role in economy of the country are aggrieved as you have raised the prices of urea by one rupee.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Are you speaking on budget or giving a speech.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: It is not a speech. I am speaking on budget. He is an hon. Member from Madhya Pradesh and I have great regard for him. He had made several speeches on budget during the regime of our party's government. This is my first speech in BJP regime. I do not want to exaggerate the issue but we are not away from facts. If we taken realistic outlook then we will understand the impact of this budget. Farmers of the country are annoyed by the increase in prices of urea. You have argued that in several countries of the world including USA the use of chemical fertilizers have reduced. We also want to do that but what promise we have made to the people. I would like to submit that while presenting the budget the hon'ble Finance Minister had said that he had taken inspiration from the famous phrase of Gandhiji that of remembering the poorest and weakest. This Budget is based on the spirit of Swadeshi. In the words of enthusiastic Prime Minister - "Lekar hath mein dhwaz, kaun sa dhwaj, yah aap jaane, kabhi nahin jhukega, kadam aage bad raha hein, kabhi nahi rukega." I was glad to hear that. But you have not realised the importance of conducting nuclear tests. The country's borders are not secure, how much provision you have made for these activities. I am not suggesting that no provision should be made for Defence in the Budget but you have ignored the importance of nuclear test to the extent that you have made just 14% of provision for it in the Defence Budget.

Mr. Chairman, the other thing I want to say is about country's population. The allocations made for health programmes are meagre. Today, the population of the country is approximately 100 crores. Your Government is ignoring health and family welfare programmes. If you look into the state of health programmes of the country in this direction.

You will find that not much has been done. In spite of programmes like National Malaria Eradication Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme Malaria is resurfacing. This shows the state of affairs of Health care programmes. It has been said that we will provide education and health care facility to every one by the year 2000. It was endorsed by 112 countries which signed Alma Atta Declaration many years ago. I had also got the opportunity to visit Geneva. I said the population of India is very high. India will not be able to provide this facility. The hon'ble Finance Minister has stated ten main points in para 4 of his Budget speech.

I don't want to go in details of it but I would like to know from the hon'ble Finance Minister would you be able to fulfil these promises. Why you are taking people for a side? People of the country are aware of the facts. You can't befool them. This budget is anti-farmer. You have increased tax on tractor, chemicals and agro equipments. The poor farmer of the country is groaning under it. What type of budget is this? Our economy is totally dependent on farmers. The farmer who has increased the production of food grains from four crore lakh metric ton to twenty crore lakh metric ton. You have overburdened them. Though you have not broken their backbone. If I say so then they will not be able to produce but you have certainly put an additional burden on them.

23.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the allocation for the small scale industries, for agricultural development and other small industries is just Rs. 1016 core. The mid day meal scheme started by Mrs. Gandhi and adopted by several government has been neglected. For this Scheme you have made allocation of Rs. 1092 crore only. There has been no increase in the budgetary allocations for it. We use to say a lot about the relations of Centre and states. Relationship of centre and state should be very good. The amount of grant given to states is increased from Rs. 89300 crore to Rs. 903000 crore. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to highlight this thing because you also belong to Madhya Pradesh and you are aware of the fact that last year, due to excessive rains crops in the area of 222 lakh acres of land were destroyed as a result farmers had to bear the loss of two thousand crore rupees. You, Shri Sahu and all others are aware of the patahetic condition of the farmers of Madhya Pradesh. I had written a number of letters. Though I was not a member of Parliament at that time but then also I wrote number of letters. I have also written many letters after becoming the Member of Parliament. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister has replied that only Rs. 10 crore could be allocated in this financial year. The mere sum of Rs. 10 crore can't compensate the loss of Rs. 2022 crore. It has never happened. I don't want to criticise the government with conservative mind. This is not a time to criticise or appreciate your government. How can you satisfy the farmers of a state with mere sum of Rs. 10 crore in present circumstances? In the current year funds allocated for Madhya Pradesh under emergency and relief fund is Rs. 46 crore. Out of it Rs. 10 crore are allocated for farmers.

[SHRI MOTILAL VORA]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I want to take minute or two extra. They have used words like 'Saral, Samadhan and Samman'. Regarding 'Samadhan' I want to use the words of Hon'ble Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee that it is nowhere near the voluntary disclosure. He said that we have to strike at the roots of black money. After liberalisation and casing out the control regulation if we think that just by getting the freedom of making indepth analysis as to how black money is generated if we think our task is over, it is not so. Hon'ble Finance Minister I do sometimes feel that voluntary disclosure scheme is just making fun of 'honesty'. Shri Vajpayee has said about 'samadhan'. But what will this 'Samadhan' be? The officers, businessmen, big industrialist, millionaire, and billionarie will sit together and take a decision. I am not doubtful about their decision, but people will doubt the decision they have taken collectively. Shri Vajpayee has said that 50 crore people of this country don't know the importance of this budget. Today the population of the country is about 98 crore.s He has said that around 50 crore people of the country are not aware of this fact and we are misguiding the people by this budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1997-98 the allocation of Rs. 9096 crore was made for the Ministry of Rural Development, which provides opportunities for employment. This year, it is reduced to Rs. 8356 crore. I want to say to hon'ble Finance Minister that your budget allocation for this Department is very low as compared to that the previous year. You have done many good works and our Minister for Finance is one of the learned Ministers of this country. I am proud to say that there is no doubt about that. But you should be aware of your advisors the people around you who advise you while preparing the Budget. You are surrounded by so called well wishers. I am not talking about your party. But you should not present an anti-farmer, anti-labourer budget.

Mr. Chairman, sir, 233 cloth mills have been shut down in this country. Whether we want to prove employment opportunity or not is not clear from the Budget. But it appears from this Budget as we are not interested in providing employment opportunities to the youth. This Budget is not a thing to look into What can be achieved by just looking into it. There are many things to be said, but due to lack of time I am concluding my statement. This Budget will lead to price rise. It has overlooked the interests of farmers and it has burdened the common man by levying a 8% excise duty on 10% import of raw material by small enterprises. In reality it is jugglery of the figures.

[English]

It is only a jugglery of accounts. That has been shown in the Budget. Now the hon. Finance Minister will look into all those things because many things are to be told, but the time is not there.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I congratulate hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha on presenting a perfect budget in which the opposition is unable to find any scope of criticism. That's why they are saying that you have prepared Budget with the help of other people.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: That's why I am saying 'Nindak Niyare rakhiye.' You may feel nervous in the presence of appreciators.

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I respect hon'ble Motilal Vora. He is our elder, but when he says that this Budget is anti-farmer or anti-labourer, I do get surprised how an honourable man like him speak like that. This is not based on facts and is not anti-farmer. You have called this budget as anti-farmer just because the hike of 50 paise per kilogram in price of urea. The Congress Party has ruled the country for the past 50 years and our's is agriculture based country. It's soul lies in the villages, but nobody has ever paid attention to the farmers living in these villages. Till now, nobody has ever allocated enough money to console the grief-stricken farmer. In this respect Hon'ble Finance Minister has created a history. He has allocated 58% of te budgetary allocation to agriculture. You are calling him an antifarmers because he has allocated 58% for the agriculture and the people who have not paid any attention to the problems of the farmers for the last 50 years have become their best friends. What will you call this irony?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday, I was listening to the speeches of hon'ble Shri Murl Deora and Shri Bhajan Lal. According to Shri Bhajan lal urea comes in sacks, but the price of it has been raised at the rate of kilograms. But when your government had increased the price of urea upto Rs. 1700 per ton, then you were the friends of farmers and we are the biggest enemies of the farmers because we have increased the rate of urea by Rs. 20 per quintal. We have also increased support price of wheat. Who can be the biggest enemy of farmers than us?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the way the Members of the opposition party are protesting against this path breaking budget it is very difficult to understand whether they are

well wishers or enemies of the farmers. I am not saying it but according to agricultural scientist due to overuse of urea the agricultural land is getting infertile. The proportion of nitrogen, phosphate and potash is getting disturbed. That's why if we want to maintain the fertility of Agriculture land we should reduce the consumption of urea and increase the consumption of nitrogen and potash. While preparing the budget we had kept in mind the advice of agricultural scientist. Therefore, we have reduced the subsidy on urea from Rs. 6600 crore to Rs. 6000 crore. On the other side, subsidy on decontrolled phosphate and potash fertilizers which was a Rs. 2600 crore as per revised targets of 1997-98 it is now increased to Rs. 3000 core.

It means if subsidy on urea is reduced by Rs. 600 crore, then subsidy on phosphate and potash is increased by Rs. 400 crore. They are not mentioning it. The well wishers of the farmers are not making any mention of it, because they want to achieve their own narrow political interest. They are not concerned with the welfare of the farmers that's why this subsidy. ...*(Interruptions)* If I have been elected with the record margin then, certainly I am the well wisher of the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let her speak.

PROF. RITA VERMA: When have we got the opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)* We were listening to you. ...*(Interruptions)* In reality, talks about agricultural development are agonising opposition parties. For the first time so much money has been allocated for Water shed Irrigation. First time credit cards have been issued to farmers. For the first time, somebody has shown so much concern for the farmers. And now opposition is devoid of any issue. They have to say something to the people, that's why they are constantly calling this Budget as anti-farmer. I would just say that the government of farmers had increased the price of urea twice in five years and Shri Basudeb your government or United Front Government which stayed in power for less than two years, had also increased the price of urea. You people are forgetting that, and are calling us anti-farmers. Shri Motilal Vora has called us anti farmer yesterday, Shri Murlidhar Deora was giving the datas on unemployment. But your government has given rise to the causes of unemployment. The new economic policy was started by your government in the year 1991 and after that you have taken many measures which proved anti-labourer. In reality, you people are anti labour. Your policies of last eight years are responsible for steep rise in unemployment. I think, Mr. Basu will agree with me, but now, he is crying that at every place the number of

labourers are reduced and is giving rise to unemployment who has done this? You are responsible for all these. I don't understand what are you crying for. ...*(Interruptions)* Once again, urea. ...*(Interruptions)* Please have patience. You can speak at the time of your turn. ...*(Interruptions)* Don't waste time.

There is another thing which they are not mentioning. According to governments data in Punjab, the rise in price of urea will be at the rate of 50 paise per kilogram as a resultant effect expenditure on production of paddy will increase by Rs. 2.00 per quintal. In West Bengal, it will be Rs. 1.10 per quintal and in Andhra Pradesh it will be Rs. 2.85. But our Agriculture Minister has announced that he will absorb this negligible increase in next year's support price for wheat. It means farmers won't have to bear burden of even single paise. Are we the enemies of farmers? According to opposition little excise duty on the tyre of small tractors will burden the small farmers. In Bihar, I have not seen the single farmer who is poor and is having tractor also. This type of farmer doesn't exist in Bihar. Our former Prime Minister always used to talk about poor farmers. I do not know the poor farmers who are having tractor or trucks. But in Bihar poor farmers are neither having tractors, nor any other kind of vehicle. It is strange that you require industry like facilities but are not ready to pay tax for it. But still I request hon'ble Finance Minister to roll back the 50 paise per quintal increase in price of urea. I would also say that to maintain the quality of land a new package should be introduced for fertilizers so that we can encourage the use of potash and phosphate without any resultant increase in the price of urea.

I request him to formulate a new fertilizers policy because his intentions are good and it must be fulfilled. If they want to create disturbances they can. It's not a big matter. I was listening the speech of hon'ble Shri Chidambaram's. I listened his views on the shortcomings of the Budget. In his words 'no vision, no big ideas, it is a pedestrian Budget.' Now what can be done. We are pedestrian people, and will present pedestrian Budget which will be according to the poor people only. We are standing on ground reality that's why we want to give reply to Shri Chidambaram. We are not visionary like you, we don't move in the world of fantasies and imaginations. But we will follow up what we have said. You had seen big dreams, your Budget was the dream budget, but in the end what you had achieved - Zero.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to read out some excerpts of C.A.G. report, which clearly shows upto what extent they have ruined the economy. The hon'ble Yashwant



[PROF. RITA VERMA]

Sinha has inherited economy in its worst shape and he is trying to improve. We are seeing the ray of hope at the other end. I want to state a few excerpts of C.A.G. report. This report has got the date of 31st March, 1997. According to it more than half of our money goes in debt servicing. We are caught in the internal debt trap.

[English]

it is stated in the 30th CAG report dated 31st March, 1997 as follows:—

“According to the report, as much as 60 per cent of the total disbursement of the Government go towards debt servicing.”

[Translation]

According to CAG in last 5 years, the government's total liability in internal debt alone has rose to one lakh, 45 thousand and 375 crore. Similarly, the Government has to pay debt of one lakh, 2 thousand and 240 crore on account of small saving of provident fund.

As a result of it the allocation of funds for development is becoming less and less every year to become negligible. Revenue expenditure comes to 83.5 percent of the total expenditure. The Capital expenditure meant for development and spent for creating productive assets is just 5.79 percent. Motilalji, it was so during the period your party was in power for so many years. According to CAG report too, the revenue expenditure used to be only 70 percent 10 years ago. It was 70.34 percent of the total expenditure vis-a-vis the capital expenditure of just 13.35 percent which has further been reduced to 5.79 percent. It was the Congress government which has been responsible for the poor state of economy so far.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they had made such a mess of the economy and are now blaming us for it saying how can the pace of development be @ 6.5 percent this year when it was 5 percent during 1997-98? What they mean to say is that none else is capable of achieving what they themselves failed to achieve and that like them we are also incapable to achieve the growth rate of 6.5 percent. The question arises how would so much revenue be generated?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow me some more time to enable me to conclude. ...*(Interruptions)* “Nalayak” (Incompetent) is not “Unparliamentary”. I feel that due to overlooking the inner

and finer aspects of the budget. ...*(Interruptions)* I dare not show disrespect. I cannot do so. I feel that this bogey is being raised ignoring the inner and finer aspects of the budget for political reasons. The truth is that this budget will accelerate the pace of growth of the economy to a great extent. There is no point in supposing that the growth rate of 6.5 per cent cannot be achieved. In this budget emphasis has been laid on agriculture, small-scale industries, manufacturing sector and development of infrastructure. All these tend to promote the growth rate. Previous Governments did not care for improving the economy of the country and instead worked for gaining cheap popularity. In view of the ongoing pressures on the country's revenues in an economy undergoing recession, would it be fair to expect from us i.e. the BJP and its alliance partners, to give account for the last fifty years and to make the country practically roll in luxury immediately after coming to power. Today everyone is demanding rolling back in various fields, withdrawal of taxes and enhancement of allocations for each and every item. How is it possible? In spite of all this, the budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance revives the hopes for improvement of the country's economy in future. Wherefrom the funds are likely to come? As the Minister has said, filing of income tax return is now compulsory even for those people who fulfil any one to the six criteria laid down in this regard. By this the number of such people is likely to increase by 40 to 50 percent i.e. by 1.6 crore.

Concrete measures have been taken for realising both direct and indirect taxes. At present 1.7 lakh cases of direct taxes involving an amount of rs. 40000 crore and 5 lakh cases of indirect taxes involving an amount of Rs. 1200 crore are lying pending. The revenues will largely increase by the disposal of these cases. A target has been fixed to collect 34 percent of total revenue as corporate taxes and 22 percent as income tax on individual income. Rs. 5200 crore are proposed to be collected under the Samadhan Scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would also like to say that all the time it is being repetitively said that Hon. Minister of Finance has not evaluated the nature and extent of impact of the US sanctions on our country's economy. They must be worried about it only because they believe in the philosophy of “Rinam Kritva Ghritam Swadeshi” i.e. borrowing recklessly for enjoying. For the last five to six years they were busy borrowing ceaselessly and enjoying in the process because they knew in their hearts that they were not going to regain power because of which the borrowed money will have to be repaid by another

government which would replace them, that is why they went on borrowing with practically nothing to worry about. They are now really much worried about the likely stoppage of flow of funds in the wake of sanctions. They have no faith whatsoever in the country's industriousness. As I was in America at the time of declaration of sanctions, and I was amused to read in the American newspapers that the American government itself had no idea whatsoever of the likely impact of the sanctions on either India or America, for that matter, with the State Department there groping in the dark all along and they had frankly admitted too that it would take three months before they were able to make an assessment in this regard because never before they had tried imposing sanctions against any country. While in our country it has been the constant lament of some people that we failed to make an assessment. What they want is that we should have started wailing over it in right earnest before even America comes up with an assessment. In case we do not lament that way and have a firm belief in the industriousness of our country, these people will be left with no issue to fight with the government. Their real worry is how will they go about in the next polls in that case, what will they convey to the people, how will they criticise the government?

I am being interrupted repeatedly, therefore, I would like to confine myself to just making a very important point here, that irrespective of what all the previous governments have done so far by way of resorting to knocking every foreign doors with the begging bowl in hand in order to invite foreign capital in the name of development, the official figures themselves testify to the fact that after introduction of the economic liberalisation since 1991, foreign direct investment has been even less than two percent of the total capital investment. That leads to the conclusion that even during the phase of economic liberalisation, development in the country has taken place through internal resources only. Then what is it to be afraid of?

I would like to make just one more point and thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for the relief he has provided in the budget to sectors like Steel, Coal and Power - all of which have been so assiduously set up in the country - and enhancements he has made in investments and allocations for infrastructure, thereby breathing a new life into the country's hopeless state of economy.

I would like to make one or two suggestions to the Finance Minister. As pointed out by me earlier a fresh packaging is needed for fertilizer prices. Telephone should

be excluded from the six criteria laid down by him for filing of income tax return as telephone today has become quite an essential item for the lower middle class. Instead, if the cellular and pager are covered under that criteria. ... (Interruptions) PAN should not be made compulsory for opening of a bank account. Our children studying in hostels, would get their income tax number from where? There must be a very large number of people in our country who might be earning meagre amounts of money but they do open their bank accounts, and then, of course, there are housewives like me who used to save money from their household expenditure without their husbands' knowledge, how would such segments of society handle their income tax accounts? In order to encourage them it is desirable that allotment of income tax account number should not be made compulsory in their case.

A number of new fraudulent companies like Helius company in Bihar, J.V.C. and other non-investment companies have entered the capital market. Such non-investment companies should be investigated strictly.

With these words, I wholeheartedly congratulate him for presenting such a fine budget.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISHMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Hon. Chairman, Union Finance Minister and learned Members of this House, I am really thankful to the hon. Chairman for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget for 1998-99.

I am extremely sorry to share before all of you the multi-faceted tragedies, particularly the socio-economic tragedies of the down-trodden Bodo people other tribals as well as many cross-sections within the proposed Bodoland. Today, I cannot find precise language to describe before you all of the degree and seriousness of our tragedy and the way we people have been suffering ever since the time of independence in very many areas and spheres of life.

23.29 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA in the Chair]

I have seen the Budget that has been tabled by the hon. Union Finance Minister in this august House. What measures have been taken in this Budget, particularly for the well-being, protection and development of the tribals and Scheduled Castes of the entire country? Adequate amount of money has been earmarked for the welfare and development of the tribals and other down trodden

[SHRI S.K. BISHMUTHIARY]

people because of the non-friendly fiscal policies for the tribal people and Scheduled Castes adopted by all the successive Governments since the time of our Independence.

These people could not develop. That is raw these vulnerable groups of people in the country became victims of a lot of unwarranted tragedies.

I do not like to prolong my speech. But I would like to mention certain points which are very important for our people. In regard to backwardness of Bodoland I would like to mention certain things specifically. Our Bodoland has been deprived of even the base minimum basic needs, like safe drinking water, health and medical services, electricity, irrigation etc. There is inadequate infrastructure for electrification. There is no irrigation system, no housing facilities for the downtrodden people, no well-established college, not a single medical college, not a single engineering college, not a single university within the proposed Bodoland. All universities are located out side Bodoland Territory and on the southern bank of the River Brahmaputra. All medical colleges, all engineering colleges, all airports and all sorts of other infrastructure are also located only in the non-tribal dominated areas.

Our Bodoland, it is very fertile. During this long period of 50 years, we have been discriminated against in many fields, we have been exploited and neglected in many ways. That is why, we had been compelled to launch a vigorous movement a few decades back to achieve separate State of Bodoland? Whenever we are given separate State land, we can claim that our Bodoland State will become the Punjab and Haryana in the field of agriculture and development. The North-East. ...*(Interruptions)* I therefore would like to appeal to the Government of India through this august House to take up the Bodoland issue very seriously, with great sincerity and to take a very clear-cut decision to create a separate State of Bodoland without any further delay. Otherwise, you can never rescue our people from the ongoing danger and prevent the race from extinction.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India through the hon. Chairman and through the Union Minister of Finance to set up a Central university within the Bodoland area, to set up a Central agricultural university, to set up a medical college, to set up an engineering college, to set up a technological institute and a computer science centre.

I would also like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to bifurcate the existing National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation. There should be a separate National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also has to be bifurcated. There should be a separate National Scheduled Tribes Commission. At the same time, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to set up a separate Ministry for Tribal Affairs to look after development, welfare and security of the tribals. Certain powers of the Home Ministry should be handed over to the new Ministry. These things have to be done by the Government of India immediately.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India to have a clear-cut, positive and meaningful dialogue with all the major militant sections of the North-East. Otherwise the Government cannot bring permanent peace and stability in the region, and funds allocated by the Government also cannot be put to use. We all know that the Government of India has already announced a special economic package, amounting to Rs. 6100 crore for the North-Eastern region. How can the Government expect all round development of that area, if peace, stability and normally do not come back to that area? I, therefore, would again like to request the Government of India to announce a very specific and special economic package for the North-Eastern region and rescind the burning problem of the region politically so that we can convince our estranged militant sections to come overboard and to join the national mainstream.

I would like to appeal to the hon. Union Finance Minister to authorise the CBI to inquire into a very serious crime committed by a fake financial company, by the name Favourite Small Investment Company. It is Calcutta-based company. It had collected several crores of rupees from the Bodo tribal people from Bodoland area. Those who had deposited their money with this company, could not get back their deposits. It is a very serious crime. That crime has to be investigated.

Over and above, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to induct all the North-Eastern Members of Parliament in the North-Eastern Council. Perhaps, a Bill is coming up in this regard very shortly, to induct only the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern region. All the Members of Parliament from the North-Eastern region have to be inducted in the North-Eastern Council.

I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister, not to implement any sort of disinvestment policy on Bongaigaon Refinery and petrochemicals Limited (BRPL). The previous Government wanted to apply the disinvestment policy on that refinery which is located within Bodoland. We strongly objected to this idea. I would again like to request the Government of India not to allow the Assam Government to lease out BTPS, Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (BTPS) which is located at Salahati. The BTPS has been set up on the tribal land. Now, the Assam Government is trying to lease it out to an American company. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is enough. You have already spoken for 13 minutes.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISHMUTHIARY: With these few words, I would like to reiterate my first point, that is the Government of India should immediately take a concrete policy decision to create a separate State of Bodoland for the well being and protection of the Bodo people in the best interest of the nation as well as to ensure the security and integrity of the entire country. With these words, I conclude my speech.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to lay your speech, it is alright. You may lay your speech. First allow him to lay his speech afterwards you may do so after getting up.

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA: (Sitapur): I lay my speech.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL (Bettiah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget for the year 1998-99 presented by the hon. Minister of Finance Shri Yashwant Sinha on 1st June, 1998 in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Prime Minister for giving the charge of Ministry of Finance to modern Kautilya, Shri Yashwant Sinha, hailing from Bihar the place which was the seat of learning in ancient India having Nalanda University established there and following Kautilya's great policy on economy. I would like to discuss the first achievement of the Budget. It is for the first time that we observe a Swadeshi taxture from the budget. For the purpose of agricultural development 58 percent amount has been increased; irrigation, which was, so far being neglected has been given adequate importance. Adequate provision has been made for agriculture and rural development. It

is noteworthy that Credit cards are proposed to be issued to farmers through NABARD, banks would provide loans to the farmers according to the land they acquire it has also been made clear that more than double of the interest on loan would be waived off. In the field of education, 50 percent amount has been increased, and I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Minister of Finance for this. I would also like to thank him for making a commitment to utilise six percent of GDP in the field of education, particularly providing free education to women upto graduation level. The Budget also promises to protect the interests of domestic companies and also maintaining the international competition through it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to mention an issue you pointed out during your speech. Rajan Pillai, the owner of Britannia biscuit company lived in Singapore. A legal case was lodged against him and he was to be penalised. He escaped to India and here he was arrested. Unfortunately, he died in the jail due to some ailment. I would like to submit that the non-banking companies in the country are cheating the poor people. I would not like to mention the name of companies, however, I would like to mention a particular case. A relative of a former Union Minister hailing from Bihar happened to be the Managing Director cum Chairman of JVG. He assured the people at large in Bihar to double their amount within a period of twenty five months. I am not aware of any method or a trade through which the amount can be doubled within a period of just two years. In this manner he grabbed about Rs. 20,000/- crore from the poor people in Bihar. There should be a strict law to give capital punishment to offenders who commit economic offences. I would urge the hon. Minister of Finance to enact laws to give capital punishment to such share holders, non-banking companies etc. I would like to repeat the point you have already raised. Telephone is a necessity these days.

There should be a provision under which the telephone subscribers paying a bill upto Rs. 500/- or Rs. 100/- should be exempted from paying income tax. The case of telephone subscribers paying bills up to Rs. 10,000/- or Rs. 20,000/- is something different. The Members have also been exempted from paying telephone bill up to one lakh rupees. After the Budget was presented in the House, I had a chance to attend meeting of Income Tax payers' Association. The members of the Association unanimously applauded your proposal. I am also grateful to you. I would also like to submit that the rules and regulations regarding the income tax should be imposed

[DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL]

in relation to the prevailing inflation rate. Once there had been a recommendation that the Government employees should be paid salaries in accordance to the current inflation rate. In view of the increasing inflation rate, the income tax limit has been increased from forty thousand rupees to fifty thousand rupees. There is no striking difference in it. The salaries of the Government employees have increased after the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. Therefore, the income tax limit should be fixed in view of the increasing prices and the rate of inflation. People should sincerely pay income tax. However, there are some people who evade tax, but all are not alike. You have made a provision to 'reward' the honest tax payers, and I am grateful to you for this. Similar provision was there during the British rule. Sincere tax payers must be well rewarded. Therefore, I express gratitude on behalf of all the income tax payers.

Last year, we had earmarked an amount of about Rs. 36099/- crore for defence purpose, which has now been increased to Rs. 41200/- crore. Keeping in view our need to buy the sophisticated tanks, aircraft carrier warships from other countries, the allocation is not adequate. Would the nominal increase in amount fulfil the requirements of our forces under the current rate of inflation? As per the prevailing inflation rate, the amount which was worth ten thousand million dollars is now worth nine and a half thousand million dollars. Therefore, I would urge the hon. Minister of Finance to make adequate provision for the modification in our armed forces.

Railway is an important medium of transport. Adequate funds should be allocated to build new railway lines.

Yesterday, Shri Murli Deora was speaking. He referred to a number of news items and articles published in a number of newspapers. He mentioned many instances about the hon. Minister of Finance quoted in the newspapers. As you know, some newspapers are totally anti BJP and thus condemn their every activity. He referred to such newspapers, and not those which appreciated the Budget. I would like to mention some of the newspapers which have appreciated us. I have with me *The Economic Times* dated 5.6.98.

[English]

Madam, I quote: "A fine balancing act by Sinha", says DSP Merrill Lynch. I quote from *The Economic Times* dated 5.6.1998: "Income Tax Act reworked to curb misuse." This is again from the same paper, "Kar

Samadhan Scheme to rake in more than VDIS". It will bring more money to the Government than the VDIS. I am quoting from *The Hindu*. It says, "Move to accord priority to rural development hailed by everybody" and "Samadhan aims to garner Rs. 5,200 crore". *The Economic Times* says, "Customs & Excise Dispute Settlement Body set up". This will increase the tax structure. "Insurance open-up leap for health care". It is useful for the medical profession. I belong to the Medical profession.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a number of health schemes have been introduced under Life Insurance Policy, it is a commendable step. Myself being in the medical profession, I would urge the hon. Minister of Finance to make a substantial increase in the 1.9 percentage of GDP. Education and good health of people are most essential in our country. Medical aid is as much important as industry, roads and other basic requirements. A number of diseases have added to the list. Besides, malaria, which was totally eradicated earlier when I was in Medical profession, has spread again. Cases of ADIS affected persons and other diseases are also on the increase. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance to certainly enhance the GDP.

In the end, I support the Budget and conclude my speech.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister in the House.

Sir, I thought that a package on the lines of the one provided to the eastern states would also be granted to Himachal Pradesh the reason being that the same party is ruling the state as well as the Centre. A large amount of the funds of Himachal Government has been diverted towards the Centre be it in the power sector or otherwise which should be reimbursed to the State Government. The amount earmarked for the projects of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh has not been given to state as yet. Under the provisions of the Punjab and Haryana Reorganisation Act we should have been given the royalty for producing power but it is not so. The case is sub-judice in the Supreme Court but the Government says that they will provide from the Central Fund. The funds should be released because at present your party is in power there.

I am happy to note that the State of Punjab has been granted an assistance of Rs. 8000 crore and some assistance is also being granted to Kashmir but you hardly care for a peaceful state. The Government should pay special attention to the development of this state.

Sir, turning towards agriculture, I would like to say that fruit cultivation is the major source of agricultural production in Himachal Pradesh but no support price is declared for that whereas it is done in case of other commodities. In Maharashtra, support price is declared for onion. Let me inform the House that Himachal Pradesh checks the flow of water and Soil erosion. Given the trend of rainfall in Sikkim, if Himachal follows the suit, the states of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh may experience floods. Therefore, all the power projects should be sanctioned keeping these facts in view. If rainfall results in soil erosion, it will give rise to the problem of sitting and the life of dams will be reduced. There is a 1500 megawatt power project in the state called as Nagapa-Jakhar project which is the biggest project for the country. The work on the project has been completed upto 90 percent. The funds granted by the World bank for the project had a low interest rate which has inflated now because of the devaluation of rupee. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to grant more and more funds for the projects of the State. Himachal Pradesh generates 20,000 MW of power through hydro-electric power generation is cheaper. Therefore, the Government should pay attention to it so that our nation is on its path to progress.

On the industrial front, I would like to say that people from Haryana come to the state for setting up industries and avail loans from the Governments of both the States without doing anything. An inquiry should be conducted to examine such people. Some people do not set up any industry after getting the money from the banks and they are advanced more and more loans. A probe should be conducted against such people and stringent action taken against them.

Likewise the Government should contemplate the ways of extracting tax from the tax payers against whom crores of rupees of tax is outstanding. On the other hand the Government is widening the tax base. The Government takes no action against the industrialists and others for realising tax dues. The Government should take steps in this direction.

Besides, the Government has increased the price of petrol by one rupee and intends to divert the enhanced amount to the development of national highways. Why

does not the Government encourage the petrol pumps to donate money for the purpose so as to check black marketing and extend facilities to the people. That way, the people will dissociate taking undue advantage.

24.00 hrs.

The Government has opened the licences for the flour mills and sugar cane mills. Why can't it do so in case of petrol pumps? Tax should be collected from the petrol pumps and diverted to public welfare.

The Government has made efforts in the direction of providing employment to the unemployed. It should fulfill all its commitments made to the farmers, the army men and others so that the country can progress. Just now, a friend of mine said that this was made possible by the Congress rule. Is it still so due to the Congress? Bhakhra and other dams were constructed during congress regime with the help of the toiling sweat of the Indians. Our population is touching the mark of a hundred crore and no progress is possible unless population control measures are taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

All the scams take place in your camp and not in ours ...*(Interruptions)* Why should we raise issues if the Government is going in the right direction? We have ruled India for so many years and you are projecting yourselves as heroes of India within this short span. ...*(Interruptions)*

There are more active chances of corruption when the ruling elite is a conglomeration of 10-20 parties and there are less chances if it is only one party. You are talking tall of your efforts for the development of the country as if we have done nothing. This is not in the fitness of things. I would like to urge upon all my colleagues that we should hold our tongues and listen patiently to others if we want the country to progress. It is good to hear that the MPs local area Fund is going to be raised from Rs. one crore to Rs. two crore. With these words, I conclude.

00.04 hrs. (12.6.98)

[English]

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore): *Sarva Sakthi Padaitha Bharatha Annaiyin Punitha Pathangalukku En Vanakkathai Therivithu Kolkiren:*

Respected Madam, through you, I thank the people of my constituency Coimbatore who, in spite of the fraudulent act of DMK and ISI-sponsored friends, elected me to this august House. I salute those 60 Hindus, the school going children, men and women who have been blown into pieces on that fateful 14th February, 1998.

[SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN ]

I congratulate our Finance Minister for having presented the best Budget of the post-Independence period. Today, morning when I was going in the autorickshaw, I asked the driver about what he felt about the Budget. By seeing my *dhoti* and shawl, he thought that I was a friend of Shri P. Chidambaram and I was from his party.

He said very clearly that it is a good Budget. I asked him how. He told me "Your man Shri P. Chidambaram has said that this Budget has no vision." His vision is always for helping the multinationals and the big houses. He has no vision for the poor. So, Shri P. Chidambaram has said that this Budget has no vision. But definitely it must be a good Budget as far as poor people are concerned.

So, I congratulate our Finance Minister for presenting a poor man's Budget and for caring for the agriculturists. For the first time after Independence, the Plan allocation for agriculture has been increased by 58 per cent, from Rs. 1,807 crore to Rs. 2,854 crore. This is a great achievement and I appreciate his bold step on removing the export curbs on farm sector. This is a big boost to agriculturists. Agriculturists are committing suicide mostly because they are not getting remunerative price which is equal to the imports they are making. Their hard labour never gave good results for them. You have given a very good chance to the farmers for getting a better price through exports. I congratulate you on your bold steps.

You have increased the capital of NABARD by another Rs. 500 crore and Rs. 3,000 crore is with NABARD for its rural infrastructure development plan. So, NABARD Credit Scheme is more mass-based as well as more popular among rural people. Innovative steps like Kisan Credit Card System and crop insurance would help the farming community which had suffered due to the successive crop failures and mounting indebtedness. The farmers can learn more financial discipline once they are habituated to use the Credit Card System. I appreciate you for this new invention. This will release the farmers slowly from the clutches of private blood-sucking moneylenders. I appreciate you for safeguarding the farmers.

The second myth that BJP is pro-capitalist and pro-industrial houses, is broken into pieces. By this measure, you have given lot of hope that there is a new Government emerging in the Centre in New Delhi which

cares for the small and self-made indigenous entrepreneurs.

I thank you for increasing the excise duty exemption for small scale industry up to Rs. 50 lakh and you have saved the indigenous industries like paper and steel by increasing the Customs duty by 10 per cent for the paper industry and 5 per cent for the cold rolled steel. As a proof of the fact that BJP is upholding its commitments, it is mentioned in the National Agenda that there will be no village in Hindustan without potable water in another five years. You have allocated Rs. 1,627 crore for rural water supply, a 25 per cent increase. It will create a new situation in India and there will be no need for womenfolk of the rural areas to walk kilometres together to fetch a pot of water. This is what in Tamil we used to say that we will do what we have said and we will say only what we can do. We are always for fulfilling our commitments.

The price of urea has been increased by the Congress Government and the subsequent United Front Government. In 1991, it was only Rs. 2,350/- per tonne, but just before United Front Government came to power, the price was increased to Rs. 3,664/-. The price of the most essential requirement of the farmer, fertiliser, is increased by only one rupee and even then, the Opposition is raising a hue and cry over that.

Whatever opposition is there in the House against BJP, that is not going to help them in any way. People will never think that BJP is an anti-farmer party.

Since there are a lot of measures which you have taken for the farmers, you have proved, after Shri Charan Singh, that this Budget is the best pro-agriculture Budget of free India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: This is my maiden speech. You have to give me another five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 15 more Members to speak. Please conclude.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: I thank the Finance Minister for allocating Rs. 7047 crore to education. It is a right step towards achieving the goal of six per cent GDP in respect of education. For the first time, the Man Making Mission gets its priority attention. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. All right, you get one more minute.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: I welcome the National Reconstruction Corps. Mr. Minister, as you have rightly quoted Swami Vivekananda in your Budget speech, the right thinking youth force will be fully utilised in reconstructing the nation. Through you, Madam, I assure the hon. Prime Minister that the entire patriotic youth saffron brigade will be at his command in rebuilding a strong Hindustan. Hon. Finance Minister, Sir, I welcome your new move - the Technology Mission on Cotton.

I strongly believe that with cotton only we can repay all our foreign borrowings. With your high vision, you have launched the Technology Mission on Cotton. I welcome it.

Madam, there are three more pages. With your permission I hand over by tabling them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister. I want to say that Tamil Nadu is not at all away from the mainland. The Tamils are Hindus. Shri Murasoli Maran has once said that he is a Tamil born and not a Hindu born one. The Tamils are Hindus. Their contribution to Hindism is very high. All the Alvars, the Nayanmars and Thiruvalluvar contributed much to Hinduism. We were never away from the mainland.

With your permission, I lay on the Table the following matter:

The allocation for the Department of Atomic Energy has been raised by 68 per cent. It has been increased from Rs. 828 crore to Rs. 1391 crore. The Department of Space will also get 62 per cent more - from Rs. 850 crore to Rs. 1381 crore.

On the 11th and 13th May, India tested nuclear devices in Pokhran which is referred to as Pokhran-II. Some of my friends sitting on the other side of the House criticised this noble Government that a war atmosphere is created and Bharat is becoming aggressive.

Here, I want to caution my friends sitting on the opposite side that India has never invaded any country so far. This fact has been appreciated by the great scholar Megasthenis also. Do you want to degrade the name of a nation which has got the highest credit in the world for not invading any country? India has never exhibited aggression against any country so far. On the contrary, this holy Bharat had been invaded by so many people. One among them was your most favourite invader Babar.

This Government is determined to protect the sovereignty of this country. In order to do that, this country has exploded the nuclear devices.

I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for having allocated an increased amount to the Department of Atomic Energy and Space. This has encouraged the scientists of this country to go ahead with further research and development. Our country is always ahead of our enemies as far as the security aspects of this country are concerned.

After showering praises on the Finance Minister, I now make a genuine request to the hon. Finance Minister to do certain things. I would kindly request him to reduce the price of urea to zero level. He is aware of the problems of our *kisans* than anybody else sitting opposite. I have seen and read so many Uttar Bharat leaders who always make a loud cry in espousing the cause of *kisans* when they are not in power. But once they are in power, they show their concern only through their speeches. They are more money minded and they forget the farmers. They call themselves as *kisan* leaders and Yadav leaders. They took the money, allocated by the Government for cattle feed, for themselves. Even Kamaa had not done this type of a sin. For such a Bihar, Mr. Minister, you have taken care of the *kisans*.

I would further like to request the hon. Minister that excise duty on spices, ghee and rubberised coir mattress should be removed. Though Kerala has not elected any Member of Parliament belonging to the BSP on behalf of it, I request you to lift the excise duty on rubberised coir mattress because coconut husk fibre is the bread winning tool for many of the poor people of Kerala.

Sir, our Finance Minister has taken every care of the poor *kisans*, the middle class people, the NRIs, the SSI units of this country, the domestic industrial growth and liberalised imports wherever necessary especially on the capital goods for further modernisation.

With this I thank all of you for giving this opportunity to me and hearing me patiently.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki): Madam, I thank the hon. Finance Minister for his patience. Through out the midnight, he is very patiently listening to all the Members. I hope when he is replying to this debate, he will give proper attention to at least some of the thoughts expressed by the Members. In that light, I would like to make some brief suggestions.



[SHRI P.C. CHACKO]

I am afraid whether I will be able to complete my speech within the time. Merely because it is presented by a Finance Minister of BJP, I do not think that it is my political responsibility or duty to oppose this Budget. Shri Yashwant Sinha is a very respected friend and I always regard him as a very senior, seasoned politician. I really went to support this Budget. But I have been asking my conscience whether, without any political bias, I can support this Budget. When sitting very late and listening to the debates - of course, the level of discussion has gone down - I am afraid whether I can dwell on a subject like this.

I was expecting one thing from him. Because of his experience and acumen, I was thinking that the backdrop of this Budget, which this country is expecting from him, is declining industrial production and probably there is the slow down of the GDP. The industrial growth is 4.2 per cent and the agricultural growth rate is 3.7 per cent for which you are not responsible, your Government is not responsible. This slow down of the GDP is one major problem for which this country was expecting an answer from your Budget. The export growth which is a mere 2.6 per cent is a distressing figure. For this, this country was expecting an answer from your Government.

If you take into consideration the last five years, you may find that the smallest number of public issues and the rights issues have come up in the primary market during the last five months. That shows the sentiments of the market and the Government's fiscal situation is going from bad to worse. This kind of a scenario is the backdrop of this Budget. Honestly-speaking, above all political considerations, this was the scenario for which this country was expecting an answer through your Budget. I have to say with great reluctance that we could not get an answer or we could not get a guidance from your Budget for these worries and problems of the Indian economy. I hope corrective measures will be announced for this at least to boost the market sentiments. You can still introduce some measures in a limited way to boost the economy.

India stands isolated in the world community. Whatever one may say, after the Pokhran, whatever may be the claim from various political angles, India stands totally isolated in the world community today. I am afraid this Budget may take us to an economic isolation. I am sure you are to reflect the political ideology of the party which you represent. I know Shri Yashwant Sinha for many years as a person, and I can appreciate you. As a representative of the party, you are bound to reflect the ideology of the party which you are representing. I

see, at one time, a stamp of Swadeshi, that is, eight per cent duty which you have imposed uniformly on all imports. How is it going to affect? I do not want to take much time of the House. But we sincerely expect an answer from you for what Shri Chidambaram was explaining today.

You have presented the Economic Survey before the House and according to that Survey, 31 per cent is the import duty collection rate in 1996-97. If any industry is not getting protection when there is 31 per cent import duty collection, then can we be competitive? When you are giving protection, we are happy. But you are making Indian industry uncompetitive in the world. We are living in a world where communications, science and development are making the world into a small village. So, we will have to be competitive. From 1991 onwards, there had been a constant attempt - one may or may not share that perception - to make the Indian industry competitive, whether it is small scale or medium scale or large scale industry. Indian industry should be able to survive in the world competition. Are we making the Indian industry competitive? Over and above all protection, the Indian industry is enjoying 8 per cent duty now. I can understand the BJP slogan and I can appreciate that but at the same time, when you are building a big wall, a protectionist wall around the Indian business men, it is going to be counter-productive? I am sure that you will definitely apply your mind on this question. Many people will be happy about it. I have gone through the post-Budget analysis very carefully. A slogan caught my attention. I want to present it for the benefit of this House. A very interesting headline was given by a very famous newspaper. The good news about this Budget is that there is no bad news and the bad news about this Budget is that there is no good news. When you are presenting a Budget, we expect that it comes with your personality and your ability. I am afraid that this Budget, with the 8 per cent protection which you have given to the Indian industry, is going to be counter-productive.

I want to make one point on the public sector. From 1991 onwards, there had been disinvestment, whether one calls it privatisation or disinvestment. Disinvestment was the policy of the Government or the party which was running the Government in which I was also a Member.

I endorse the view that privatisation or to an extent the dilution is necessary. But you have made a very sweeping announcement in the Budget that wherever it is non-strategic sector, the Government holding will be limited to 26 per cent. You know very well-better than

me - that 67 per cent of the capital and 85 per cent of the people employed are in the non-strategic sector. What does it mean? The Indian public sector was built over a period of time with the people's money and with the commitment of the successive Governments. Eighty-five per cent people are employed in that sector and 67 per cent of the capital employed in that sector are in non-strategic sector.

You have made an announcement that Government will hold only 26 per cent. It is as good as liquidating the public sector in this country. The Mumbai Club people may be happy but not at the cost of the public sector in the country. I feel that wherever dilution is necessary, wherever selling of the shares to the Indian public is necessary, as a matter of policy, I do not find much difference between Shri Manmohan Singh's Budget or Shri P. Chidambaram's Budget or your Budget because the basic thrust is the same. The basic approach may be the same. But when you take a decision, how is it going to affect the public sector industry in this country? How is the South-East Asian economy reaching the crisis? We know about that. We should not go to that debt-trap. But that kind of situation should not happen to India. So, we have to be extremely cautious and careful.

Are we going to liquidate at one stroke what we have built up over a period of time? I would like you to rethink on that. As I told you, I would like to support the Budget. But I hope you will give us answers to three or four question while you reply.

You, at least, consider that the weakness of this Budget is the GDP, which is calculated on the basis of fiscal deficit which is going to be much more than that. That apprehension was expressed by many hon. Members in this House. The facts and figures are with you. You can definitely convince us that it is otherwise.

The inflation is one factor. The deficit is going to be much more than what is predicted. Both by inflation and by the deficit itself, the GDP rate is going to be far below your expectations.

Another fear is that the increase in fuel prices which is going to have a multiplier effect. When we oppose that, may be somebody may say; why are you opposing it? In the past, they have increased the taxes. One rupee per litre of petrol is not the only amount which is collected on this. It would have a multiplier effect. It is definitely going to be inflationary. In that kind of situation, the cost of living index will go up. Inflation will go up. Some people said, it is eight per cent. Some people said, it is ten per

cent. I will consider that Shri Yashwant Sinha is lucky if it is going to remain at ten per cent. But this definitely is going to contribute greatly to this inflationary pressure.

The capital expenditure as a percentage of GDP declined to 3.6 per cent from 3.8 per cent in the year 1996-97 despite all kinds of investments. We have made further allocations. Sectorwise allocations have been increased. We have made so many claims. The figures speak for themselves. It is very clear that capital expenditure as a percentage of GDP has declined from 3.81 per cent to 3.6 per cent. You have presented it before the House in the *Economic Survey*.

Regarding borrowings of the Government of India, I am not putting any blame on this Government. Nobody may think it like that. But the fact is that borrowings of the Government through securities will rise to 59.2 per cent to a huge Rs. 707 billion. That is going to the Government debts. So, when debt servicing and other things are being discussed, somebody was blaming the Congress Party. But what is going to be the ultimate result? There is not enough attention to export growth. You know our export growth was only 2.4 per cent.

I know, my time is running out. I have given to you representations before the Budget also, as usual as people's representative, on many issues. When raw material is imported, when semi-finished goods are imported, when finished goods are imported, it is always a practice that the Government applies a different tariff rates. In this country, many import substitution industries are coming up in the small-scale sector. I have brought one such industry to your notice. You were kind enough to listen to that and reduce the import duty on that. You are giving with one hand and taking away with another hand when you are applying your eight per cent duty. You are reducing duty from 15 per cent to five per cent - maybe eight. When you are applying another eight per cent, what you have sanctioned to them, is taken away by the other hand.

I come from a State where industry is practically nil or minimum. Copper is in short supply in India and it is being imported. The Minister has to consider its and use also. The hon. Minister wants the Budget to be a farmer-friendly Budget. Copper is used for making pesticides also, which are used by the farmers. So, I would request him to take into consideration the end use of copper which is imported. The Government has decided that the import duty will not apply to it. For the manufacture of Copper-Sulphate, copper rings are used. So, copper also should be exempted from the import duty. The hon.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO]

Minister has proposed that when the agricultural residue is used for making goods, it will be exempted from duty. One such agricultural residue is coir fibre. I come from Kerala where lakhs and lakhs of workers, mainly women, work in the coir industry. By mixing coir and latex we make fibre rope. But it just cannot stand the burden of this 8 per cent duty. PUF is imported at a considerably high rate of tax. PUF is now encroaching into rubber. We in Kerala grow 99 per cent of the rubber in the country. Both rubber and latex are giving employment to a number of people and thus are helping the economy of our country. In the fibre from we cannot sustain tax. Many other raw materials which are imported cannot sustain the 8 per cent duty imposed in the Budget.

The hon. Minister must have received representations from us listing out a number of points. Our humble request is to correct the mistakes and make this Budget as acceptable as possible. It is a fact that we do not want the present Government to go tomorrow. This country needs a stable Government whether it is a minority or a majority Government. So, any step that the Government takes should be acceptable to the people of this country. I know that the Minister has the wisdom to make this Budget acceptable to most people of this country. With these words I conclude. Thank you.

[Translation]

\*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur): Madam Chairman, I am in the opposition for the last 24 year. All these years I used to oppose the budget. Of course, I have always whole heartedly praised good work. I have opposed and argued against injustice. Now I am sitting in the treasury bench and this is the 25th year of my political career. I have the opportunity to welcome and support the Budget.

The Budget for the year 1998-99 has given a new direction and a new life to the plans and programmes of our country.

The Budget has tried to enable the common man self reliant. IT has inspired and enthuse the people of our country there is sufficient encouragement for savings. It has stressed the importacne of hard work. It has reflected that dedication and sacrifice are very essential for building a modern and progressive India.

Poverty is rampant in our country. Ignorance is also rampant in the country and this has to be wiped out. Spreading of knowledge is the need of the hour. There is an urgent need for the Government to accelerate the

administration. The funds which are meant for the people should reach them. There should not be any leakage. There is laxity among administrators. This has to be rectified immediately by the new Government. In my opinion the required change has not taken place in the attitude of administrator and other officials. I am making this statement on the basis of my experience for the last two months. The officials like Sub-Inspectors of Police, Revenue Inspectors or District Officers and others have to be sympathetic and cooperative with the common people.

The scene in the rural area is really pathetic. There are no schools and roads. Villagers cannot dream of television and telephones. It is these poor people who pay for the country. They pay tax on so many commodities like beedi, cigarette, medicine etc. We utilise these funds for all the developmental activities. We are fortunate to receive good education. Many of us have become Parliamentarians. We have the power and at the same time who should not forget to help these common people at all levels. There is a number of Central Schools, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas throughout the country. Many of these schools particularly in my state, Kamataka, are not functioning properly. Teachers have not been appointed in the existing vacancies. Other facilities like laboratories, playing grounds, etc. are also not available in these schools.

The Hon. Minister has presented a well balanced budget for the year 1998-99. It is the budget of the common people. The opposition parties should not indulge in criticising the budget for the sake of opposing. They have to give constructive suggestion to the Government. In fact, my suggestion to them is to prepare an unofficial budget and compare it with the Budget of the Government. Also it is very essential to inform the people about all these events such that they can appreciate the plus points of the Budget. Such a Budget has not been prepared by the opposition this year. I request them to prepare an unofficial budget at least next year.

The urea price has been increased by 50 paise per kilogram. I request the Hon. Minister not to increase the tax on urea. In fact, I strongly feel that there should not be any tax on urea. I am also a farmer. The use of excess urea affects the fertility of the agricultural land. I have stopped using urea to my land four years ago. We store the manure and use it to the crops according to their requirements. We get very good crop by using manure. We can also retain the fertility of the soil by using manure instead of using excess fertilizers.

It is wrong to presume that only rich people use petrol for their vehicles. Common people and farmers also use petrol for their vehicles like motorbike, scooter, TVS and other mopeds. The price of the petrol has been increased by Re 1/- per litre. I request the Hon. Minister not to increase the price of petrol as it is very essential for the common people also.

My constituency Tumkur is popular for the production of coconuts. Recently the Government has fixed the price for copra. The price that the Government has fixed is not at all remunerative. Cost of cultivation has increased by several times. I have calculated all these details. Therefore, I urge upon the Hon. Minister to fix the price of copra at Rs. 5500/- per quintal and the price of coconuts at Rs. 4,000/-. These prices would be remunerative and the farmers can get some profit. The ripe coconuts have to be kept in godowns for more than nine months. Then only the nuts can become copra. It is a tedious work. They should get something in return for their hard work. I hope the Hon. Minister would fix the support price as suggested above by me.

The agriculturists face many problems. First of all there is no sufficient rain. Sometimes the wires in the motors are burnt. Electricity is also not supplied to the farmers regularly. There will be other problems due to low voltage. The Hon. Minister should take into consideration all these problems of farmers while making Budget allocations for them.

The amount for the Members' Constituency development has been increased from 1 crore to 2 crores of rupees. I welcome this step. I was a member of 10th Lok Sabha. I have fully utilised this amount for the development of my constituency. In fact, all the members have utilised this amount for the development for their respective constituencies.

The National Highway No. 4 between Bangalore and Tumkur is only a single line. A large number of accidents are taking place on this route everyday. Hence I request the Hon. Minister to allocate more funds to double this very import and high traffic density route. Similarly the railway line between Bangalore and Tumkur. I have sent several representations to the Government of India requesting them to double this railway line. I trust the Hon. Minister will issue necessary orders to double this vital route without any further delay.

ONE HON. MEMBER: You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI S. MALIKARJUNAIAH: Yes I am going to lay it on the Table of the House. I will take only two minutes. I do not want to test your patience. I fully understand your problem.

There are live tributaries at Somavarapet and four tributaries at Sakaleshpura. These two join and it is called as Kumaradhara. Here about 60 TMC of water can be obtained. This flow towards west. This has to be diverted to flow towards east. This can be done without any difficulty according to the revealings of latest engineering technology.

The Centre should do something for the unemployed educated youths to provide jobs. The late Chief Minister Shri Devaraj Urs had introduced a novel stipendary scheme. On the lines of that scheme medical graduates can be paid Rs. 4,000/- per month as stipend. Engineering graduates may be given Rs. 3,500/- and graduates can get Rs. 2,500/- under-graduates may be paid Rs. 2,000/- per month. All these persons should be asked to serve rural areas compulsorily for two years. Then finally then can go in search of jobs according to their education and experience, Madam I am grateful to you for giving me a chance to speak on this vital subject.

\* A sustained programme for improving the quality of public servants has to be made. Explicit standards should be evolved, adopted and published and also prominently displayed at the point of delivery. These standards should invariably include courtesy and helpfulness from staff, accuracy in accordance with statutory entitlements and commitment to prompt action. There should be a clear presumption that standards will be progressively improved as services become more efficient.

Choice, wherever possible, between competing value providers is the best spur to quality improvement. The Public sector should provide choice wherever practicable, the people affected by services should be consulted. Their view about the services they use should be sought regularly and systematically to inform decisions about what services should be provided.

The citizen as a tax payer has a right to expect that public services must give value for money within a tax bill the nation can afford.

At present the system of fixing responsibility for lapses both in the case of individuals and organisations is far from satisfactory. The general impression is that neither

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\* This portion of the speed was laid on the Table.

[SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH]

responsibility is fixed nor appropriate punishment meted out. This is perhaps the single most important factor contributing to the indifferent attitude to complaints lodged by citizens. The citizens should therefore have the right to expect that not only will their complaints be acted upon and responsibility fixed for lapses, but also they should have the right to be informed of the action taken on their complaints. Only then can there be accountability and transparency in the Government machinery.

Services should be run to suit the convenience of information customers, not the staff. This means flexible opening hours and telephone enquiry points that direct callers quickly to someone who helps them.

Full accurate information should be readily available in plain language, about what services are being provided. Taxation should be published together with full and audited information about the results achieved.

Wherever possible, information should be in comparable form so that there is a pressure to emulate the best.

There should be no secrecy about how public services are run what rules and procedures they follow in making available such services, how much they cost, who is in charge, and whether or not they are meeting their standards. Public servants should not be anonymous. Save only where there is a real threat to their safety, all those who deal directly with public should wear name badges and give their names on the telephone and in letters.

Not only by making available relevant information to the public, but also providing easy access to such information especially in regard to rules and procedures and redressal of grievances.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumber): Madam, Chairperson, I rise to oppose this budget. As you are not going to give much time, to speak, I will say something especially in regard to labourers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Meena, just a minute. The Hon. Members who want to lay their speech on the Table, they may do so.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Madam Chairperson, it has been said in the speech of the Hon'ble Minister that the labourers working in Public Sector Undertakings will be retrenched. The reason given is that the Public Sector

Undertakings run in debt and that these will be closed down and the labourers working in them will be retrenched. Besides you have stated that their services will be dispensed with after providing them some money. It has also been stated that factories which incur losses are to be run because of workers. You did not say these words in your speech but surely, it was said by you that only workers are responsible for pushing the factories into losses. I, myself used to work in Hindustan Zinc and even today, I represent workers of Hindustan Zinc. All the workers of Hindustan Zinc feel that this factory belongs to them and they will run it properly. Likewise, the management of Hindustan Zinc too understands, as to have to resolve the problems of workers and to increase the production of the factory. Hindustan Zinc has never run into losses, it has always earned profit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Meenaji. Discussion is being held on the Budget and not on public system.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Madam Chairperson, I am discussing the same. He said that undertakings would be closed after retrenching the workers. But the government also wants that more people should get employment so that unemployment is reduced.

Madam Chairperson, when even those workers who are already in job are being retrenched then how will the unemployment be removed. There should be co-ordination between the workers and officers, working in the Public Sector Undertakings. If such a thing takes place from both sides, then the question of running into losses does not arise. Therefore, my suggestion is that if you close down the undertakings after levelling charges against the workers, then it is not a good gesture.

Madam Chairperson, I hail from a very backward area of Rajasthan. I had stated in one of my questions that there is no cultivable land in Southern part of Rajasthan and if at all there are small pieces of cultivable land, there is no water to irrigate. I had suggested the water from the hills should be gathered by constructing smaller ponds and dams so that the same could be used for irrigation. The response from the Government came that the matter did not come under its jurisdiction. My submission is that if request is made to provide any facility to the poor, Adivasis, forest-dwellers, backward people, the reply comes that it is not our responsibility, it is the responsibility of the State Government and when we ask the State Government, then it says that when money is made available by the Government of India, it will do the job. In Southern Rajasthan, there are mountains, whereas Western Rajasthan is a desert region.

However, a small part of north-south part of Rajasthan consists of plains. There are no big industries in these areas. Therefore, request is that Rajasthan should be given maximum funds so that the poor may be benefited from it. Here I would like to bring to your kind notice that in the the hilly areas fencing is erected to protect the forests but it is removed after five years and the area is opened for the use of common public. What happens is that whatever growth of forest takes place, the same is destroyed by the use of the people. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that once a forest area is protected by erecting fence, then it should not be opened to public. However, people should be allowed to cut grass etc. From the area. This will benefit the local people and will also help in conservation of the forest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please conclude within a minute.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Madam Chairperson. If you are asking me to sit down then I will abide by that.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Madam Chairperson, Hon'ble Meenaji hails from the backward region of Rajasthan. He has not concluded his speech. Therefore, I request that he may please be given a chance to conclude his speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I had asked the Hon'ble Member to conclude his speech within a minute. I had not asked him to sit. If he still wants, he can conclude his speech.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Madam, Chairperson, BJP Government says that they will do a good job. I am a Member of Parliament myself. The funds given under MP LADS. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Meenaji please conclude in a minute. Please do not think that you have been given five more minutes. Please conclude in a minute.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: All right, Madam Chairperson, I take my seat.

\*SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharward South): Madam Chair, at the outset I would like to thank you for permitting me to speak on the General Budget, 1998-99. I congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister for abolishing the Gift Tax. There are many other such acts. They should be abolished.

Last year the Government of India had introduced VDIS, Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme and about 40,000 crores of rupees had been disclosed as income. Government got about 10,000 crores of rupees as tax.

Wanchoo Committee gave its report on Income tax in the year 1984. I too wish that 44AB and 44AF of the Income Tax Act have to be deleted because these have affected more than 3 lakh self employed advocates. 44AB and 44AF have to be deleted or the tax advocates having an experience of 5 to 10 years may be permitted to do the practice and audit.

Recently some farmers have committed suicide in Karnataka. They could not get the yield according to their investment. In the absence of support price and other assistance farmers had no other alternative but to commit suicide.

Government has increased the support price by one hundred rupees per quintal very recently. I request the Hon. Minister to give such support price to paddy, jowar, govina jowar and ragi. Petrol price has been increased by one rupee per litre. About 50% of the petrol consumption is by the Government vehicles and hence there need not be any panic in this regard.

There was a proposal to set up Southern Railway Zone at Hubli. Now it appears that efforts are being made to set up this zone in Bangalore. I urge upon the Hon. Minister to set up this Southern Railway Zone only in Hubli.

I request the Government of India to set up a bench of High Court in Hubli. Hubli is a far off place from Bangalore and common man finds it very difficult to come to Bangalore. Hence a bench of High Court is very essential in the northern region. The best place for this purpose is Hubli. Corruption is spreading in our society like cancer. Corruption is rampant particularly at higher levels. This has to be curbed at the earliest. For example I declared my assets and liabilities to the election officers while filing my papers for the MP election. I wish all others would do the same and help the Government to check corruption. Some people do the job without saying anything. So others say and do the job. There is the third category where people say but they never do the job. I was reminded of this Kannada saying when I talk about sincerity and promptness.

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI]

As my learned colleague has said the opposition should prepare an unofficial budget and compare it with the Budget of the Government. They should not criticise the Government unnecessarily.

Upper Thunga project in long pending demand of the people of Karnataka. It can provide water to 2.35 lakh acres of land for irrigation at the first stage. This project covers Rani Bennur, Haveri, Here Kerur and Hanagal. I request the Hon. Minister of Finance to release sufficient funds for this project during this year 1998-99 and made the dream of the people of my constituency a reality.

Madam Chairman, thank you and with these words I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is already quite late. Therefore, I would like to request that the remaining hon'ble Members who want to speak may kindly conclude within five minutes; otherwise the discussion will continue till morning.

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum): Madam, I support this Budget because I consider this Budget as a milestone towards self reliance, I consider this Budget as the golden Budget in the Golden Jubilee Year of Indian Independence, I consider this Budget practically free from dictation of a foreign country, I consider this Budget pro-farmer, I consider this Budget pro-people. This Budget will make the country enter into an era of high and sustainable growth in agriculture and industry.

There were two challenges before our Finance Minister. The first challenge was to kickstart the economy which had been passing through a sluggish growth of industry, agriculture and exports. The second challenge was to face the economic sanctions announced by several rich countries. I congratulate our Finance Minister for his bold step to combat these challenges and to practically counter the challenges. He has increased the Central Plan outlay by Rs. 2,400 crore which is more than 30 per cent. He has also increased the agricultural sector outlay by 58 per cent. I am interested to tell those who consider this Budget as anti-farmer that this 58 per cent increase to agriculture sector, I think, is the highest ever increase. He has also increased the outlay for infrastructure by 35 per cent. This Budget also provides a scheme for small-scale sector. I think that all these

increases in the public investment will increase the purchasing power of the rural people. It will help create economic growth in the rural areas.

I would like to mention that our Finance Minister has proposed to build 20 lakh houses for the homeless. Out of these twenty lakh houses, thirteen lakhs will be in rural areas and seven lakhs in urban areas. Those who are trying to describe this Budget as anti-poor should realise that for the last one decade, no such project was taken up by any other Government.

The Special Bond Scheme for NRIs shall encourage Indians living abroad and I think this will help our farming sector. Speedy disposal of foreign investment proposal within 90 days shall also increase the flow of foreign direct investment pending since long in the core sector.

I would like to mention that even though import of foreign newsprint has been tax-free, the Budget has imposed tax on the import of waste paper which is considered as the raw material for paper industry. My request is to remove tax on waste paper and to help the paper industry.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Since you have rationed my time, I will mention the points only.

As regards industry, the Swadeshi *mantra* boils down to protectionism. We have to bear in mind that a steady reduction in the peak level of import tariffs has been the legacy of the past four years. Tariffs had declined to 40 per cent, exposing Indian industry to the bracing winds of overseas competition. Since then industrialists have been pressurising the Government to raise tariffs to enable themselves to adjust to globalisation. However, the actual incidence of this eight per cent hike is closer to 12 per cent of the pre-tax price since it is levied over and above the existing basic and special Customs duty. For a range of items, the peak level of tariffs will thus rise to 57 per cent - a roll back of the declining trend over the past four years. To this must be added the 15 per cent depreciation of the rupee over the year. Thus the level of protection for Indian industry takes a quantum jump. It may be, no doubt, argued that this import duty hike is permissible under WTO rules. But the significant point we must not lose sight of is that higher domestic walls do not make Indian industry competitive.

1.00 hrs.

They only provide a bonanza of additional profits to domestic industrialists. The result is higher cost push inflation.

Besides, protectionism and higher tariffs always tend to serve importers at the cost of exporters. As a matter of fact, the focus should be on increased competitiveness.

It is however strange to observe that barring a veiled reference to Pokhran-II, there is not much about it in the Budget. Is it because the Finance Minister does want to conceal something significant? For, the Finance Minister showed as little concern about the economic fall out of our latest nuclear tests. Surely, he cannot seriously believe that the sanctions imposed the U.S.A. and followed up by some other major industrial countries would have no impact on the economy. The net effect would be very large, at least surely not of the order that can be easily trifled. We should bear in mind that even a temporary halt of exports may upset our structure of foreign trade.

The hon. Finance Minister tends to play down the fear of sanctions on the ground that the U.S.A. has yet to define the depth and spread of its sanctions. That means he anticipates the sanctions though unaware of their depth and spread. Only he is not aware of the depth and spread of this exercise. That is why, I do not know how I should take it. Shall I take it as a studied non-chalance waiting on the prowl for the unwary taxpayers. Because one has reasons to believe that there may be a Supplementary Budget with harsh realities? I do not know which is true.

Before I conclude, I would like to refer to the development of the North East which has been quite ago for a few years in all the Budgets. In all the Budget, it has appeared. The North-Eastern Development Financial Institutions (NEFDI) was incorporated in 1995 by the then Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. One of the basic problems in the region is the lack of infrastructure. That is why there were no takers in a significant way for the Five Year Tax Holiday announced earlier. The emphasis should be not on mega projects alone. Our objectives should be promoting medium and small projects initially. This will ensure quick results. Along with the manufacturing units, the infrastructure for increased trading activities is much needed. We have to explore the possibility of opening trade route with the neighbouring countries. That is, in a way, internationalising the economy. Goods from across the border will flow in and goods from the North-East will go out.

Improvement of bilateral relations with Bangladesh in early 1997 in the wake of the Ganga Water Treaty held out a promise of great possibilities in this respect. Unfortunately, this is not being followed up very seriously. In particular, I give one instance. For a landlocked State like Mizoram, a route through Bangladesh alone holds the key to its development. Similarly, the proposed road linking between Myanmar and India will give a big thrust in the promotion of trade between Assam and Myanmar, and Assam and Bangladesh. There are also immense possibilities for river transport particularly along the river Brahmaputra as it cuts down the transportation costs for goods to reach Calcutta by 30 to 40 per cent. To achieve this objective, young entrepreneurs need to be motivated and trained. Above all, we need a sizeable fund allocation. The best way is to improve the financial position of the NEFDI. At the same time, the nationalised banks should be asked to involve themselves in these entrepreneurial activities. But let us not encourage as was done by the Government of Assam, that is, to back up a travel agency like Thomas Cook asking for who took a licence to engage in banking activities in the North-East in parallel with NEFDI. It is a travel agency owned by the family of a sacked Director of the Tatas.

While concluding, I must say that in a climate when the rupee is crashing to an all time low and when the stock market is crashing, I doubt whether the Finance Minister can depend much on him second line of defence, that is, the NRIs Fund. The NRIs are expected to invest in the country in a significant way. Our past experience shows that NRIs are proverbially shy of investing in India. The drop of a hat puts them off. It is again the lure of profits and more profits that dictate their decisions. The Government must create a climate of credibility which alone can encourage investment national as well as foreign in the country and that can only give the much needed help to the country and to make its economy improve and stabilise.

I have however a word of praise for the hon. Finance Minister. I must admit that there is a great boost to the farm sector in the Budget. Why I admit this is because when we discuss the Budget, we have both bouquets and brickbats to offer. Bouquets for the farm sector. It is a great thing that the hon. Minister has done but there are few things to which I draw his attention. He has started saying that water is a critical input for agriculture. But he did not make enough allocation for irrigation. It is just an increase of Rs. 300 crore. I hope he will look into it and will increase the allocation.



[SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ]

Besides agriculture is largely a State subject, but the net resources transferred to the State has increased only marginally from Rs. 89200 crore to Rs. 90300 crore. It is an increase of only Rs. 1000 crore which would have an adverse impact on the implementation on social development, development of irrigation and agricultural developmental programme. It is only an increase of Rs. 300 crore for each such a large development programme.

When we were in Govt., we had initiated a step towards JRY or the rural employment programme but the hon. Finance Minister has increased it by only Rs. 100 crore. That is only a chicken feed. I hope he will allocate more so that we can make it perfect and more perfect than when it was during the Congress rule.

With these words, I again thank the hon. Finance Minister, particularly for the farm sector.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Chairman, sir, after a long wait you have given me an opportunity to speak. However, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity. Although, a long discussion has already taken place on the budget and I do not want to repeat the points already discussed by many of my friends. We have seen the allocations made for the different departments in the budget by the hon'ble Minister. We have also listened to the discussion held through you. So much has been said in appreciation of the Agriculture Department. It has been said that the hon'ble Minister has strengthened the agriculture sector by allocating such a large amount for the first time. But I am of the view that if we compare the rebates given to the farmers in the field of loans or in other fields, we find that more has been taken from the farmers in the shape of increase in the rates of urea and tractors, and imposition of taxes on insecticides. The effort has been made to recover more money from the farmers than the rebates given to them. There is nothing to praise about it. The irrigation plans are most essential in the field of agriculture and these should be strengthened. You are aware that in the field of agriculture. There is a big difference in the prices of agricultural produce and that of industrial products. If it is the policy of the Government to benefit the farmers, then there should be proportionate valuation of prices between agricultural production and industrial production. If there is proportionate increase in the prices of agricultural and industrial products, then only the farmer would be able to buy industrial products. In the field of agriculture, what we require most, is power and good

prices for the agricultural products. You must have observed while traveling in trains that potato-chips packed in plastic packets with a brand name of uncle chips are sold at the rate of Rs. 12 per 100 gms. They are charging from the people Rs. 12 for 100 gms of potato-chips, prepared with the new technology but the farmer who produces potato, does not get even Rs. 12 for one kilogram of potatoes. You can see the difference. The same is the case with other products. We were staying in U.P. Niwas. I asked for corn flakes in the breakfast. I came to know that the price of corn flakes was Rs. 18 per 250 gms. But the farmer is not getting even Rs. 18 for four kilograms of corn. The hon'ble Finance Minister should look into it as to how the farmers are deprived of their remunerative prices.

Hon. Members sitting in the treasury benches, who are commending the Finance Minister, should also think about the farmers. No community or class has perhaps to face as much deprivation and as many natural calamities as are faced by the farmers. Farmers have to face the problems caused by the floods, droughts and other natural calamities. It is very unfortunate that the rain water is not stored. and later on, we become the victims of drought and ground water level also goes down. Though we have been facing the problem of potable water yet we have not made arrangements for storing rain water. We are not working in the direction of raising water level and increasing the sources of irrigation. No provision has perhaps been made in our budget in this regard. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to consider the measures which can be taken to solve the problems of the farmers. That is why, I do not agree with the statement that many concessions have been given to the farmers, on the contrary, the farmers are facing many problems for which the Government should provide more concessions and should formulate schemes relating to irrigation, storing of water, raising of water level and schemes to deal with natural calamities.

Secondly, issue of rural development through various schemes like J.R.Y., S.R.Y. and other centrally financed schemes such as Indira Awas Yojana has been taken up. Under Indira Awas Yojana, the outgoing Government had raised the money upto Rs. 20 thousand from Rs. 12 thousand. In this amount of Rs. 20 thousand Rs. 3 thousand have been added for Latrine-Bathroom. It is not required as it leads to misuse. That is why I would like to say that the percentage which you imposed in centrally financed schemes, like 20% for land reform, land conservation, drain, etc., is not required in some states and districts. But because of this percentage money is deducted and is misused. That is why I would like to request that under financed schemes for rural

development, you should leave the decision of spending the funds to D.R.D.A. which can be decided by the agencies at district level by holding their meetings.

Another thing that I would like to state is that district officers have full powers in the meetings of rural development agencies. It is not necessary to agree to my suggestion but I would like to suggest that we should allocate budget provisions as per their wishes. I would like to request that in democracy rights should be granted to autonomous organisations. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: As far as this issue is concerned, if you keep the sources of production in private hands, then the income from it will go to private hands, hindering the development of the nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude in a minute.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: In this budget there are several schemes relating to rural development, health services, irrigation, agriculture and unemployment but I would like to state one thing and that is regarding extension of retirement age. You have raised the retirement age of the employees from 58 years to 60 years. There is a conspiracy behind it. If the employees retire at the age of 58 years, lakhs of people will get employment. Therefore, you should withdraw this decision, as you have done regarding increase in the price of urea. It will help in removing unemployment. In that case, Scheduled castes and backward classes will too get an opportunity.

With these words, I would like to say that you should implement the budget proposals in the field of agriculture and in all other fields.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget for the year 1998-99. This Budget is different from the one presented by the former Governments in fixing priorities and objectives. I support it because it tends to give a new direction to the country and focuses on rural economy.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for keeping ground realities in mind while preparing this courageous Budget which strives to rejuvenate the economy passing through a period of recession. The efforts made to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5-6 percent and strive for a 6.5 percent growth rate are burning examples in this direction. It is a development-oriented

Budget which is conspicuous by its emphasis on agriculture, education, health, rural development, employment and social welfare.

Even after 50 years of independence, the country's 70 percent population lives in villages depending on agriculture as its prime source of livelihood. It is no exaggeration to say that the village and agriculture are synonymous. But it is deplorable that requisite attention was not paid for the development of this area. The previous Budgets also ignored this sector which is manifest from the fact that the even after 50 years of our independence only 37 percent of the cultivable land is covered under assured irrigation. An Indian farmer is even today forced to gamble with the weather conditions.

The country's development is not possible in the absence of the development of agriculture and rural areas. I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister of perceiving this fact and preparing his Budget based on rural economy. This Budget reflects the intent of Swadeshi, While presenting the Budget the hon. Finance Minister has strived to ensure that its benefits are enjoyed by the poorest and the weakest in the country.

This Budget lays more emphasis on agriculture and rural areas in order to check recession in the rate of agricultural development and strengthen rural economy. While according a pivotal position to rural economy in the overall Indian economic and social scenario, provision made for irrigation purposes has been enhanced by 50 percent. I welcome this step. I also appreciate the facility of Farmers Credit Card extended to the farmers by the NABARD on the basis of their holdings which will help them procure the seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and also cash according to their needs. I would also like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for giving directions to the R.B.I. for facilitating problem free disposition of the old cases of outstanding loans for solving the longstanding problem of loans that has hit hard the farmers and for not recovering interest twice the amount of principal loan granted to the farmers. No national agricultural policy has been formulated even after 50 years of our independence. I welcome the hon. Minister's promise made during his Budget speech of laying the document of National Agricultural policy on the table of the House. A provision of Rs. 8182 crore has been made for rural development which is Rs. 1233 crore more than the revised estimate of the last year's Budget. The allocation for irrigation and flood control has also been enhanced from Rs. 268 crore to Rs. 374 crore. A provision of Rs. 1556 crore more than the last years Budget has been made for providing more opportunities of employment in the rural areas. I

[DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR]

welcome this step as well. The Budget provides for a 50 percent increase under the heading of Education and the hon. Finance Minister has reiterated his resolve to spend 6 percent of the GDP on education. These are all welcome steps. In 1997-98 the revised Budget estimate for education was Rs. 4715.85 crore and now in 1998-99 Budget a provision of Rs. 7076.82 crore has been made. Another Rs. 100 crore have been provided for free education to girls upto under graduate level.

This year a provision of Rs. 214.76 crore has been made for the department of Youth and Sports as against the revised Budget estimate of Rs. 158.39 crore during 1997-98. I also welcome the setting up of National Reconstruction Fund for engaging the youth in nation development.

I also welcome the emphasis laid on the problem of Housing whereunder 20 lakh houses - 13 lakhs in rural areas and 7 lakhs in the urban areas - will be constructed during the current year and a lot of incentives provided for extending Housing facilities.

I have welcomed every aspect of the Budget including the relief given to the salaried class by extending their tax exemption limit from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 and standard deduction from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000 and the limit of tax-free reimbursement of medical expenses from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 and for proposing three new schemes-viz-saral, Samadhan and Samman for simplifying the tax procedure.

The Budget grants many concessions to the small scale Industries. Small industrialists had to exert too much in order to get loans, but the hon. Finance Minister has given powers of sanctioning most of the loan cases to the Branch Managers of the concerned Banks in order to simplify the otherwise cumbersome loans extending facility. This will help augment the flow of loan in the industries. The industry has also lauded the steps for administrations of excise duty and reform in the administrative machinery in order to do away with the 'Inspector Raj'.

Lastly, I would like to put forth a few suggestions to the hon. Finance Minister. One is the request to withdraw the 50 paise per kg. increase in the Urea prices which may burden the farmer. Second is to exclude telephone from the six taxable items.

The Fifth Pay Commission has demarcated three slabs of conveyance allowance - Rs. 100 for grade-III and IV employees, Rs. 400 for grade-II and Rs. 800 for Grade I employees per month. An employee of any grade

has to pay Rs. 6 every day to buy a ticket for bus journey to and from home totalling to Rs. 360 per month. Therefore, I request that only two slabs of Rs. 400 and Rs. 800 be retained.

Lastly, I would request the hon. Members of the Opposition to help pass this good Budget unanimously.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Our Party believes in 'Antodaya'. Please consider my name which is last in the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central): This year's budget, presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister in the house, is not going to lead to any economic reforms in the country. This budget is not going to be used to eradicate poverty because in our country, corruption is quite rampant in the bureaucrats and is continuously increasing also. We should take initiatives to curb it. The reaction of the people on budget is that we are still lagging far behind USA. And Japan. For this the hon'ble Finance Minister should pay attention towards increasing the income of the people. We have been discussing this matter. When you were in opposition, you also spoke a lot on this issue. Now, you are on other side and you too are facing the difficulty.

'Hum koi rone wale nahi hain, aap jane wale hain.

Hum aane wale hain, aap rone wale hain.'

I will not give any speech because it may take half an hour. Presently, it is most essential to control the problem of population of the country. Our population is about to reach the figure of one hundred and fifty crore. The Government should make a law to control it. It should have the provision of one family one child. At present, it is, one family - three children. That is why our population has reached the figure of one hundred crore. That is why the Government should give the slogan of one family - one child. The responsibility of controlling the population lies not exclusively on the shoulders of the Government. For this, the change in the attitude of society is also required. The Consideration should also be given to bring changes in the society. The central Government and Planning Commission should provide guidelines for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give suggestions related only to the budget. You have been given the time of two minutes and your time is over now.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I will conclude, but not that soon. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute 23% of the total population of the country. Therefore, in the budget also, 23% of the allocations should be made for them. The Planning Commission should give such guidelines. Hon'ble Finance Minister should consider it.

Besides, the scholarships given to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students should be in proportion to the price rise. Moreover, unemployed youth should get jobs within three years. If we do not succeed in giving employment to unemployed youth within three years, then we should give them unemployment allowance of Rs. 1500 per mensum.

I want to say one thing about the Mumbai city. Mumbai is the economic capital of the country. Therefore, the Government should allocate maximum funds for the development of this city. Rs. 100 crore was allocated for implementation of Dharavi Plan in Mumbai, it has not been completed till now. I request the hon'ble Finance Minister to make more provisions in the budget for the development of Dharavi. Hon'ble Finance Minister is a dynamic minister. I was expecting a dynamic budget from him, but the budget is not as dynamic as was expected. You are in a place, where you are unable to take the decisions. There is nobody to speak about the plight of the farmers also from your side. I would like to say that you should consider on this aspect also.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund): Madam, Chair person, the discussion on the budget is being held. Normally, it is assumed that the budget is annual reflection of the country's economic and social thinking. At this time, I am remembering the words of Pt. Deendayal Upadhaya, who, expressing his views on the social and economic state of the country, had said that affluence of money and scarcity of money both were dangerous for this country. He had also pleaded for.

[English]

Production by masses and not by machineries.

[Translation]

Effort has been made to prove this in the budget. In this august and great House I am reminded of the words of Dr. Lohia delivered in 1964 in which he had said - in this country 27 crore people have to live barely on 3

annas a day sixteen and a half crore people on Rs. 1 a day and fifty lakh people on Rs. 35 a day. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had further said - today, budget is not prepared according to the funds available and needs of the different castes. It does not mean much to talk about socialism, capitalism and monopolism. He had further said - "according to me, 50 lakh people swallow Rs. 50 billion." This budget has been prepared for those towards whom indication has been made and not as per the wishes of Shri Chidambaram, World Bank, IMF and Asian Development Association. This budget is for the growth of rural economy. It is for crores of common people who are unable to express their views. They work so hard, but do not get a square meal. This budget is for such people.

I want to draw your attention. Towards UN report on world investment. It has been clarified in the Economic Survey presented in the House that in India USA has invested 1750 million dollars. In 1995-96 survey, no such thing was said about the country's economy. I want to draw your attention towards a book 'India - Some Facts' - published by an honourable Member. In it, per-capita income has been shown. The fall in per-capita income within two months is not possible. Neither it has happened in the past, nor will it happen in future. The nature of this budget will become clear, if we see the manifesto of Bharatiya Janata Party. It has been clarified in it that we want such an economic nationalism. In which not a single person remains poor. We believe in the philosophy that not only the economy is streamlined, but the poorest of the poor is also brought in the mainstream. The Bhartiya Janata Party's manifesto says that till India becomes powerful, capable and self-dependent, our rural system and farmers cannot make progress qualitatively. Therefore, you cannot call this budget as the budget for sensex. It is said, that sensex is falling and nothing is being done for the capital market. I would like to know as to how many people of this country are concerned with the capital market. Country's population is going to reach the figure of 100 crore. We are in the last phase of 20th century and on threshold of 21st century. In this budget, efforts have been made to fight against fear, starvation and corruption. The hon'ble finance Minister is attentively listening to all the discussions. He is patiently listening to criticism as well as praises. He is following the principle of 'keep marching'. I am sure that if the House pays serious attention to the real situation, then the country will stand firm on its feet, and will become self-dependent. This you have mentioned in your speech.

[SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU]

In the end, I would like to quote few lines from a poem Robert written by Frost.

"Saghan Hai, Gahan Hai, Vijan Hai Suhana  
Kahin Ruk na jayen, Kahin so na jayen  
humne uske pahle bahut dur hai jana,  
bahut dur hai jana."

SHRI SURENDER SINGH BARWALA: (Hissar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me, at the outset, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I rise to support the Budget presented in the House by the hon. Finance Minister. He has tried to uphold the interests of and uplift every section of our society. It is a praiseworthy step.

During the past 50 years, Budgets have been presented in the House every year but they have not helped check poverty, unemployment, and other problems. The hon. Finance Minister has paid special attention to these aspects in this Budget and I thank him for that. I would like to draw his attention towards agriculture as 76 percent of India's population is dependent on that. Recently, the farmers committed suicides due to their poor economic condition. So, in order to avoid such suicides, the Government should grant subsidy on seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. Large portions of land in this country have been rendered useless due to water-logging. In Haryana, there are lakhs of acre of such land and the state Government has no Budget to turn it into cultivable land. I wish, the centre make a provision to this effect in the Budget. The hon. Minister has earmarked sufficient funds for industry but I would like to draw his attention to small scale industries dependent on agriculture.

I would also like to thank the hon. Finance Minister for earmarking Rs. 100 crore for the education of girl child which will enable them to come at par in the society. I would also like to draw his attention towards SYL canal in Haryana for the construction which hon. Chowdhary Devi Lal had launched a struggle in 1986 and as a result became Chief Minister when his party won 85 seats in the Assembly elections of 1987. This is a testimony to the significance of SYL canal for the people of Haryana particularly for irrigation and drinking water purposes. During the Deputy Premiership of Chowdhary Devi Lal, the then Prime Minister, Shri Chander Shekhar had entrusted the project to the B.R.O. but not a single penny has been provided therefor in the Budget during the last seven years.

I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to make a provision in the Budget for completing the work of SLY canal so as to quench the thirst of the land of Haryana and provide drinking water facility there. I would also request him to withdraw the hike of Rs. 50 in the

price of Urea so as to shed this extra burden from the farmer's shoulder. With these words, I conclude.

\*SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Madam Chairman, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has tried to bring a well balanced Budget for the year 1998-99. In this Budget he has also tried to help the poor farmers of this country. But in my opinion these efforts are not sufficient for the amelioration of the poor masses of this country.

In our country more than 75% people are farmers. Naturally, I feel that 75% of the Budget allocation should go to farmers. According to the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi, real freedom means food, clothing and shelter to the poorest of the poor. If this is not done then even democracy will have no meaning. Ramarajya can be realised only through the upliftment of the weaker sections of the country.

There are three categories of farmers. Farmers who irrigate their land with the help of river water, canals and other related sources of water. The second category of farmers cultivate their land using water drawn from bore wells, as other sources of water are not available to them. In my constituency these farmers have to dig the earth about 400 to 500 feet deep to get ground water. The third category of farmers are those who are completely dependent upon rain god. The cost of cultivation of these farmers differs as their methods vary from category to category. But unfortunately the Government while giving their assistance to these farmers treat all of them alike. This is great injustice. This problem has to be looked into by the Government and an appropriate solution has to be found.

There is no drinking water in many parts of the country particularly in Karnataka. There is great demand not only for drinking water but also for irrigation purposes. The only solution for this perennial problem is to link various rivers of the country.

Ganga river has to be linked with Cauvery river. Similarly Mahanadi can be linked with Cauvery. It may take 10 to 20 years to complete the linking of the above said rivers. Also it may require hundreds of crores of rupees for these projects. But there are no other alternatives. If we are keen in the establishment of Ramarajya in our country, then linking the above mentioned rivers is the only solution, a permanent solution.

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\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

I have demanded these matters several times in the past when our Congress Government was in power. Hence I continue to urge upon the present Finance Minister to take up the linking of these rivers immediately.

In Karnataka there are 8 districts which are drought prone areas. My constituency Kolar is one among them. There is severe scarcity of water in Kolar and agriculture has become very difficult in the entire district.

The Centre spends thousands of crores of rupees every year on the following: (i) to provide bore wells; (ii) water shed programme; and (iii) to tackle the flood and drought situation in the country.

Instead of spending huge amount of money every year it is high time for the Government of India to find out a permanent solution for all these problems. In our district we have prepared a model plan. According to this plan the ground water which is available at 500 feet deep will come up and it would be available at 100 or 150 feet deep. In addition to this the water which is one kilometre away can be re-charged and it would come to the surface. I believe that the hon. Minister would give a serious thought to this vital suggestion.

Many of the public undertakings are running under huge losses whereas private sectors are making profits. In Karnataka we have BEML, HMT, HAL, ITI, BGML and many public undertakings. The losses in these undertakings should be avoided at any cost.

Bharat Gold Mines is also incurring huge losses. Maladministration is the main reason for this. It has incurred about 600 crores of rupees of loss while marketing the gold. They could have avoided this loss if they had gone for open market. Once upon a time there were 30,000 employees in BGML. Now there are only about 4 to 5 thousand employees. Nearly three lakh people were depending upon these employees. At present the condition of these people is really miserable. BGML mines can be revived even now. Gold is available in the mines. The need of the hour is 'will power'. The Government and the administration of BGML should make up their mind to revive these historical gold mines. Gold can be obtained in these mines for another 100 years if modern techniques are adopted for mining.

Regarding education the same story continues. There is no uniformity in our education system. Some students attend convents whereas some others to go Navodaya Vidyalayas. But majority (above 90%) of the children are compelled to go to Government schools. These children

score very less percentage of marks in the examinations. They do not get admissions in engineering colleges, medical colleges and other technical institutions. On the whole their future is affected. This disparity has to be checked immediately.

Madam, 25% of our country's population consists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But what is the budget allocation you have made for these hapless people? It is only about 2-3% you have to increase the budget allocation immediately for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to increase the budget allocation for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by at least ten per cent for the year 1998-99.

Madam, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI VIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Madam, at the outset of my first Budget speech, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for having given us a Budget with a direction to revamp the already tottering economy left to us by the previous Government. So, during 1998-99, the total expenditure estimated is put at Rs. 2,68,107 crore. Of this, Rs. 72,002 crore is budgetary support for the Central, State and Union Territory plans and the balance of Rs. 1,96,105 crore is for non-Plan expenditure.

As you know, this Budget is giving a direction to the rural sector development. It is clearly evident from the fact that for the agriculture sector, the budget provision is 58 per cent more. Then, for the health sector, it is 34 per cent. For the welfare sector, it is 91 per cent more. For the atomic energy sector it is 68 per cent. For the Department of Space, it is 62 per cent and for the forest and environment sector, it is 68 per cent. In the case of food subsidy, as far as sugar subsidy goes, it has been enhanced. Further, the Defence Expenditure has been enhanced. So, it is evident that this Budget is a progressive Budget to make India improve in all fields.

It has been seen that the previous Governments had left their economy tottering and to save this tottering economy, our Finance Minister has given a Budget with a direction which will take us to the 21st century. Therefore, I congratulate the Finance Minister for taking the bold steps to revamp the economy.

[SHRI VIKRAM KESHARI DEO]

I would like to say that the Finance Minister has laid emphasis on the rural sector. It is clearly evident from the fact that he has allocated sufficient funds to the rural sector to serve places like Kalahandi which I represent.

Kalahandi is one of the most backward districts of the country. Koraput, Phulbani and Bolangir are also backwards districts of Orissa. People are migrating from there due to lack of work. People are dying due to hunger. This has what the previous Congress Government had given us. There are instances of people selling their children for want of money. There are instances of people dying of hunger. The District of Kalahandi which had supplied 50,000 tonnes of rice in 1942-43 famine in Bengal is completely ruined today. The farmers are reduced to object poverty due to frequent draughts. The projects which are coming up there are languishing like the Upper Indira project and other projects. I would like to recall that when the former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao visited Kalahandi, he had announced a grand programme for Kalahandi, Koraput and Bolangir. He announced a long-term action plan which was supposed to cost an amount of Rs. 4700 crore so that poverty of that area could be reversed. But it was not taken up. It was just in words and speeches. But today, I would like to thank the Finance Minister for he has earmarked certain allocations for backward regions which will definitely change the economy of such regions. For instance, the North-East was completely neglected but he has formed separate cell for the development of the North-East so that development there can take place in a very systematic and coordinated way which had never taken place in the past.

I would like to speak on some other points. I would like to stress on the agricultural front. The Congress party which is now ruling in Orissa has siphoned off crores of rupees. In Orissa, there is a massive scam in the Department of Agriculture. I am sure the hon. Finance Minister is aware of it. I hope he will initiate a CBI inquiry into it. It has been clearly proved that there was misappropriation of funds in the purchase of hybrid seeds which were supplied to farmers. It is under the Department of Agriculture which is under the charge of the Chief Minister. This should come to limelight and the corruption wear that. On this matter, I have given a notice of Calling Attention so that it could be discussed in this House. I hope it is admitted for tomorrow so that things can be discussed in more detail. ...*(Interruptions)*. In the education front, you may find that the allocations have gone up from Rs. 3351 crore to Rs. 4245 crore. It clearly shows that the promises which were announced in the National Agenda for Governance have been attended to in this Budget. It has given a direction that education for women will be given top priority and adequate allocations will be made.

Then the nuclear tests have shown our strength and our capability. We have proved our might in the world today. You will see that the allocations for atomic energy and space have gone up by 68 per cent. And the letter by 62 per cent respectively. This clearly shows that India wants to go ahead show the world and wants to be at the level of the progressive countries which have gone for space research and technology, for satellite development and other things related to look into the future.

2.00 hrs.

Before concluding, I would like to stress that as per the Report of the Lakhadawala committee, Orissa is one of the poorest State. The *per capita* income is the lowest in the country. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance that the projects, which are going on there, like irrigation projects and various power projects, should be completed at the earliest.

Lastly, for the energy sector and non-conventional energy sector, the hon. Minister has doubled the allocation. This is clearly evident that it has gone up from Rs. 190 crore to Rs. 404 crore and it shows that the government wants to create a healthy environment for the country. This shows that in the Ninth Plan, the projection to generate 60,000 MW can be achieved. Let us hope that in done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is two O'clock. There are still four or five speakers. May I request you to take only two minutes each?

*[Translation]*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: We may be allowed to speak tomorrow morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is to be left for tomorrow morning. You may speak now. I will give two minutes' time to each of you.

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: (Bhagalpur): Madam Chairperson, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I thank the hon. Finance Minister for presenting a good, sensitive Budget based on the principles of Swadeshi, prepared keeping in view the interests of the poor peasants, the workers and the tax-payers. The Budget provides a fillip to strengthen India and make it self-sufficient. It caters to all the basic amenities of the Indian citizens. More funds than those provided in the preceding years have been provided under all heads be it roads, drinking water, irrigation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may lay it on the Table.

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: It has tried to give boost to small scale industries, self employment schemes etc. I will not dwell upon the figures like two of our friends did here but would instead highlight some problems of my constituency.

To augment agricultural production, the hon Finance Minister has endeavoured a lot in the field of irrigation ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes time was allotted to you. Time is up now. You may lay your speech on the table. At 2'O clock in the night you can't get more than two minutes.

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: How is it possible to conclude in two minutes. I do not have a written speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You bring a written copy of your speech. It will go in the record.

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: All right. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghunath Choudhary ji, you have got two minutes time.

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY (Nagpur): Mr. Chiarman, two minuts will not suffice. I am also to speak on behalf of the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot get more than two mintues after 2'O clock in the night. Please just start your speech and then lay it on the Table.

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY: Madam, without delving deep into figures etc. I would, being a farmer myself, like to raise farmer related issue only. The Government may have increased the price of urea after great deliberations. Fertilizers may or may not be used but urea, phosphate and potash have different functions. A farmer is an intelligent being and uses an input necessary for augmenting production. He may use potash and phosphate in oil seeds depending on which kind of soil requires what. It is not right to say that excessive use of urea is damaging the soil. In Punjab excessive water is damaging the soil. You need gypsum there. There are different reasons for the soil getting damaged. The price of urea has been hiked at a time when the farmers are financially shattered. The department of agriculture could not help save the pest-infested crop of cotton etc. during the last monsoon and the farmers

were forced to commit suicide as they could not repay the cost of pesticides. The department of agriculture could not define the species, origin and remedy of the pests. The pesticides proved ineffective same was the fate of cotton, pulses and other crops. All the farmers' corps got damaged. You shall have to look into the activities of the farmers and see whether the department of Agriculture is conducting regular soil tests or not. The schemes should be chalked out with this in view. I request you to deflate the prices of urea etc. To allow the farmer do his job.

The Government proposed to issue credit cards to farmers, it is a commendable measure. However, the extent of money he would be entitled of, has not been specified. So far he would be capable of buying only fertilizers and seeds or he would have the capacity to buy minor agricultural tools and also a bullock cart supporting animal like camel or a tractor. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to increase the limit at least to one lakh rupees in order to enable him to fulfil his basic agricultural requirements.

If the scientists are of the view that urea is not good for land, it would be better to spray it in liquid form. This would help to provide urea directly to the plants without spoiling the fertility of land. For, the latest opinion of the scientists is that the crops get the benefit, if urea is directly sprayed on their leaves.

The trader keeps his produce under lock either in the store house or at home. He opens the lock occasionally only when required. If the agriculturist disposes off the entire produce in the market immediately, he fails to get the reasonable price and if he keeps the produce in a storehouse he has to bear the transportation charges. Keeping this situation in view the Government should make a provision that the farmer keeps the produce at home under lock and submit. The key of that lock to the bank. This would enable him to get 70-80 percent of the money in advance and the remaining amount would be reimbursed when he benefitted in this way and his financial position would improve. The Government must try to provide this facility. ...*(Interruptions)* I haven't suggested anything unreasonable.

Many suggestions have been made with regard to crop insurance policy. The hon. Minister has stated that this policy would be implemented in some of the states. It is, of course, very essential. Storm, hail-strom and other natural clamities cause damage to the crops of farmers, due to which they suffer a heavy loss. Had there been the provision of crop insurance, the farmers would not



[SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY]

have to suffer such a heavy loss. They could get some insurance money and thus could find themselves in a comfortable financial position. Crop insurance policy should be implemented in all the states thus giving opportunity to all these farmers who want to avail the facility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you may please lay your speech.

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY: I have not written a detailed speech. How can I lay it? I would make a brief submission. Many proposals have been made with regard to the infrastructure of energy, transport and communication system. However, the situation of power supply in Rajasthan is in such a deteriorating condition that the farmers do not get power supply even for an hour and a half. The Government should ensure equal distribution of electricity to all the states. There is no such provision for the time being. My submission is that power supply for just an hour or one and a half hours cannot fulfil the agricultural requirements of the farmers. It is time to sow cotton and groundnut seeds. If the farmer does not get adequate power supply, he won't be able to do the job. Therefore, the Government should provide power supply for at least six hours in a backward state like Rajasthan. The Government should follow a fixed policy under which the farmers in all states must be provided electricity strictly as per the declared policy, no matter if the duration restricts to three hours or five hours.

All the same, I would like to submit regarding the provision of drinking water. The Government have declared many schemes, hill areas and Poorvanchal having their own schemes. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rajasthan is not only extremely backward but it is also a desert area. Typical problems of drinking water prevail there. At some places water is not available even at the depth of three hundred to four hundred feet, and scientists are of the opinion that since water has receded to the level beyond reach, it is no use to instal tube-wells there. At other places water is extremely saline and human beings cannot drink it, even animals would die if they drink it. Similarly, at some places water contain fluoride to the extent which causes physical deformities. Financial aid provided under DRDA to Rajasthan and similar other states is inadequate. Drinking water facilities should be provided to those states under a separate scheme as it is done with regard to hill areas and Poorvanchal region. The Government should take an initiative to conduct a survey and earmark money for this specific purpose. An irrigation scheme had been formulated for our area earlier too, and a survey to this effect was also conducted many

a time. Similarly there was a proposal to extend the Ganga Water to Rajasthan particularly to Nagaur through Indira Gandhi Canal by means of lift water policy. My submission is that if irrigation requirements cannot be fulfilled, at least drinking water should be provided to some of the areas of Rajasthan particularly Nagaur which I represent. Yesterday I had been to Navalgarh and Jhunjhunu. People of these areas cry for water. However, compared to them, the situation in Nagaur district is worse, because water is not available even at the depth of three hundred to four hundred feet. In spite of the Government assurance in this regard, we are not assured because they are following the policy of distributing water equally to all districts. Unless a separate scheme for western parts, desert areas and fluoride affected areas is implemented and allocation is made the problem would not be solved.

I would like to submit that the Government had declared in the House that the Highway from Bikaner would be extended to Ajmer via Nagaur. However, the government have been silent over the matter since then and no initiative has been taken in this regard. I would once again urge the Government to clear the proposal for extending the Highway from Bikaner to Ajmer via Nagaur-Jodhpur and further to Ajmer so that work in this regard is undertaken.

\*Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was expected that the Government would pay attention towards the rural areas and farmers. Eighty percent of the total population is engaged in agriculture and reside in rural areas. This community has totally been neglected in the present Budget. There are neither adequate roads nor drinking water nor power supply in rural areas. The Government was expected to bring down the prices of tractors for small farmers, but due to tax levied on tyres, the prices have rather increased. The Government is not concerned to enable the cultivators to sell their produce at reasonable price. Rather they have increased the price of urea, the fertilizer so much essential for their crops. Increase of 50 paise per kg cause a total increase of Rs. 25/- per bag. A cultivator uses at least 5-10 bags. This would make his crops quite expensive. Though the Government have assured to pay somewhat higher price for purchasing wheat from farmers at Government level, but the Government purchase is so low that it is below even to the expenditure incurred on it. The Government is urged to withdraw the hike in prices of urea.

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\* This portion of the speech was laid on the Table.

The Government have announced to issue credit cards to farmers. However, they have not given the details regarding the implementation of this policy, though the property and land the farmers own has been indicated to be the basis. In this regard, I would urge upon the Government to fix two lakh rupees as the minimum limit so that the farmer finds himself capable to buy seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and also implements of his agricultural requirement. He should be capable of purchasing bullocks or bullock cart or camel with a cart and also a few cattle for dairy.

I would also like to suggest to the Government to purchase the foodgrains. However, if the farmers are not willing to sell their produce, immediately, the Government should keep in their custody and pay 75 percent of the total cost in advance to the farmers; and when the farmers are willing to sell the produce, the Government may purchase it and pay the remaining amount. I would draw your attention to the fact that traders follow the practice of mortgaging their house alongwith some of the commodities to get loan from bank. In the same way farmers should also be provided the facility of mortgaging the produce kept in their house to the bank and get 75 per cent of the total cost in advance. This would enable them to protect themselves from the middlemen and get the money directly in hand.

Farmers hardly get any electricity and the consumer rates of electricity are increasing in such a way that it will increase the burden on farmers. I, therefore request the Government that electricity charges should not be increased for farmers. Arrangements should be made to see that there is uniform distribution of electricity in every region of the country. For this a time schedule should be drawn which should be strictly observed. It has been observed often that in the evening when electricity is required in the house-holds the whole rural area plunges in darkness. Electricity is supplied late in the night when people are asleep and it cannot be utilized.

In the absence of electricity drinking water is also not available. In Rajasthan weather is quite hot during summer and maximum water is required but people do not get even adequate drinking water. In the present budget the Government has no doubt expressed concern over the shortage of drinking water but no proper solution is suggested for it. The district which I represent is facing acute shortage of water. In the 50 percent area of this district the groundwater is either saline or contains fluoride in it. In some places water is not available even at a depth of 500 or 600 feet. More than 700 villages area included in this area and there is a need to formulate a

scheme after conducting a survey in this regard. The whole area is a desert. The Government should prepare a separate scheme for this area like the one it formulated for Poorvanchal and hilly areas to solve this problem. A Lift scheme was formulated under the Indira Gandhi Canal and I would like to suggest that this water should be brought to Nagaur district so that the problem of shortage of water could be solved permanently. What more can be done by a person who is facing shortage of drinking water even after 50 years of Independence.

Same is the situation prevailing in the field of education. The number of schools in villages is negligible, thus children cannot continue their studies after 5th standard in spite of their desire to do so. There is no separate arrangement for education of girls. In Rajasthan BJP Government has started commercialisation of education. Now Rs. 3 lakh are required to upgrade middle schools to high school standard and likewise Rs. 5 lakh are required for setting up senior secondary schools. Under such circumstances people in villages are unable to meet these expenses. Education is being provided through private schools otherwise villages would have been deprived of education facility. There are different systems of education and people are unable to make a choice. I would like to make a submission that a radical change may be brought in education policy so that there is uniformity in Education throughout the country. Even today there is no single language in schools across the country. I would like to suggest that Hindi language should be made compulsory in 1st standard of all the schools throughout the country and every year this provision should be extended to another class in this way Hindi will become compulsory everywhere.

I would like to make a submission about Panchayat raj. Panchayat raj has been divided into three tier system by making an amendment in the Constitution of India but it is really sad that there is no coordination among them. Previously there used to be a Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat who was a member of Panchayat Committee, and the Pradhan of Panchayat Committee used to be a Member of the District Council. They were associated with plans on every level. There is no role of Sarpanchs and Pradhans at District Council level and Gram Panchayat level. Gram Sevaks and Development officers have become all-in-all It has become a totally Governmental machinery and there is no participation of public representatives in it. The Government of Rajasthan has given this authority to district collector instead of district councils. In place of the 'Pramukh' (Chief) the collector has been appointed as the head of district agency. Officers behave arbitrarily in matters of approval which promotes corruptions. District councils and

[SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY]

Panchayat Committees would become meaningless if this situation is not reviewed. I would like to suggest that coordination should be maintained among all the levels of Panchayati raj system and these be given full powers so that developmental work is undertaken by these institutions in the interest of public so that representatives of public could associate themselves with such works.

Taxes have been imposed on some goods and withdrawn from some goods. Moreover taxes have been increased on shaving blades. Radio set which is a cheaper medium of entertainment has not been spared whereas taxes on several items used by rich people have been withdrawn or reduced.

Rajasthan is famous for marble the world over. Tajmahal built from Makrana stones is considered an excellent work of beauty and craftsmanship. You have given a special treatment to this stone and increased duty on it from 30 percent to 40 per cent we were hoping that it would be reduced to 10 percent.

I would like to draw your attention towards those lift irrigation Projects which were only discussed here time and again but nothing has been done in this regard so far. I would like to draw your attention towards Lift Project formulated for the benefit of Nagaur district of Rajasthan. Earlier Lift Projects were formulated to lift water from Indira Gandhi Canal and the river Ganges. These should be implemented so that drinking water is made available alongwith irrigation. This way a big problem will be solved.

Everytime issue of crop insurance is raised but now it has been introduced in some districts and states. I would like to submit that had the proposed crop insurance scheme been implemented earlier farmers would not have committed suicide. So, this scheme should be implemented throughout the country. In the same way cattle insurance scheme should also be implemented.

Earlier an announcement was made in this House that Nagaur and Ajmer would be linked by national highway but it has been confined to files only. I request you to accord approval for constructing this highway.

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandala):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, firstly I would thank the hon. Minister of Finance. I was pleased to go through the budget presented here. I hail from a rural area and most of our population lives in villages. I have seen a part of this budget. I will not mention about it in detail. A housing scheme has been proposed in it and hon. Minister of Finance has proposed to implement it on priority basis. Small farmers and poor people could not be provided

houses under the housing schemes formulated so far but now hon. Minister of Finance has tried to extend housing facility to poor people in the maximum number of villages, on behalf of all the Members I thank the hon. Minister of Finance for it. Maximum provision of Rs. 1600 crore has been made for it in this budget.

Secondly, I would like to speak about education which is very important subject. As we all know that most of the people are to be imparted education. I am happy that provision has been made for the field of education. Most of our population lives in villages. As a teacher I used to go to villages myself. Teachers do not want to go to villages and the result is that poor children are unable to study. In this connection, an important scheme of primary education has been implemented. For the first time Government has provided for compulsory and free primary education alongwith free education to women upto graduation level. I thank the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Minister of Finance for it. So far, no Government has given a thought to it but BJP Government and its allied partners have paid attention towards it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have raised a special issue in this House time and again. Last time also I had said that the Government of India has a scheme of special Central Assistance for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Alongwith it millions of rupees are also given to the State Government for development of villages but so far no systematic programme has been fixed for it. The funds are allocated by the Central government. In this regard, I would like to make a request to Hon'ble Minister of Finance that the funds allocated to the state governments are deposited directly in the state government pool. These funds should be utilised for the development of the areas predominantly inhabited by tribal harijans. I have gone through all the statistics but no concern has ever been expressed in this regard. The state governments receive the funds from the Central Government, but they do not send any accounts regarding utilisation of that money which gives rise to concern. I have been elected from District Mandla. It is considered to be the most backward district of Madhya Pradesh. Kanha National Park is located in this area and I have raised this point several times. Trees were felled there for development of the area but nobody expressed concern in this regard. There are several such matters but I don't wish to mention now. However, so far as the issue of development is concerned, a special plan of action was drawn up for the welfare of Vaiga tribe living in my area. Crores of rupees were released by the Central Government for this purpose, but the people belonging to Vaiga tribe still wear a strip of cloth tied around their waist. The people of Vaiga

tribe are only such tribals in the country who do not have clothes to wear. They do not get two square meals. They live in forests and consume 'Kanda' Despite spending crores of rupees, the government has never shown any concern for them I made some efforts last time and consequently Vaiga authority was set up in district Mandla in Madhya Pradesh for the welfare of Vaiga tribe under a special plan.

Such a large amount was released, still those poor people remain deprived of education, drinking water and all other facilities. Their welfare remains a distant dream. I do not wish to go into details. I would like to make a request to Hon'ble Minister of Finance that special efforts should be made with refered to the matters especially those related to the rural areas which are a cause of concern for us and also in case of such areas which are proposed to be marked by the government and such a scheme should be implemented in future so as to ensure their welfare. I have gone through the budgets presented earlier. In the present budget and in the present situation, most of the measures have been taken for the rural areas and adequate funds have been provided for them. I would like to thank Hon'ble Minister of Finance for this gesture and with this, I conclude.

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundargarh): Madam Chairman, we have got the opportunity after a long wait. We are new members, hence it was essential to give us some time to speak, however, Since we have limited time at our disposal, I won't take much time. I do not wish to quote detailed figures of the budget presented because several members have spoken at length in this regard. This is a revolutionary budget having an excellent practical approach. The provision for the sector of education, health and transport in very good indeed. I do not wish to go into detail but the opposition parties have made some points regarding the hike in the price of urea and petrol. I request hon'ble Minister of Finance that when he gives his reply he should definitely inform the house about the number of times the prices of these items were hiked when the opposition parties were in power. He need not go back much further, but he should definitely dwell on the number of times and the percent by which the prices of urea and petrol were hiked in the last 10 years.

Madam, I am reminded of an anecdote from Mahabharata. When the war of Mahabharata came to an end, the victorious Pandavas alongwith Draupadi went to meet Bheeshma Pitamaha lying on the bed of arrows. Pandavas asked him to tell them about ethos to be followed when Bheeshma Pitamah. Said that one should take to weapons in case of atrocities on women, Draupdi

laughed. Arjuna and Krishna got angry at this because Draupadi had insulted Bheeshma Pitamah. They did not say anything at that time but when they left, Arjuna asked Draupadi on their way back as to why she had laughed. She said that there are three types of people in the world. The first type of persons do a lot of talking. The second type of persons do what they say and the third type comprises of such persons who do not talk much and let their work speak for themselves. When I was listening to the speech made by Hon'ble Member, Shri Murlidhar Deora yesterday, it appeared to fall in the category of talking too much and doing nothing.

Madam, our Finance Minister is a man of few words but I feel that he falls into the third category of those who talk less and do more work. I hope that he will do much more and keep up the good work. I shall conclude after citing two three points.

[English]

Reacting to the Union Budget, the CII President, Shri Rajesh V. Shah stated that the Budget would help in restoring the investors' confidence and lend the economy a status of a strategic value-adding partner in the region".

[Translation]

I would like to quote from Rashtriya Sahara also but before that, I am quoting from another paper.

[English]

"Leading overseas investors including non-resident Indians while labelling the new Budget as "growth oriented" have lamented at the lack of boldness in the Budget to ensure greater foreign capital inflow to ride off threats posed by sanctions in the aftermath of the nuclear tests."

[Translation]

Madam, similarly, The Hindustan Times reports 'arth - vyavastha mien pran phunkne ka prayas' (an attempt to revive the economy) I am not reading out the contents of the report due to paucity of time and am only giving the headlines. I would also like to tell you about the comments made in Rashtriya Sahara - 'ek sahasik budget' (a bold budget) I would like to read out an excerpt. "Before making any assessment of the budget presented in the House by the Union Finance Minister for the year 1998-99, it will be appropriate to say that it is a bold budget. I do not wish to speak at length you can work

[SHRI JUAL ORAM]

out for yourself what the problem with the opposition is, because they can find nothing to criticise in the budget except the two issues of urea and petrol. Hence, I support this budget.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: (Jalaun): Hon'ble Madam Chairperson, I thank you for having given me time to speak on this important budget. Golden Jubilee of Independence is being celebrated in our country. I congratulate Hon'ble Minister of Finance for having presented a benefiting budget on the occasion of Golden Jubilee. Through this budget, an attempt has been made to make our country economically stronger. This budget has several beneficial schemes for the country, for example, in education sector it is proposed to provide education to women free of cost upto graduation level. The root cause of evils prevalent in our society is illiteracy. If women are educated and make a progress, it will go a long way in ensuring that the people who are illiterate today, will become literate and be instrumental in the progress of the country.

Madam, the provision made by Hon'ble Finance Minister for providing employment in the rural areas and alleviation of poverty, is a welcome step. Rs. 1600 crore have been provided for Indira Awas Yojana. Our housing scheme will also be beneficial for the poor. Those who do not have any house. Will be provided with this facility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you wish, you can lay your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Madam, Rs. 700 crore have been allocated for Social Assistance Programme. Hon'ble Minister has made a provision for grant of old age pension to the senior citizens and the old people driven out of their homes by their children. It is proposed to grant pension to around 50 lakh people. Rs. 100 crore have been allocated under Rural Sanitation programme. I would like to say that the allocation of Rs. 100 crore is quite significant. There is no toilet facility for our womenfolk and poor people residing in villages. They have to walk miles to defecate. Hon'ble Finance Minister has made a provision of Rs. 100 crores in this regard. It will help in constructing the good and clean toilets.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up now.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: I support this Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to conclude in two minutes.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA (Swai Madhopur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to say that nobody can express his views only in two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your colleagues have also spoken for two minutes.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: I strongly oppose the Budget presented for the year 1998-99 as it is against the interests of farmers and poor people. Time and again it has been said from the treasury benches that the Finance Minister has provided a huge amount for the farmers in this Budget. However, we find that the prices of fertilizers, urea, tractor and many other inputs have been increased. Today everywhere in market, in buses whether it is trains etc. It is being discussed that it is not a common man's budget. It is not in the interest of farmers rather it is an anti-farmer Budget. Many schemes have been proposed in this Budget for the welfare of farmers. Due to natural calamities farmers have to bear a loss of crores of rupees every year. Large scale industries get full compensation of their loss through insurance but farmers get only nominal compensation for any loss incurred by them due to hailstorm, drought or fire. Regarding the Insurance Scheme formulated for the farmers, Hon'ble Minister has clearly mentioned its scope, amount and the areas which can be insured. We are farmers and are adivasis. As Shri Ramanand Singh has stated earlier in Rajasthan farmers do not get any compensation in case of any calamity whether it is hailstorm, rain or flood. A few days ago, farmers have committed suicide and the issue caused an uproar in the House. But why it has happened. Everybody knows that they were compelled to take such an extreme step. It could be due to the damage to the crop, daughter's marriage or repayment of loan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister has been an I.A.S. Officer and he comes under the category of bureaucrats. Therefore, instead of thinking about the welfare of the farmers, he has given weightage to the welfare of officers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: I am not giving a long speech. I only want to put two-three points before you. I welcome the step taken by the hon'ble Minister to promote the education for the girls upto B.A. It would have been better to provide free education up to Primary, middle and matric level in the rural areas where 80% of our population resides. It would have been better if educational facilities are provided to the words of farmers

and reparate assistant to the children of people living below the poverty line. I thank you for the efforts made by you to promote the education of girls.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: Mr. Chairman, sir, I have not yet completed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude within a minutes.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: No increase has been made in the allowance given to the educated unemployed. At present this allowance is Rs. 500. I demand to increase it to 1 or 1 1/2 thousand. Similarly, the scholarship being given to the people of SC, STs. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, that scholarship is negligibile people belonging to scheduled caste and tribes will be benefited if the amount of the scholarship is increased. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's enough, please wind up.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: I am not going to say much. I have only one point left. I hail from Rajasthan. Rajasthan is rich in Marble. I would like to state the hon'ble Finance Minister that excise duty on marble has been raised from 30% to 40%. It is against the Interests of labourers working there. Therefore, I request you to reduce the same ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up. Thank you.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA: I am not going to say much. I only want to say that the foreign loan which was being given to us earlier has now been stopped. What you have thought about it. Are you going to increase the prices to make up the repayment of the loan?

In the end, I would say that this Budget is not in the interest of farmers and poor people.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT (Jammu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the first time during the last 50 years of our independence, a Budget has been presented which is so much associated with the spirit, society and life of Indian citizens. I extend my thanks to the hon. Finance Minister for presenting such a Budget. Besides, I would like to say that this Budget is so multi dimensional in nature that no field of social life has been left untouched and

unattended to by the provisions of this Budget. Despite all this, may people criticise it and forecast that the value of rupee will go down and inflation graph will go up. Likewise the foreign exchange reserves will also start depelting. I cannot understand if they are so good astrologers and forecasters, then what all did they keep on doing during the last fifty years? When we became independent, as the people who have gone through history might be knowing that a loan of crores of rupees was outstanding against England. At that time we were creditors and it is a matter of grief for us that in the last 50 years there have been 50 budgets. Today our foreign exchange reserve is in a miserable state, our production has gone down, the value of our rupee is steeply falling. Our 60 percent population is living below poverty line and India is one of the most indebted countries in the world.

Today the situation is such that there is no small or big country in the world to which we are not indebted. Under such circumstances, there is rampant poverty in our country and the farmers are forced to commit suicide. India can boast of having the largest number of illiterates in the world. India also has the largest number of blinds. The incidence of deaths caused by tuberculosis is more in India. Malaria spreads more frequently in India. There are maximum number of leprosy patients in our country and there is also rampant unemployment. The people responsible for this all pervading poverty, unemployment, starvation and helplessness ruled this country for 50 years. And they expect us to deliver things within two months. How can we white-wash their fifty year long misrule. We need some time. We are happy to note that for the first time a Budget reflective of the spirit of Indian ideology and of Indian thought and society, has been presented and our hon. Finance Minister has presented it with courage of conviction. Our critics barely got a chance to criticise us. Except that they said that unemployment was not eradicated. No Government can provide Government jobs to all but the means to solve the problem of unemployment can be devised. I would like to broadly dwell upon the main points of scheme formulated for this purpose in the Budget. There is a provision in the Budget constructing 20 lakh houses, 10 lakh clean toilets in different locations and undertaking other construction activities by which the labourers working in the brick-kilns will get employment, iron factories will be run and several cement-factories which are lying closed, will become operational. Likewise the timber factories will also be able to do business and the demand of glass will increase. Besides, one lakh self-help groups will be started in which the craftsmen living in the villages will be trained. So that they may become self-dependent. Forty lakh families

[VAIDYA VISHNU DATT]

will be associated with such ten lakhs people. This way the rural folk will be economically uplifted. The agricultural labourers will be provided a hundred days' employment at a time when they are rendered unemployed. Besides this Rs. 60 crore have been provided for giving a boost to the production of cotton and when the cotton production will increase, all the allied industries will grow. Rs. 90 crores have been earmarked for rejuvenating sugar-mills, because a large number of sugar-mills are lying closed today. If they are revived, a large number of workers will get employment. The people engaged in transportation will also get employment. Similarly a lot of steps have been taken in the Budget to create the infrastructure, and to give a fillip to energy, roads and communication sectors. 50 percent is being allotted for education. By this many teachers and students will be benefited. Thus, the Budget has spared no field of activity without making employment opportunities available.

This Budget is extremely good from the point of view of generating employment. This will give impetus to country's development as it is growth oriented budget.  
...(Interruptions)

We conducted nuclear explosions. This became an eye-sore for other countries and they were critical of such an action on our part. But we conducted the nuclear tests to ensure our security and strength. Some people in the opposition were taken a back by the presentation of this Budget. This Budget has made them suffer from defection. As this Budget left them dumb-drawn, they tried to assert their existence by raising the issues of employment and price rise. A person is expected to have a right of milking the cow he feeds.

\*SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the general Budget. A Government should aim at providing food, clothes and shelter to every citizen, water for irrigating fields and employment to everybody.

This Budget has given some relief to the salaried class and put an extra burden on the common man. The prices of all the commodities of day to day use of the common man like postal material, gold, petrol, urea, kerosene, cigarettes, tea, spices, butter, ghee, cheese, sweets, namkeen, pan-masala, ink, tyre, sewing machines, medical appliances, frames of the glassed and the prices of weapons have been increased.

The luxury items used by the affluent class i.e. television electronic calculators, pager, mobile, phone, ten

horse power diesel engine, computers, newsprint, unpolished diamond, solar-energy appliances, recorded audio-cassettes etc. have been made cheaper.

A 91 percent increase has been made in the field of public welfare which is very less, because the biggest problem facing the country is of the oppressed and exploited class of society for whom this provision has been made. The amount of Rs. 65 crores provided in this Budget for the upliftment of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes for the purpose of extending scholarships to 22.66 lakhs students of this category is too inadequate. This money should be made directly available to the people as large scale frauds take place in its disbursement. This money is misappropriated by the brokers etc. Various components of scheduled Castes/tribes have been provided Rs. 361 crores under special central scheme by which 24.80 lakh people will be benefited. This money should be appropriated under the supervision of the Members of Parliament so that the real beneficiaries get directly benefited.

Provisions has been made for providing a small loan of an amount of Rs. 10,000 per person for self-employment to two lakh families which will be made available through NABARD.

I would request the Hon. Minister to see to it that a person gets the whole amount directly at minimum interest rate.

As regards the reforms in the Public Sector a proposal pertaining to providing liberal compensation package for the workers of public sector undertakings which are running in losses or which cannot be revived has been made, that should also be made applicable to the private sector. In my constituency, the Subedar Ganj sleeper Plant Factory, an institution run by the department of Railways is on the verge of closure. All the I.T.I. Units of Uttar Pradesh including V.P.S., Naini, Allahabad and I.T.I., Naini are running in loss. 350 labourers of Triveni Engee, Naini, Allahabad are on the verge of starvation. The hon'ble Minister should provide a generous compensation to all the workers and labourers working in these Government and non-Government institutions.

Television serials, social, religious and historical films should be encouraged and shown tax free. A ban should be imposed on long and vulgar films. Under the National Social Assistance Programme only about fifty lakh old people have been given the benefit of the old age Pension

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\* Speech was laid on the Table.

Scheme, though the number of those who deserve to avail the facility is several crores in the total population of 100 crores.

Rs. 1600/- crores have been earmarked for the implementation of Indira Avas Yojana. The Government should ensure that the allocated money reach those who deserve it and that the funds are not misappropriated. It will benefit about 13 lakh people, though the number is not adequate. A target of constructing 20 lakh additional dwelling units has been fixed out of which 13 lakh units will be constructed in rural areas and 7 lakh units will be constructed in urban areas. Middle men, officers and staff members involved in this project should be restrained from misappropriating the funds allocated for the project. Rs. 110/- crores are proposed to be incurred in HUDCO project, but the common man will not get any benefit from it. It is just the misuse of the money. This project is meant to benefit the rich people. There is a provision of Financial assistance of one lakh rupees from National Housing Banks which proves beneficial to rich and influential people. Whereas the weaker sections are deprived of any benefit.

Rs. 100/- crores have been allocated for the construction of ten lakh public toilets. Rural areas should also be covered under this Project. An allocation of Rs. 1627/- crores under Rural Agriculture Development Programme would benefit one lakh people. The Government should take measures to check any misappropriation of funds in this regard. An amount of Rs. 450/- crores would be incurred in digging ten lakh wells. This money should be spent directly through the public representatives. It would take five years to provide potable water in all rural areas. Whereas, the whole of the country is passing through a crisis of potable water at present. This problem is acute in the colonies of SC and STs. I would suggest that small tubewells alongwith water tanks to store water should be installed in every village.

The increase in prices of urea tend to render the 76% of the total farmers penniless. The statement given by the hon'ble Minister that prices of urea have been raised to protect the long term fertility of the soil, is baseless. It is just an excuse to increase the prices.

Rs. 100/- crores have been provided for the education of women. Women education is a problem in rural areas. An inter college should be set up at block level. An assistance of Rs. 1092/- crores has been provided for Primary education and nutritional diet, which is not being utilized. Rather this amount is being misused.

Sports at village level should be promoted under National Sports Fund. Jyoti Yadav, a cricketer from Allahabad should be included in the Indian Cricket team. Rs. 500/- crores are proposed to be spent on the basic infrastructure, under which 64 crossings and bridges will be constructed in Allahabad by the National Highway Authority of India so that heavy trucks etc. Passing through the city, may follow the by-pass and the city is kept clean and free of accidents.

The allocation for health services has been curtailed in this year's Budget. Last year, the money allotted for health services was to the tune of 1.8% which has been reduced to 1.3% this year. The government is misleading the people with the statement that Rs. 3600/- crores have been allocated for this purpose. Primary health centres should be set up in villages. Private practice by the doctors should be banned and proper medical treatment and medicines should be provided to the common man.

The amount of MPs LAD Fund should be increased from Rs. 1/- crore to Rs. 5/- crores. The country can prosper only by providing economic strength to the Panchayats at district, block and village level.

In the end, I oppose the Budget presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister and conclude my speech.

\*SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA (Sitapur): I congratulate the hon'ble Finance Minister for the bold step he has taken in this period of transition in our country. This Budget is different from the earlier Budgets from the point of view of priorities and objectives. For the first time priority has been given to agriculture and rural development, education, employment and welfare. It is essential to give priority to Agriculture and rural development to enable India to achieve prominence in the world.

The rate of economic development declined to 5% in 1997-98. Agricultural production fell from 199 metric tonnes to 194 metric tonnes. There was a down fall in industrial production also. Fiscal deficit was 6.1%. This was the economic condition of the country when hon'ble Minister took over as Finance Minister. This Budget will strengthen the staggering economic condition of the country. The hon. Minister of Finance deserves to be commended for it.

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\* Speech was laid on the Table.



[SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA]

This Budget has many positive and commendable features:

1. 90% increase in the budget allocation for the agricultural development, proves that the hon. Minister is concerned about the 70% population of the country.
2. Priority to rural development
3. Importance to rural housing - A proposal to construct 20 lakh houses - consisting 13 lakh in rural areas and 7 lakh in urban areas. (Employment generation)
4. Efforts made to provide potable water in slums.
5. Provision of free education to women from primary level to higher level
6. Emphasis has been laid on the infrastructure development.
7. Self-employment scheme is not enough to eradicate the unemployment in rural areas. Agriculture based industries should be promoted to generate employment opportunities.

The purpose of the Budget is to check the decline in agricultural production and to strengthen the rural economy. Since only 37 percent agricultural land is irrigated, more emphasis should be laid on irrigation. As India is an agriculture based country, our economic policy is agriculture-oriented, it will accelerate the pace of whole economy.

The proposal of the Government to issue Credit cards to farmers to enable them to get required money for purchasing seeds, fertilizers etc., is commendable.

Allocation of three thousand crores rupees for rural infrastructural development is an evidence that we would not lag behind in the field of rural development.

The hon. Minister has been considerate in providing the water storage facility for irrigation and the development of barren land.

Rs. 1627/- crores have been allocated for adequate water supply arrangements.

Rural banks are proposed to be strengthened to provide the loan facility. The share money of NABARD has been increased to help the rural people.

Small scale industries generate employment opportunities, therefore, special attention has been given to encourage the small entrepreneurs and the development of small scale industries. These industries generate 80% employment in the country.

In this Budget, 35% increase has been made in the plan outlay for energy, transportation and communications. The allocation has been increased from Rs. 35,252/- crores to Rs. 61,146/- crores. Rs. 500 crores have been provided to National Highways Authority. 50% allocation has been made for education in this Budget. Provision of Rs. 100/- crores has been made for free education to women.

Insurance facility has been provided to benefit domestic private companies and not to benefit foreign companies.

Both domestic capital and Foreign capital are required for the economic development of the country.

To encourage the NRIs for making capital investment in our country, P.I.O. Scheme has been introduced.

To attract the foreign investors, it an appropriate step to provide the facility of clearing their investment proposals within 90 days.

Income Tax limit has been raised from forty thousands rupees to fifty thousand rupees. This limit should have been increased to sixty thousand rupees.

Introduction of three schemes - Samadhan, Saral, Samman is a welcome step. More funds have been granted to agricultural processing industries. More allocation is required for health services.

In the general budget of 1948, 5.7% of Gross domestic income was allocated for health purpose but with the increase in population, allocation on the item of health reduced continuously. In the year 1997-98., this rate was 1.8% whereas this year it reduced to 1.3% whereas the amount of Rs. 3600 crores said to be earmarked in the budget. Hon'ble Finance Minister is requested to increase the provision for health services in the budget and 5.7% of Gross domestic income should be allocated for this item.

In 1998-99, provision of Rs. 41.200 crores has been made in the Defence Budget which is more than the last year's revised budget by Rs. 5,101 crores. Devaluation of rupee and a large portion of allocation will be spent on implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission which is negligible. However, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has said that there would be no slackness in security matter.

Indigenous Industry is facing difficulties due to liberalisation in export. Earlier, there were no sales tax, excise or local taxes and in spite of lagging behind in the aspects of capital, technology and expertise, it used to pay high rate of excise. This was the reason due to which the industry was not able to become stable. An effort has been made to bring the indigenous industry at par by imposing an 8% levy on custom-duty. Indigenous Industry welcomes this decision.

Grinded spices and tea will become dearer for the common man as 8% advance excise has been imposed on branded packages. Please consider this point and withdraw it.

\*SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the General Budget. I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting this pro-village and pro-farmer indigenous budget according to the dreams of Shri Atla Bihari Vajpayee, who has expressed concern to make India self-reliant, self-respecting and prosperous nation.

Just now, I was listening the views of Leaders of Opposition. Before expressing their views atleast they should have thought as to what condition they have created in this country during the last 50 years. Few days ago, Hon'ble Finance Minister had laid the Economic Survey of 1997-98 on the Table of the House. In that it was clear that in the year 1997-98, the entire economic development declined to 5%. Agricultural development was negative because as compared to last year's production of 199 million tonnes, production of foodgrains declined to 194 million tonnes this year. Industrial production declined to 4.2% due to recession. Export performance for the successive second year was also not satisfactory and in dollar terms, this increase in Gross Domestic Product became 6.1%. The condition of capital market is also disappointing and due to problems of basic facilities economic system is in shambles. Keeping in view the

economic system which the Hon'ble Finance Minister inherited, under those circumstances, no better budget than this could be presented.

The bold steps taken to overcome the decline in agriculture sector and to strengthen rural economy is praise-worthy. The provision made for the development of small scale industries in the industrial sector will bring about a change in the direction and condition of the country. Plan allocation shows our priorities. There has been an increase of 58 per cent in plan allocation for Ministry of Agriculture. Earlier in 1997-98 it was Rs. 1807 crores, now it has been increased to Rs. 2854 crores. Similarly, for the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, the amount of plan allocation has been increased to Rs. 9912 crores which is more than the Revised Estimates of Rs. 8356 crores by Rs. 1556 crores. There has been an increase of 34 percent in plan allocation for Health and Family Welfare. Rs. 894 crores has been increased for Education Department, 91 per cent increase for Welfare Ministry depicts our intentions.

Gandhiji had said that even the poorest person should be benefited by our work. This is an appropriate step towards implementation of Antyodaya programme of Pt. Deen Dayalji. For the first time villagers, artisans and farmers have been taken care of in a better way in this budget. Till now Tata and Bata were taken care of. Rural blacksmiths, cobblers, carpenters and other artisans will have an opportunity to expand their profession but this budget has made some people worried who only want to beautify the Connaught Place of Delhi, Chopati of Bombay and Chourangi of Calcutta only instead of paying attention towards development of villages.

In this budget there is a provision to provide 20 lakhs houses to the people - 13 lakhs houses in the rural areas and 7 lakhs houses in urban areas. It has been proposed that in the next five years, area of irrigation will be increased and arrangement will be made to provide drinking water in all the human settlements. In plan allocation 1997-98, the revised estimates of Rs. 517 crores has been increased to Rs. 677 crores for Wasteland Development Programmes. This will result in agricultural development of the country and farmers will become prosper.

For rapid irrigation programme I demand that Vansagar Project be completed at the earliest by allocating more fund for this purpose. Supporting the 58% increase in rapid irrigation programme as compared to the revised estimates of 1997-98 I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister that urea is still provided by the cooperative shops

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

[SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI].

though its price has been decreased but the farmers do not get it. Hence, urea should be made available in the open market.

With this last request, I will conclude my speech. The funds which are being provided to state Government for implementation of centrally sponsored schemes should be used properly. The Central Government should ensure this also. In my Constituency Rewa, seven schemes are being run in the name of Rajiv Gandhi Mission, the ruling congress party is using the fund provided for these schemes for its vested interests. Large scale corruption

is involved in it. Similarly, irregularities are being committed in old age pension. With this hope that Hon'ble Finance Minister will make efforts to check this, I support the budget presented by Hon'ble Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The list of speakers on general budget has exhausted. Hon'ble Finance Minister will give reply at 2.00 P.M. The House stand adjourned to meet at 11.00 A.M.

2.46 hrs. (12.6.98)

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Eleven of the Clock*

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CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATE  
(English Version)

Thursday, June 11, 1998/Jyaistha 21, 1920 (Saka)

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
(iii)/7	Shri R.S.Gavali	Shri R.S.Gavai
1/2	Tuesday	Thursday
65-66/3 (from below)	3,99,000	3,90,000
185/A	Shri Mahesh Kanodice	Shri Mahesh Kanodia
220/22	Rural Affairs and Employment	Rural Areas and Employment
338/14 (from below)	Dr.Sugna Kumar Chellamella	Dr.Suguna Kumari Chellamella