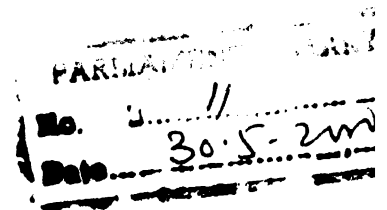


LOK SABHA DEBATES **FOR REFERENCE ON**
(English Version)

NOT TO BE ISSUE

Fourth Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. IX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 11, 1999/Phalgun 20, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Revamping of Indian Airlines

*221. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to prepare a package for revamping of Indian Airlines in consultation with the employees unions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recommendations of Kelkar Committee have been taken into consideration while working out the package; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, the then Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was constituted on 13.2.95 to comprehensively examine the reasons for losses of Indian Airlines and formulation of a Turn Around strategy of Indian Airlines in the context of the competitive market environment. The Committee has since submitted its Report. The Kelkar Committee recommended a two phased financial strategy. In the first phase, the important recommendations of the 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 Resource Management.

In the second phase, the Company would make an Initial Public Offering (IPO) to mobilise funds from the market. After implementation of Phase II, the shareholding structure of Indian Airlines would be as under:—

Government of India	—	49.0%
Indian Airlines employees	—	10.6%
Public	—	40.4%
Total		100.0%

The Recommendations are still under consideration of the Government.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to state that part (a) of the question has already been replied to by the hon. Minister. But I do not agree with him. The answer to part (a) of the Question is "No, Sir." Why? Mr. Minister, you may kindly remember the days when you were coming from Calcutta to Delhi. I was also with you in the same flight not just once but twice. The flight was delayed and due to that, after boarding the flight, you had to get down from the flight with the help of the employees. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he follows Article 43A of the Constitution or not. Should the workers not take part in the management for revamping the Indian Airlines?

Secondly, the Kelkar Committee comprehensively examined the loss of the Indian Airlines. But still the Minister is not revamping the Indian Airlines. If the present policies in respect of the Company are allowed to continue, the Company may face the problem of sickness. On the other hand, the Company has got 12 Boeing 737 aircraft which are obsolete and which need urgent

replacement with a new version of the aircraft. On the other hand, 10 Airbus A-300 have also become very old requiring immediate replacement. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to revamp the Indian Airlines or not. I will put my second supplementary after he replies to this.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, regarding discussions with the employees unions and regarding the Kelkar Committee's recommendations as well as restructuring of the Indian Airlines, the Kelkar Committee itself held four meetings with the employees unions.

Secondly, in its recommendations, it has said that when we disinvest shares to the tune of 51 per cent in respect of Indian Airlines, the Government should hold 49 per cent and it has recommended that 10.6 per cent of the equity should be held by the employees also.

Thirdly, regarding restructuring of the Indian Airlines and upgradation of the fleet, it is an ongoing process and it is being pursued.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: If 10.6 per cent of the equity should be held by the employees of the Indian Airlines, then, why is the Minister not consulting the employees? Mr. Minister, you are allowing the Indian Airlines to go private. You are allowing the public to hold 40.4 per cent of the shares. In this way, you are going to make the Indian Airlines as a private company. It is the first step for the Government to privatise the Indian Airlines. Is it correct?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: If the question is over, then I can reply.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary question?

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: I have put the supplementary question. The public are allowed to hold 40.4 per cent of the shares. Why are the employees not consulted?

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether the employees are consulted or not. That is his supplementary question.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I have already stated that there had been four rounds of meetings with the employees held by Shri Kelkar.

He took the meetings when he was the Chairman for the restructuring of the Indian Airlines.

Secondly, it is not privatisation of Indian Airlines. It is the financial and organisational restructuring of Indian Airlines. We are divesting; we are disinvesting 51 per cent of the equity share. In that 10.6 per cent is recommended to be given to the employees and the remaining will be suitably disinvested with various financial institutional investors.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: While Vijayawada is the heart of Andhra Pradesh and also a political centre, Rajahmundry is a great cultural centre and had been the hub for trade and commerce activities. Airlines were operating at Vijayawada and also at Rajahmundry. The submission I am making is that the Ministry of Civil Aviation was to revamp both these places for the purpose of continuous usage of the Airlines in consultation with the employees union. What is the result of that? Are they going to start the Airlines in both these places at the earliest?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Airports in Vijayawada and Rajahmundry.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Both airlines and airports in Vijayawada and Rajahmundry.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Regarding the Vijayawada airport, our upgradation programme is on. We have got the assistance of the State Government also. I think by July end we will be completing our upgradation programme. Even the resurfacing of the runway tarmac and other works are going on and the same will be ready.

Regarding Rajahmundry, I am ready to examine the upgradation plan.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It was already there for a long time. They must take some interest. Nobody takes interest. Rajahmundry is the hub for the trade and commercial activities.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: The hon. Minister must assure that he will take up Rajahmundry also.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I appreciate and understand the concern of the senior hon. Member regarding Rajahmundry. I also know that Rajahmundry is a very important hub, commercially and otherwise. Therefore, we will look into the whole thing.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Firstly, the Planning Commission in 1985 recommended that there must be workers' participation at the top Board level, at the factory level and at the plant level. Has the advice of the Planning Commission been implemented so far as Indian Airlines and Air India are concerned?

Secondly, as far as Calcutta Airport and the Bagdogra Airport is concerned including Guwahati Airport in the Eastern region, I must congratulate the hon. Minister for improving the Airports. But, very few overseas airlines touch these places. If the people from these places want to go to Far-East, they have to come to Delhi to take a flight to go to Japan or Singapore. Would the hon. Minister consider bringing—when he has given such good Airports—to Calcutta and Guwahati more overseas airlines to originate to go towards Eastern side? Of course, Delhi crowd have to travel to Calcutta from where the flights originate. It would save a lot of cost for the Indian Airlines and Air India.

Thirdly, would the hon. Minister look into the quality of food? The quality of food has become very bad. Kindly look into the food problem. I know that it is a very difficult job. Try to hold the meeting with the officers who are in charge of food. I think, he would be able to do it with the young energy he has.

SHRI ANATH KUMAR: Sir, I thank the hon. Member for the compliment. Calcutta airport is an international airport and we have given landing rights to many countries. Therefore, the designated airlines of many countries are free to operate from Calcutta for whatever sectors they want to fly, especially to South east Asia. As far as Guwahati airport is concerned, in our Infrastructure Policy Paper on Airport Infrastructure we have clearly said that Guwahati airport is also eminently qualified to be nominated an international airport. Once it gets the status of an international airport, then various national and international carriers can operate their services to international destinations from Guwahati also. As on today, a major upgradation programme is on in Guwahati and, I think, it will be completed soon.

As far as our consultations with the employees' union are concerned regarding their participation in management, Kelkar's Committee itself held four rounds of discussions and even the management of Indian Airlines held discussions with the major employees' union, that is, the Air Corporation Employee's Union on 22.06.1998 and explained about the disinvestment and restructuring of Indian Airlines. As per the recommendation for equity participation by the employees to the tune of 10.6 per cent, there can be a participation in the equity as well as the management which can be projected into that.

Regarding the quality of food, there is a separate question which is placed as the fifth question for today. So, I will answer this supplementary when I answer to that question.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the quality of food, I also feel that the hon. Minister has to take some precautionary measures, because it is very difficult to find out whether the food served in Indian Airlines is prepared the previous day or on the same day of the flight.

MR. SPEAKER: This question relates to the fifth question for today.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fifth question for today may not come at all for oral answering. So, you may kindly allow the hon. Member now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI: Sir, there is no direct flight from Delhi to Hubli. So, to go to our native place Haveri from Delhi, we have to travel for about two-and-a-half hours to Bangalore and from Bangalore we have to go by road. It takes about eight hours for us to reach Haveri and Hubli. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would be kind enough to provide a daily flight service from Bangalore to Hubli.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, this question does not purport to the main question. This is regarding air service which can be examined.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards Chandigarh which is a very important station and assumes significance for Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and other northern States as well. Earlier daily flights were available from Chandigarh to Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Delhi. Shri Bhajan Lal ji is asking a question which is identical to that of mine therefore please give me one minute's additional time. Now, those facilities are no more available at Chandigarh. Their operation is suspended since long back. My submission to the Minister is that Chandigarh airport can be developed and converted into an international airport as there is a lot of potential in this airport but sadly all services, available earlier, are no more available now. People of Himachal have demanded that flights available earlier from Chandigarh should be resumed again.

Chandigarh caters the needs of Punjab, Haryana, Jammu-Kashmir, Delhi and the capitals of other States.

This is a very important place. I, therefore, want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether Indian Airlines propose to link these places with Chandigarh by daily air services?

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am very happy to inform the hon. Member and the House that we are starting new flights, the inaugural flight to Shimla and Kullu from tomorrow and we propose to link other important places like Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Dehradun by air, within a month.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the consultation with Dr. Kelkar to formulate a policy does not mean that there is workers' participation in the management. The Minister of Labour can enlighten us about it. The workers' participation means workers' participation at the Board's level.

The first part of my question is: Is the Government planning to provide workers' representative at the Board's level?

Secondly, the Minister is emphasising on disinvestment of Indian Airlines to the extent of 51 per cent. But he is not emphasising on other recommendations of the Kelkar Committee which are fleet planning, route rationalisation and human resource management.

What action is the Government contemplating to take in regard to other recommendations which will improve the functioning of the Indian Airlines?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: The Government is concentrating on other recommendations of the Kelkar Committee. It has not completely accepted the Report of the Kelkar Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* It is under consideration of the Government of India.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: How long are you going to take?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We are considering it. A part of it has been accepted in the last Budget by addition of Rs. 125 crore to the equity of the Indian Airlines of Rs. 105 crore.

Regarding disinvestment, fleet operations as well as the route rationalisation, we are concentrating on them. Because of that, we ended up with a profit of Rs. 47 crore during the last year also. I am very happy to inform this august House that we will be making a profit during this year also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What about workers' participation at the Board's level?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I have mentioned about it. It is under consideration. Once the disinvestment process is over, the reconstitution of the Board—according to the Disinvestment Commission—will come forth. then, that will be considered.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Sir, thank you very much. As far as the functioning of the Indian Airlines is concerned, you have given all the points upon which the Indian Airlines and the Government are concentrating and trying to improve the functioning of the Indian Airlines. Now, I come to my first question.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sirpotdar, you are entitled to ask only one supplementary and not the first question.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: I am asking the supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Only first and final supplementary.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: I am just giving the background. Now, I will ask the supplementary also.

It is the first part of the question, that is, the supplementary. When are you going to improve upon the timings of the Indian Airlines? It is every day's experience that whenever we enquire whether a particular flight is in time, we are informed that, yes, it is at right time. Once we go to the airport, we are informed subsequently that because of a technical snag and so many other things, there is delay. Is the situation going to improve? Are all these technical snags and other things there? When are you going to overcome these problems? That is the first part.

Secondly, the private Airlines have come up just recently. It has become a more profitable business. For the Indian Airlines, it is deteriorating every day service-wise and even otherwise.

So far as food is concerned, you have said that question number five is there. My intention was to club both the questions together and then discuss them. The food served is bad. Because of that, the people are not willing to travel by the flights of the Indian Airlines. What are you going to do about it?...*(Interruptions)*

The third part is about the workers' participation.

MR. SPEAKER: It is difficult even for the Minister to reply. First, let the hon. Minister reply.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: First of all, our load factors are much more than that of the private airlines even on the trunk routes.

Secondly, regarding punctuality of the flights, except for the eastern sector, the southern, the western and the northern sectors are, by and large, satisfactory. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Not at all. Please do not mislead the House.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, due to delay, we had to wait at Mumbai Airport for more than six hours. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: What is the experience of the hon. Speaker?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: In the months of December and January, because of the unprecedented fog which was never witnessed in the past thirty-six years, there were flight delays. We have operationalised the Category ILS-2. We have decided to operationalise Category ILS-3 by the end of November, 1999 to improve the aircraft movement.

And secondly, regarding food, as I have already said, it comes in Q.No. 5. When that Question is taken up, I will answer.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, as far as food is concerned, the quality must be improved. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister did not give a straight reply to the question asked by Shri Jain Saheb. Chandigarh is a Union territory and also the capital of Haryana and Punjab. Further, I will not be making any mistake if I make any reference to Himachal Pradesh in this context. Flight service to that State from Chandigarh were available for thirty years. In the morning it would take off for Srinagar and come back by the evening. But, now, you have cancelled that operation which is causing a lot of inconvenience to the people. I, therefore, would like to know the time from you by which you would start those flights for Chandigarh?

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I want to draw the attention of hon. Shri Bhajan Lal that flights to Chandigarh were cancelled in his Government's regime and now the Vajpayee led Government is starting these flights within a month.

Report of Satyam Committee

*222. *SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Satyam Committee on the functioning of ESI has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the recommendations accepted by the Government; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

In July, 1998, the Government had constituted a Committee to review medical facilities available in ESI hospitals/dispensaries. The Committee submitted its report on 14.1.99. The important recommendations of the Committee include enhancement in the ceiling on expenditure on medical care from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 600/ per insured person per annum, vigorous implementation of Action Plan to sanction medical equipments, introduction of Health Record Booklet for each beneficiary, preparation of common formularies and rate contracts for supply of medicines, establishment of Rogi-Kalyan Samities, deterrent penal action for supply of sub-standard drugs, streamlining of the system of local purchases, contractual arrangements for ambulance, cleaning, laundry, privatisation of ESI hospitals, contribution of the Central Government towards the ESI Scheme etc.

The ESI Scheme is a self-financing scheme run mainly on the basis of contributions given by the employers and employees. The scheme is being administered by the ESIC except the medical care which

is mainly the statutory responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The expenditure on ESI medical care is being shared between the ESIC and the State Governments in the ratio of 7 : 1. In view of these existing arrangements, the recommendations of the Satyam Committee have been placed before the Corporation for consideration/recommendations. In its last meeting held on 19.02.99 the Corporation has decided to enhance the ceiling on expenditure on medical care from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.1999.

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards his reply. I would like him to let me know whether this committee was set up one year ago or 10 years ago...*(Interruptions)* because the year mentioned in Hindi reply is 1988 and not 1998 ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: This is not true.

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: It means, you are not giving due consideration to Hindi. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: No, no. It is not like that.

MR. SPEAKER: Please, ask your supplementary.

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: You may, please, look at this.

My supplementary is that ESI is a Centre sponsored scheme in which contribution is made by the employers and employees, The State Government also makes contribution. But inspite of its being a Centre sponsored scheme, it has not got any contribution by the Centre. Satyam Committee report clearly mentions that the Union Government must make some contribution. People of the town hospital near Pune in my constituency have also raised this demand.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question? Please, ask your question.

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: I am asking the same thing. This is the same question. It has been the 15 years old long standing demand of the people of that area that these machines should be installed there in ESI hospitals. Now I want to ask whether the Government, in pursuance of the recommendations made, propose to provide these sophisticated machines to ESI hospitals everywhere?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Member has asked, I want to inform him that this committee was set-up in July, 1998 and gave their report on 4 January, 1999. Thus the committee performed the important task of giving their recommendations. As we know, this is a specific scheme aimed at providing medical facilities to the employees and their family members. We have decided to provide assistance in installation of these sophisticated equipments in hospitals. We are issuing directions to give approval to the proposals sent by the State Governments in this regard.

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: In most of the ESI hospitals, sophisticated equipments are not available due to which employees do not get adequate and proper treatment. In case, they receive treatment or undergo any operation in other hospitals, that requires a lot of expenses which these employees can not afford. Whether Satyam Committee has made any recommendation that whatever expenses do incur on treatment of employees in hospitals other than ESI, should be met with by ESI? And if so, whether the Government propose to accept the same?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a scheme run by contribution. The State Governments get 7/8 share of the total amount from the Corporation whereas 1/8 share of the amount is required to be given by the State Governments themselves. When the Government get the entire amount then it is utilized by the State Governments. We are ready to give our approval to the proposals of State Governments to purchase sophisticated equipments and machines. In the case of Maharashtra, we have already given our approval. In pursuance of main recommendation the amount of Rs. 500/ for every insured person has been enhanced to Rs. 600/- or providing medical treatment. So far as implementation of other recommendations are concerned, the Government would like to discuss them in the next sitting of the Corporation.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the State Employees' Insurance Scheme, the hon'ble Minister has increased the amount of Rs. 500 to 600 for providing medical treatment to every insured employee. But he has said nothing in respect of other recommendations made by this committee. The condition Equipments medicines and medical treatment provided in ESI hospitals is very bad. Most of the people do not want to go there as medicines provided to there are generally of sub-standard quality. So, whether the hon'ble Minister propose to take some action in this regard?

In addition to it whether the Central Government provide maximum support in the scheme in which the medical expenditure has been raised from Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 per annum per labour and whether by doing so, the Government are making any scheme to give the best medical and hospital facility to maximum number of employees.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir I have told that it would be considered in the next meeting of the corporation on the rest of the recommendations. We had considered the report of Stayam committee recently and the provision of the financial assistance in that report, have been increased to Rs. 600. As far as the quality of the medical services is concerned, all this work is related to the management by the State Government which performs it by getting assistance from us. Governments therefore, it is expected from the State Government that the assistance which we have provided, it should be utilized properly. We have extended the assistance for medicines. We have raised that the amount of the assistance. Earlier there was a provision to spend Rs. 165 only but now it has been raised by Rs. one hundred. It has been stated therein that Rs. 220 should be spent on this item. Special attention should be paid to the quality of the medicines which are being utilized for medical treatment. This recommendation is also include in the recommendations of the Satyam Committee.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: The sub-standard medicines being provided and...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. From Beedi Welfare Fund, the Government of India is providing all the benefits to the beedi rollers. Is the Government actually aware of how much beedi welfare fund available? The Government knows the figures. Kindly place it before the House. Also, in the year 1998, the Beedi (Amendment) Bill was passed in Parliament. Since that, time till date, whatever benefit that has to be reached to the beedi rollers, has not reached them. They are not enjoying the benefits out of the Beedi Welfare Fund.

About the medicine also, the Minister is telling that it is the responsibility of the State Government. But even the State authorities are not taking any part in the purchase of medicines throughout the country. Is there any proposal before the Government for bulk purchase of medicine? And, it should be stamped by the Government of India. It should be mentioned that it should

be directly supplied through the ESI. Is there any proposal before the Government? Kindly also mention the amount available in the Beedi Welfare Fund.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to ask your supplementary only.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: It is true that the question is not related to the Beedi Workers, even then I would like to point out for the kind information of the hon'ble Member that earlier money was not available with us. As per the record we have total strength of the Beedi Workers in the country at about 42 lac. We raise the money in the form of cess for providing remaining facilities to those workers. The cess which was collected during the previous session of the Parliament was fifty paise per thousand rupees of Beedis. It has been increased to one rupee. Due to this, the amount of cess is going to be increased on this basis. We are going to expand the facilities. As far as the suggestion of marking the ESI label on medicines is concerned we have noted it and the action will be taken on this.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know through you that mostly the petty employees and the factory workers purchase medicines from the ESI dispensaries but a complaint has been received that the stock of medicines which should be available in the ESI dispensaries is not sufficient. Moreover, the number of beneficiaries is decreasing, is it true?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Infact, this number continues to fluctuate its limit depends on the limit of income and wages or workers. This number decreases because of the number of employees falling outside the wage limit. Therefore it is not correct to say that the number of beneficiaries is decreasing. Definitely it keep on decreasing and decreasing.

[*English*]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the Minister has just now stated that the medical expenditure will be increased from Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 per annum per labour. I want to know whether this Government has given any basic norms or data to the Satyam Committee to arrive at this increase from Rs. 500 to Rs. 600.

You would have supplied some basic data or some norms or some guidelines. What are all those data or norms supplied to the Committee? Further, if there is

any inflation, will you take the inflation into account to decide the future course of expenditure fund? Many of the hospitals are not having adequate number of doctors and there are no specialists at all. What are you going to do? What is your reaction to provide as many doctors and specialists as required to give proper treatment to the labourers?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Certainly, there are constant endeavours to improve the health services in the ESI and in view of that since the new Government has taken over, we have tried to make arrangements for expanding the treatment facilities and improving management to improve the existing facilities available with them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: This is general reply. He should give us a specific reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The hon. Minister is replying generally. What is the rate? What is the use of our asking questions? I want to know about the points raised by the Committee and how it has come to such a conclusion. What is the reason behind it? What is the rationale? He has to answer properly.

[English]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I could not follow...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

As I have stated that this scheme has to be implemented by the State Governments, we just help them. If there is no Doctor and Paramedical Staff this is the responsibility of State Governments that they should make them available and provide proper service to the employees. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: We are not getting proper replies.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Actually these were the expectations of the State Governments that funds would be raised for increasing medical facilities. But the assistance provided by us is not being utilized properly according to instructions issued. The medical expenditure per amount per labour has been increased from Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 so that the quality of medical services are improved.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the Minister is looking after the Ministry of Labour of Government of India. In a country like India there is the importance of the money capital and labour capital. It is upto the Government to safeguard. It is the biggest task assigned to you. The way in which the negligence is done with the employees in various fields, they are neglected in the field of health care also in the same way. Deduction is made in their salaries. You have enhances only by Rs. 100 for the workers where as incalculable amount is spent for the service of high-ups....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary question?

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the recommendations of Satyam Committee are reviewed from time to time. If they are not reviewed, whether the Government would like to implement them because they are not provided proper facilities. Until or unless the review is made, the reality is not known. I would like to know whether the recommendations of the Committee would be implemented or not and whether the recommendations of the committee are reviewed or not.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As I have stated that the recommendations were submitted to corporation on 14 January 1999. Those recommendations are yet to be considered. When those are considered completely then there would be the question of their implementation.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister that the Government have accepted many recommendations of the Satyam Committee. The medical expenditure has been increased from Rs. 500 to Rs. 600. It means that a man will be benefited by one rupee and forty seven paise in a day in terms of medicines.

[*English*]

What is the increase? What are the recommendations of the Satyam Committee Report? I would like to ask the hon. Minister to reconsider the Report and tell Shri Satyam not to propose such recommendations. You are giving one person Re. 1.47 paise only.

Moreover, in my constituency, Bhilai, there are 50,000 labourers working and they have not been provided with any facilities. I have been requesting the hon. Minister times without number and probably the hon. Minister has not taken care. I have received this letter from him that the matter was being looked into. This is a general reply received from every Minister.

I would like to invite your attention. I know that Shri Nitish Kumar. He has done the work there. I must tell him. This is a general reply from the Minister that the matter is being looked into. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about this rate of Re. 1.47 paise. Let him reply ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell Shri Voraji through you that we provide financial assistance to the State Governments for the Employees State Insurance Scheme. We take 4.75 percent and 1.75 percent as contribution from the employer and the employees respectively. We send 7/8 the part of this fund to the State Government. It is the responsibility of the State Governments as how they maintain this fund and make available the medical facilities. Therefore, it would not be proper to say that the Central Government is not paying attention to it. The Satyam Committee report has since been laid for the first time and we are going to consider its recommendations in the next meeting and decision would be taken on the remaining recommendations later on.

[*English*]

Food Processing Policy

*224. MAJ. GEN. BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (AVSM): Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the food processing policy;

(b) whether the demand for processed food items is increasing;

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to meet the rising demand; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make processed food items available to the working class at affordable rates?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Policy regarding food processing is guided by the Industrial Policy of the Government. Most of the food processing items have been exempted from the provisions of industrial licensing under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 with the exception of beer and alcoholic drinks and items reserved for the small scale sector. The items reserved for the small scale sector are pickles & chutneys, bread etc. However, as per the Industrial Policy, all the units located within the radius of 25 kms of urban limit of cities having a population of 10 lakhs as per 1991 census and not located in any of the approved industrial estates would require licensing. As far as foreign investment is concerned, Automatic Approval through Reserve Bank of India for foreign equity upto 51% is available for majority of the processed food items. Approval for more than 51% foreign equity is also allowed on case to case basis by the Government on the recommendations of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

It is evident from the growth in production of various processed food items over the last few years that the demand for processed food items is increasing. The Government has taken a number of initiatives including policy initiative as stated above to promote the growth of food processing sector. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance in the form of soft loan as well as grant in aid for growth, promotion and development of food processing industries. This assistance is available to Private Entrepreneurs, Non-Government Organisations, Co-operatives, Public Sector Undertakings etc. The thrust areas for Plan assistance are:

(i) Setting up of post harvest infrastructure including cold chain infrastructure.

- (ii) Setting up/Expansion/Modernisation of food processing units.
- (iii) Research & Development.
- (iv) Total Quality Management.
- (v) Human Resource Development.
- (vi) Promotional Support for dissemination of information about food processing sector.

The Government has also taken various fiscal measures including rationalisation of excise and customs duties. Most of the processed food items attracts lower level of excise duty. Under the Exim policy, most of the ingredients for the food processing industry as also food processing machinery can be freely imported. Also, with the exception of few items, all the processed food items are freely exportable. For making easy availability of finances to the processed food sector, the Government has recently included this sector under the list of priority sector for bank lending. All these steps are expected to make processed food items easily available.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Mr. Speaker Sir, there is a vast potential of food processing in our country. But I am sorry to say that the same is not being used properly and fully. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the hilly regions of Uttaranchal in Uttar Pradesh. Fruits like Malta and orange and Potato and other Vegetables are produced in huge quantity in the region. Every year this resource of worth crores of rupees are going waste and the Government has not been able to use the same. There is lack of roads and marketing in the hilly and backward regions. That is why we have to let the fruits and vegetables go waste. It is not an exaggeration. When these produce are not used and marketed, it has let to go as waste which is not only a loss to the farmers but the national loss of wealth as well I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to frame any special policy to make food processing easy and profitable in the hilly and the backward areas. Whether you would make arrangements to get information and for its proper use.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I agree with the concern of the hon. Member that massive loss is suffered by the country and the farmers due to lack of proper food processing facilities. Even 1.8 per cent of the Vegetables and fruits produced do not come under food processing whereas a country like Malaysia uses 80 percent of its Vegetables and fruits produced under food processing. It

is estimated that the country incurs a loss of 23 thousand crores of rupees annually due to this. As I have said I share the concern about on going loss due to the lack of proper food processing facilities in the various parts of the country. Unfortunately the food processing policy since the last 50 years has been only a part of the Industrial policy and no policy has been drafted separately for the food processing industry. In view of its importance the present Government want to bring a separate food processing policy so that something could be done to save the loss of 23 thousand crores of rupees incurring to the Government of India annually.

Primarily it comes under the private sector. Therefore we have given certain facilities. Hon. Members has mentioned about Potato and Malta, it will be considered upon after getting information in this regard and also as how the cold storages could be constructed.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the various responsibilities of his ministry in his reply. There is no need to quote the same from the reply. He has especially mentioned about providing loans on easy terms, financial assistance and grants. He has mentioned about the six issues being looked after by his ministry in his reply. It includes research and development too. As per my information the ministry do not have such budget so as to look after these issues. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as how much money have been spent on financial assistance, providing loans on easy terms and on research and development during each of the last three years.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, I express my gratitude to the hon. Member as he has said that this ministry is of prime importance. As I have said that a loss of 23 thousand crores of rupees is being incurred annually. The budget of the work that is under my Ministry is about 30 to 32 crore of rupees. I would request the House that in view of the magnanimity of the work it would prove beneficial in providing assistance to the farmers if more money is sanctioned to the Ministry. Arrangements have been made to provide money at various stages of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. The Minister, in his statement, has given human resource development and Research and Development as the thrust areas. About the human resource development, I would like to know from him through you, Sir, whether he is going to make a special

thrust towards women, who should be the main beneficiary for this whole thing because instead of having those things from outside, we could have made them ourselves. But we have not done it. So, I would like to know whether he is going to give special thrust to women; if so, then what would be the plans?

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the food products are mainly processed by the women. It is being done in the Private Sector. We have tried to provide human resources for it. The Hon'ble Member have suggested that the Government should consider seriously towards the condition of the women.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India stands second in the production of fruits and vegetables.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't shout.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: But in the field of food processing, India stands at the bottom. Bihar is famous for the production of Potatoes, onion, lady finger, bananas, oranges and lichis. All these vegetables and fruits are produced in abundance there. Will the Government conduct any survey and take necessary steps to import the processed food to various countries of the world.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already said, this work is mainly done in the Private Sector but potatoes, onions and all other important fruits and vegetables produced in Bihar, if processed and sent to foreign countries, it will be a laudable achievement. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mango, Lichi, Banana and all vegetables.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: All such important fruits and vegetables which cultivated here.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it Aloo or Laloo?

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: We shall be very happy if all these fruits and vegetables are processed and sent to other countries.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has been told by Hon'ble Minister, it is a fact that heavy losses occurred. But we should think over this matter. If you go into the past, you will find that during the seventh plan a provision of Rs. 24 crore was made for horticulture. I tried to enhance this amount to Rs. 1000 crore during the eighth plan and made a beginning. We have not given any impetus to post-harvest technology, we do not have grading, packaging, forwarding, processing, storage and transportation facilities. A provision was made to provide loan upto the tune of Rs. one crore at 4% interest rate and it was also decided to give grant-in-aid. You have rightly said that Rs. 32-33 crore will not be sufficient for this project. In fact about 45 to 80% fruits and vegetables are processed and canned. We have a maximum target of 4%. Just now, the hon'ble Member was telling that India stands second in this field. Actually we stand first in both these sectors. In the field of fruits and vegetables we stand first alongwith China leaving behind Brazil. Today, the farmer is suffering heavy losses for perishable food products like onions and potatoes. Potatoes, Onions and tomatoes are being sold at Rs. 1.50 or Rs. 1.25 per kg. Therefore, we are required to think over this matter. If we are determined to do anything, we should provide employment to the people. But it requires a number of things. In Europe only 7% and in USA only 3% people are engaged in agriculture sector whereas in our country 70% people are engaged in agriculture sector. It is a high time to think over this matter. We must continue that programme which we have chalked out earlier. We should take concrete steps to benefit the consumers but at the same time we should take into account the pathetic condition of the farmer. If the farmer produces more, he dies and if he produces less even though he dies of starvation. That means he falls in the death well in both the conditions. Therefore, this issue needs your kind attention. We shall fully support you and stand with you.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we are fully aware that Shri Jakhar has enriched experience in the field of agriculture and he has given valuable suggestions. I must ensure him that whatever has been done by the previous Government, we shall ensure that we make a step further in this regard and as I have said earlier that there is no separate policy in our country in the field of food processing. All this is being done under the Industrial Policy. There was no separate Ministry. There was no provision for any Ministry. Therefore, this sector is being gradually given importance. Recently, a few years ago, a separate Ministry was constituted for this sector. But this Ministry was not allotted sufficient funds. The present Government is trying to make more provision for this sector and we shall come in the House with a new Food Processing Policy. That policy will be

discussed on the floor of the House and we will move ahead with your cooperation.

[English]

SHRI C. GOPAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, from the statement, it is very clear that the Ministry of Food Processing provides financial assistance in the form of soft loans. There are many youngsters who have studied catering technology and are holding diploma. They are rendered jobless in the nation. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether preference will be given to youngsters who are diploma holders in catering technology. I would also like to know the sources through which they are giving loans.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, it is true that when you cook a vegetable or fruit in your house, you are, doing food processing, but this food processing has nothing to do with catering diploma holders or catering colleges. This is basically to process the food so that its longevity is there and it can be sold at a proper time and in that, catering diploma holders do not have any privilege. But we will definitely try to look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that this department was created under the Government of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi during 1984-85 and at that time Pepsi Cola was given licence on such condition that it would export the canned processed food products to different countries of the world. Since 1984, Pepsi Cola has exported the Basmati rice in abundance but I would like to ask that except Basmati rice, how much export of canned processed food products has been done by this company. This is part (a) of my question. In part (b), I would like to ask whether a scheme chalked out by the department to process the food at block level has been implemented. Whether this scheme is being implemented at each and every district of India, if not, by when this scheme is likely to be implemented at block level?

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: As far as part (a) of the question is concerned, I will require a separate notice to get these figures. About the second part.

[Translation]

This scheme has not been implemented at each and every district but efforts are being done in this direction.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the reply of Part 'A' of my question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a very important question and it is related with the multinational companies. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Sir, we should also be given an opportunity to speak on this issue. It should be discussed extensively. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Average Expenditure on Refreshments

*225 DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average expenditure per passenger for serving food and refreshments on Indian Airlines flights; and

(b) the method of selection of caterer for the supply of food articles?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The average expenditure per passenger for serving food and refreshment on Indian Airlines flights during the period April, 1998 to January, 1999 works out to Rs. 115/- approximately.

(b) Indian Airlines selects the best available source of catering at each station, from amongst the hotels/restaurants/caterers, through public tender. The number of flights allocated/assigned to the caterers for upliftment of food from each station is determined on the basis of the infrastructural facilities available with the caterer and its catering capacity.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Subramanian Swamy, the question is related to refreshments and, therefore, you should ask such a question that it would refresh all the hon. Members.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, it is a very important question. I only want to know from the Minister,

it is my first supplementary, whether it is a fact that the caterers who have been supplying for the last one year are those who have been supplying for the last ten years and, therefore, whether he has received any allegation of vested interests in this matter.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, there are different caterers for different stations and regions.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: That is not my question.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Whenever the caterers do not meet the expectations of the passengers and there are serious complaints, we cancel their contracts. Last year, we have cancelled contracts of six caterers.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: My second supplementary is, how many such cancellations have taken place in the last three years?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I have given you the last year's figures. Regarding the details in respect of last three years, I will come back to the House with a proper statement.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, he should have been prepared with this answer. I am surprised, on an issue like this, he is saying like this.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: This is a most important issue. The food being served by the Indian Airlines is not good. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you yourself are travelling everyday. This is the feeling of the House. Why is the Government of India not taking any stern measures to improve the quality of the food.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time left is very less and by what time would the Hon'ble Minister make available the data for the last three years along with the reply to the question asked by Shri Subramanian Swamy ji?

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I will submit the details within a week.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, let there be a half-an-hour discussion on this.

[*Translation*]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had written some letters to the Hon'ble Minister in the recent past about Air India and their services there and had expressed out that due to deterioration in the quality of services, our business has gone down. Are the Government aware that our services are getting deteriorated and the Government is incurring losses due to that? What is the Government doing for that?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member is asking the question about Air India, whereas the original question is about Indian Airlines. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Singh.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I don't have to ask a supplementary on this question. I wanted to ask a supplementary question about multi national companies rather, but you did not allow me that.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: There is not much time left now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I want that a half-an-hour discussion should be held on this subject. I urge you to allow a half-an-hour discussion on this subject. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, we are discussing the issue of food served on Indian Airlines flights. The condition of food served is shameful...(*Interruptions*)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]***Disinvestment in ITDC**

*223. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had referred I.T.D.C. to the Disinvestment Commission for suggesting the extent and ways of disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the disinvestment Commission has since submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government have decided to appoint Global Advisor to examine the entire issue;

(f) if so, the progress made so far in obtaining their report;

(g) whether uncertainty on disinvestment has affected the progress in expansion, improvement and maintenance of projects of the I.T.D.C.; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (f) Government of India referred ITDC to the Disinvestment Commission in September, 1996 for making its recommendations in regard to the disinvestment. The Disinvestment Commission submitted its report in February, 1997. The relevant recommendations are reproduced hereunder:

"In respect of the hotels situated in prime locations like Delhi and Bangalore, they may be handed over to established hotel chains through a competitive bidding process to run on long term structured contract on lease-cum-management basis. This will mainly take care of the problems of transfer of property in case of lease hold lands on which the hotels are situated. It would be ideal if a tripartite agreement between ITDC, trade unions and

the concerned parties is concluded in each case to take care of the interests of the labour. The terms of the contract and procedure for competitive bidding may be determined by the Standing Empowered Group (SEG) with the help of financial Advisers and Consultants."

"Other hotels may be demerged into separate corporate identities. Shares will be issued in these companies to Government and other shareholders, if any, in exchange for ITDC Shares. The disinvestment in the new companies will be through sale of 100% Government share holdings in them. The SEG may again carry out this process with the help of Financial Advisors for proper valuation and terms of competitive bidding."

The recommendations are under consideration.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. During the current financial year, ITDC has undertaken a new project for the construction of a 5-star hotel at Chandigarh and a 3-star Joint Venture hotel at Anandpur Sahib in collaboration with Punjab Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. ITDC has also planned renovation/improvement/upgradation of existing hotels.

Fracture in Railway lines

*226. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the train accident at Khanna in November, 1998 due to fracture in railway lines in which over 200 persons were killed, steps have been taken to detect fractures in railway lines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of rail-fractures detected and set right on each railway zone and the expenditure incurred thereon?

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

(b) All possible steps have been taken by the railway to detect fractures in track, the most significant being ultrasonic testing of rails which has been intensified further.

The number of rail fractures detected zone-wise during the year from April, 1998 to January, 1999 is as

under:—

Railway	Rail Fractures
Central	94
Eastern	99
Northern	80
North Eastern	28
North East Frontier	03
Southern	60
South Central	20
South Eastern	944
Western	134
Total	1462

Railways make all efforts to set right the rail fracture in minimum possible time and remedial action in all cases have been taken. The expenditure incurred on a rail fracture is governed primarily by the kind of fracture, which occurs and varies widely depending upon the site conditions and the kind of repairs required.

[*Translation*]

Star Channels in Regional Languages

*227. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded permission to Star TV to start four channels in regional languages;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not starting regional language channels by Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Doordarshan is already operating Fifteen Regional Service channels originating from respective major Kendras which can be received throughout the country using appropriate Dish Antenna system.

[*English*]

Standing Labour Committee and Committee on Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

*228. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the issues discussed at 35th session of Standing Labour Committee;

(b) the decision taken at said session;

(c) whether the Committee on Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 has not met for more than five years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to generate industrial climate conducive to encourage production and productivity?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) The Standing Labour Committee is a tripartite committee of the Ministry of Labour which meets from time to time to discuss issues of concern to industry and labour. The 35th session of the Standing Labour Committee was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 6-2-99. The Committee reviewed the progress of implementation of various points raised in previous meetings and the observance of the ethos and culture of tripartism both at the Central and State levels. Tripartite consultation is an important and integral component of labour policy and is a time tested method for building mutual confidence and generating industrial climate conducive to increasing production and productivity. All important advisory bodies in the labour field at the national

level are constituted on this principle and labour policy and legislation are shaped through the outcome of such tripartite consultations.

The Standing Labour Committee discussed various issues and recommended certain measures to be taken to increase the avenues of employment in the formal and organised sector as also in the small scale and medium size enterprises. It stressed the need to provide social security and labour protection to agricultural workers and to protect jobs in Indian industry. It was also decided that the next session of the Indian Labour Conference should be convened in April, 1999 with the following items in the agenda:

- measures to reduce industrial sickness and to increase production and productivity.
- measures to increase employment opportunities.

The first meeting of the newly constituted committee under the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 was held on 5-2-1999.

Censorship by Doordarshan

*229. SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any norms regarding censorship by Doordarshan on current affairs and other T.V. programmes including footage, particularly those critical of the Government functioning/policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure freedom of expression in Doordarshan programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have informed that all programmes telecast by Doordarshan are previewed before telecast except news programmes and current affairs programmes for which the provision of preview has been discontinued with. It has further been reported that being National Broadcaster, it is the duty of Doordarshan to ensure that sensitive matters are covered in a responsible manner keeping in view possible ramifications of their coverages.

(c) Does not arise.

Demands of Journalists

*230. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the journalists have demanded more security and a nationwide insurance scheme; and

(b) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government to ensure security to the media men and provide a risk-proof insurance scheme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Government has not received any specific proposal in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Concessions in Air Fares by Airlines of Gulf Countries

*231. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether International airlines including Air India are facing serious financial crisis due to the heavy concessions being provided to the passengers by the airlines of the Gulf countries;

(b) if so, whether the Air India is also proposing to give similar concessions in air fare; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the concessions are likely to be offered to Air passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) It is correct that some of the foreign airlines are offering lucrative incentives between India and Gulf destinations leading to reduction in yields of all operators on this route including Air India and this in turn does affect their financial position adversely.

(b) and (c) In order to remain competitive in the market, Air India has, with the approval of the Director General of Civil Aviation, introduced special fares to Gulf destinations. Special incentives are also offered by Air India on group movements on a case to case basis based on among other factors the size of the group, seat availability and seasonality. Air India is, however, not in a position to bring down fares to the levels offered by some of the foreign carriers.

[English]

T.V. Transmitters

*232. SHRI CHANDHRA SHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the locations where low power T.V. transmitters were proposed to be set-up during the last three years;

(b) the T.V. transmitters out of them set-up so far;

(c) whether the T.V. transmitters have not started functioning at certain places inspite of the fact that installation work and trial has already been completed; and

(d) if so, the time by which these are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Schemes for establishment of 279 low power TV transmitters were taken up during the last 3 years *i.e.* 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99. Out of these, 146 low power transmitters have been commissioned as per details given in the statement-I enclosed. The remaining 133 projects are at different stages of implementation, out of which installation of 18 LPTs have since been completed but are yet to be commissioned. Statement-II showing LPT projects under implementation including those completed is enclosed.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) For some of the LPTs it has not been possible to provide requisite staff for want of sanction of new posts. To solve this problem, the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance has been requested to make an urgent study of the staffing norms of various Doordarshan installations including LPTs to work out there overall staff requirement. On receipt of recommendations of the SIU,

necessary action will be taken for creation of requisite number of posts so that all the LPTs are suitably manned.

Statement-I

Statement Showing Low Power Transmitters Commissioned During Last Three Years

A. Low Power Transmitters Commissioned between 1.4.1996 to 31.3.1997

State/UT	Location
1	2
A&N Islands	Port Blair (DD II)
A.P.	Belampally Jadcherla Kadiri Markapur Pedanandipadu Tamflapally Tirupati
Bihar	Lakhi Sarai Noamundy Phool Paras Sarai Kela Sikandra
D&H Haveli	Silvassa
Daman & Diu	Diu
Goa	Panaji (DD II)
Gujarat	Amod Deesa Mangrol (Surat) Morvi
Haryana	Rohtak
HP	Rampur

1	2	1	2
Karnataka	Arsikere Basava Kalyan Gokak Harpanhalli Puttur Sagar	Tamil Nadu	Attur Krishnagiri Pattukottai Shankaran Kovil Thiruvaiyaru
Kerala	Adoor Attappadi Thodupuzha	UP	Athdama Auraiya Azamgarh Ganj Dundwara Kasganj Mahoba Mau Ranipur Naini Danda Nan Para Naugarh New Tehri
Maharashtra	Aheri Chanderpur Navapur Shirpur Sironcha	West Bengal	Basanti Bishnupur Farakka Murshidabad (DD II) Rayna
M.P.	Bhandar Gadarwara Kelaras Narayanpur Sakti	B. Low Power Transmitters Commissioned Between 01.01.1997 to 33.03.98	
Orissa	Kabisurya Nagar Kotpad Sohela Sonepur Umarkot	AP	Acbampet
Rajasthan	Bari Sadri Karauli Kesriaji Mt. Abu Nimaj Nohar Phalodi Pratapgarh Rajgarh Shahpura	Assam	Silchar (DD II)
		J & K	Halsi (Mobile) (Since closed on Commissioning of VLPT) Naushera (Mobile) Tangtse (Mobile) (Since closed on Commissioning of VLPT)
		Pondicherry	Pondicherry (DD II)
		Tripura	Kailasabar
		UP	Mau (DD II)

1	2	1	2
C. Low Power Transmitters Commissioned Between 01.04.1998 to 01.03.99		Kerala	Cannannore (DD II)
A.P.	Banswada Bhainsa Darsi Macherla Narsaraopet Rajampet Tuni	Maharashtra	Khopoli Mahad Mangaon Satana Tumsar Umarkhed
Arunachal	Miao	Mizoram	Lunglei (DD II)
Assam	Dibrugarh (DD II) Gohpur	MP	Bada Malehra Bhanpura Garot Piparia Sitamau
Bihar	Daudnagar Kodama Mushabani Simri Bakhtiarpur	Orissa	Mohana Padua Patnagarh Simliguda
Gujarat	Bantva Botad Dhandhuka Dharampur Dhari Jhagadia Limbdi Radhanpur Una	Punjab	Patiala
Haryana	Charkhi Dadri	Rajasthan	Hindaun
HP	Sujanpur Sunder Nagar	Tamilnadu	Cheyyar Udumalpet
J&K	Rajauri Darhal	Tripura	Kailasahar (DD II) Teliamura
Karnataka	Hathibat Hole Harsipur Tumkur	UP	Amrora Chhibramau Haldwani Mahroni Rampur (DD II) Rath Rudauli
		Total	146

Statement-II**Statement Showing Low Power Transmitter Projects
Under Implementation**Low Power Transmitters Under Transmission as on
01.03.99

State	Location
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Pasra Tekkali Sirpur Devarkonda* Bobbili Pedapalli Kandukur Vinukonda Veldanda* Madugula Pulamaner Punganur Vemai vada Sirsilia Macbilipatnam Zahirabad
Assam	Bokakhat
Bihar	Ramnagar Chatra Badarwa Rosera
Gujrat	Rajula* Khanbhalia Umargaon* Modasa* Lunawada Jamjodhpur Rajpipla Vyara

1	2
Haryana	Mahendragarh Firozpur Jhirka Tohana Karnal Yamunanagar
Himachal Pradesh	Mandi (DD II)
Jammu & Kashmir	Poonch Udhampur*
Karnataka	Jamkhandi Dandeli* Mundhot Talikota Indi Hiriyur Hosdurg Koppa Belthangadi Mundargi Sindhnur
Kerala	Pala Manjeri Kottarakkara
Madhya Pradesh	Pendra Road* Kharod Multai Karaira Bareli Lakhnadon Badwani Kukshi Pandaria Sindhwa Konta Champa

1	2	1	2
Maharashtra	Raver Pandharkawada* Khanpur Mangai Wedha Akalkot Daryapur Dhadgaon Phailan Patan (Satara)* Bhandara* Dharmabad Bhamragad Pulgaon	Tamil Nadu	Erode Chidambaram* Nattam Palani Ambasamudram Denkanikotta Vandavasi Kallakuruchi Peranampet Ambur Polachi
Mizoram	Lawngtilat	Tripura	Jola Ibari Amarpur Ambassa
Nagaland	Mokokchung (DD II)*		
Orissa	Nayagarh Tushara/Saintala Karanjia Rajgangpur Birmitrapur Khariar Jalpara Gondiya (Kapilas)* Kulad Chikiti	Uttar Pradesh	Almora Dhunaghat Narora Talbehat Karwi Dudhinagar Kosi
Rajasthan	Makrana* Navalgarh* Sagwara* Kushal Garh Pirawa Nagar Kishangarh Vas (Alwar) Nasirabad Bhinmal Sojat Bali Sonchar Bharatpur Kishangarh (Ajmer) Taranagar Vijaynagar	West Bengal	Balrampur* Cooch Bihar Garhbeta
		Total	133

* Locations of LPTs technically ready as on 1.3.1999 (18 in number).

[Translation]

food sector include the following:

Projected Growth of F.P.I.

*233. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the projected growth of the Food Processing Industries during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Report of the Working Group constituted by the Planning Commission on Food Processing Industries for the formulation of the 9th Five Year Plan contains projections of demand/targets for the terminal year (2001-2002) of the 9th Plan in respect of various segments of the processed food sector. Extracts from the Statement enclosed.

The various steps being taken by the Government for promotion, growth and development of the processed

- (i) Most of the processed food items have been delicensed.
- (ii) For majority of processed food items, Automatic Approval upto 51% foreign equity is available through Reserve Bank of India.
- (iii) Most of the processed food items attracts lower level of excise duty.
- (iv) Under the Exim Policy, all processed food items with few exception, are freely exportable.
- (v) Majority of the ingredients for the food processing and capital equipment for food processing sector are freely importable.
- (vi) Food processing has been included under the list of priority bank lending.
- (vii) Financial assistance is available from Ministry of Food Processing Industries for growth, promotion and development of food processing sector.

Statement*Projected Demand/Target for the Terminal years of the 9th Plan*

Items	Units	1995-96	2001-2
1	2	3	4
A. Grain Processing Sector			
1. Output from Roller Flour Mills	Million tons	9	12
2. Output from Rice Mills		120	133

	1	2	3	4
3. Maize Processing		Lakh Tons	80	154
4. Pulse Processing		"	14	17
5. Bakery products				
(a) Biscuits, Rusks etc.		"	12	44
(b) Bread, Cakes etc.		"	14	30
6. Pasta products		"	1.4	6.5
7. Pulses based products (Bhujia etc.)		"	3.6	4.6
8. Cereals & Pulses based Mixes & Value added Primary processed products		"	1.2	4.5
B. Horticulture Based products				
1. Fruits & Veg. Products covered under F.P.O.		"	10	30
2. Fruits & Veg. in Informal Sector		"	1.6	30
3. Coconut based Products		Thousand Tons	20	100
4. (a) Cashewnut		Lakh Tons	3.7	8
(b) Value added Cashewnut Products		"	10	50

	1	2	3	4
5. (a) Walnut		Thousand Tons	25	35
(b) Value added Cashewnut Products		"	NA	10
6. Ground Spices mix		"	95	250
7. Spice oil, Oleoresin & mixed valued added spices flavours		"	10	30
C. Milk Products				
1. Milk Products including Baby Food		Thousand Tons	200	300
2. Malted Food		"	48	100
3. Condensed Milk (Other than Khoya)		"	9	20
4. Butter		"	68	120
5. Ghee		"	115	200
6. Cheese		"	5	20
7. Casein		"	1	8
8. Lactose		"	NA	10

	1	2	3	4
9.	Traditional Products like Khoya & Paneer	Lakh Tons	5.5	15
D. Meat & Poultry products				
1.	Buffalo meat	Million Tons	1.2	1.8
2.	Beef	"	1.26	1.6
3.	Mutton & goat	"	0.68	0.9
4.	Pork	"	0.4	0.5
5.	Poultry meat	"	0.45	1.0
6.	Processed meat & Poultry products	Lakh Tons	0.5	1.5
7.	Processed Egg products	"	0.4	2.0
E. Fishery products				
1.	Production of Fish	Million Tons	4.8	6.5
2.	Processed Fish products	Lakh Tons	4.0	8.0
F. Consumer Foods				
1.	Beer	Million Litres	350	600
2.	Potable Alcohol	"	620	800

	1	2	3	4
3	Coca Products	Thousand Tons	44	70
4.	Soft Drinks	Million Tons	165	400
5.	High protein foods	Thousand Tons	15	20
6.	Soya products	"	30	60
7.	Energy foods	"	120	400

[English]

Prawn Processing Industries

*234. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prawn processing industries under public sector and private sector;

(b) the foreign exchange earned by the export of prawn during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more incentives to the prawn processing sector so as to facilitate the setting up of new units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) As on 31.1.1999, there are 409 seafood processing plants registered with MPEDA. Out of these 15 are under public sector and the remaining 394 are under private sector.

(b) The value realised towards exports of prawns both in Indian Rupees and in US Dollars for the last

three years is as follows:—

Year	Value in Rupees (Rs. in crores)	Value in US Dollars (In Millions)
1995-96	2359.01	748.89
1996-97	2703.61	756.25
1997-98	3145.64	867.76

(c) and (d) Under Plan scheme of the Ministry, there is provision of grant as well as loan for setting up of fish processing facilities. Besides the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is operating a number of subsidy schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industries all over India for modernisation of the units and also for technology upgradation to meet EU/GOI standards.

Cantonment Act

*235. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration to enact a new Cantonment Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the need to have a new Act; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As against the original proposal to amend a few sections of the Act, a comprehensive bill is proposed to be introduced to enact a new legislation as advised by Ministry of Law.

(c) As a new legislation is proposed to be enacted, no definite time-frame has been fixed.

Films to mark Visit India Year

*236. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared promotional films to mark the Visit India Year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have requested several countries to show the said films to the tourists visiting India during 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No Sir. However the Ministry has decided to use existing material for preparation of a film for the promotion of "Explore India Millennium Year" (renamed from Visit India Year), after making suitable changes wherever necessary.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Voluntary retirement from Armed Forces

*237. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of applications opting for voluntary retirement by service personnel are pending in the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of personnel relieved from each of the three forces during each of the last three years, category-wise and rank-wise, and

(c) the efforts being made to make the jobs of service personnel more attractive?

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

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Measures have been taken to make the youth of our country more aware of the opportunities and challenges in the Armed Forces, both for officers including women officers and other rank categories. Apart from decisions like enhancing the age of retirement, the process of improving the quality of life for armed forces personnel is kept up as an ongoing one.

Statement

The number of Commissioned Officers in the Defence Forces other than the Territorial Army and the Seconded Officers' cadre, who have resigned or have proceeded on voluntary retirement during the last three years is as under:—

Rank	1996	1997	1998
1	2	3	4
Army:			
Lt. Gen.	—	1	—
Maj Gen.	5	3	2
Brig.	11	24	30
Col.	57	79	92
Lt. Col. (Incl TS)	182	305	333

1	2	3	4
Major	82	84	120
Capt. & below	34	49	54
Total	371	545	631
Navy:			
Rank	1996	1997	1998
Flag Officers	Nil	Nil	1
Cpts Cmdes	19	18	31
Cdrs	52	74	100
Lt Cdrs and below	34	42	60
Air Force:			
Rank	1996	1997	1998
Group Captain and above	27	32	22
Wing Cdrs	99	120	125
Sqn Ldrs & below	31	40	75

Joint Military Exercise with France

*238. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have agreed to conduct joint military exercises and also to hold second meeting

of the Indo-French high level committee on defence cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the joint military exercise is likely to strengthen our power?

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

(b) No dates have been finalised as yet for conducting Indo-French joint military exercises. The second meeting of the Indo-French High Committee on Defence Cooperation is expected to be held during 1999.

(c) Conduct of military exercises between the armed forces of India and friendly foreign countries provides an opportunity to the Indian armed forces to gain an insight into the operations and doctrines of the armed forces of the other countries. These also enhance tactical awareness and provide the Indian armed forces an exposure to the systems, equipment, thinking and procedures prevalent in the armed forces of the other countries.

[Translation]

Joining of Foreign Air Lines by Pilots

*239. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilots who had left Indian Airlines and Air India during 1998 and joined foreign airlines:

(b) the reasons mentioned by the pilots for leaving their jobs from the respective airlines;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to check this trend; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the shortage of trained pilots in Indian Airlines and Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) While no pilot has left Air India during 1998, only one pilot from Indian Airlines resigned during this period for personal reasons.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Indian Airlines has adequate pilots to operate its services in the existing schedule. Air India has taken the following measures to overcome the shortage of pilots:—

1. The training of pilots has been accelerated on all types of aircraft.
2. Following the understanding reached with Indian pilots Guild, the circuitous career pattern of pilots for moving from basic aircraft to higher aircraft has been changed and faster flow of pilots has been achieved.
3. Augmentation of check pilots/instructors and examiners to some extent is also achieved. Sufficient number of these categories are very vital for expediting the training of pilots.
4. Coordination meetings have been held with officials of Directorate General of Civil Aviation to simplify the training procedures without diluting the quality and standard of training. The new procedure of training cuts down the training time.

[English]

Industry Status to Cinema

*240. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to grant industry status to cinema in order to provide institutional finance to the Cinema industry; and

(b) if so, the details of the action plan formulated in consultation with the representatives of cinema industry all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) and (b) Government have decided to confer industry status on the film sector with the broad objective of facilitating its all round development. Consequent to this decision, Government have initiated various measures, which include the following major ones.

- (1) Setting up of an Expert Committee to examine the issue of making film production and other related activities eligible for institutional and bank finances.

(2) Holding of Seminars and discussions in association with Federation of Film Industry and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on matters like film financing, insurance and corporatisation.

(3) Establishment of a Development Council for film industry.

(4) Establishment of an Export Promotion Forum for films and other audio visual products.

(5) Requesting State Governments to consider, *inter-alia*, grant of industry status to the film sector.

Money Recovered from Outlawed Organisations

2306. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the amount of money recovered by the armed forces from various outlawed organisations of North-Eastern region since 'Operation Rhino' was launched against such outfits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): As on 3.3.1999, a total amount of Rs. 1,07,45,399/- has been recovered from the different outlawed organisations in the North Eastern region since the launching of "Operation Rhino".

More Flights on Calcutta-Agartala Sector

2307. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the State Governments for increasing the frequency of flights at Calcutta-Agartala-Calcutta sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines proposes to increase the frequency of flights on Calcutta-Agartala-Calcutta sector from 11 to 12 flights per week in the summer schedule.

Purchase of Colr Products for Military

2308. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request from the Government of Kerala regarding purchase of Coir products and Cashew Kernel for military use; and

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

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

Statement

As a matter of policy, Govt. is procuring general stores and clothing items, based on the Indian Army's requirement, first, by booking the capacity of the Ordnance Factory and thereafter, procuring the balance qty. either from the reserved sector i.e. from Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), as per the Government instructions or through Trade by calling for open tenders.

2. Army Hqrs. have reported that following coir items are being procured by them centrally:—

(a) Coir fibre grade II

(b) Mate-Gymnasium

(c) Mate Door &

(d) Coir Matting 915M

3. Coir fibre grade II and Mats Gymnasium are procured on open tender basis and door mats and coir matting, through Rate contract. AHQ have ordered Coir Matting and Gymanasium mats from Kerala-based firms, as per their normal procedure.

4. Nevy also meeting their requirement of the coir matting from Kerala.

Grounding of Aircraft for Repairs

2309. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of aircraft of Indian airlines are grounded for repairs due to non-availability of critical spare parts during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details of aircraft grounded and period taken for their repairs during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) the reasons for not stocking the critical spare parts at New Delhi by the Indian Airlines; and

(d) the details of the action plan formulated to upgrade/strengthen the workshops at New Delhi and other places in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Necessary maintenance facilities are available with Indian Airlines at its engineering bases at New Delhi and other places in the country.

[Translation]

Fire in Kovai Express

2310. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incident of fire occurred in A/C compartment of running Kovai Express on January 26, 1999;

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

(c) if so, the outcome 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) and (c) A joint enquiry by Assistant Mechanical Engineer, Assistant Electrical Engineer and Assistant Operating Manager/Safety of Palghat Division is in progress.

[English]

Construction of Hotel with World Bank Assistance

2311. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to set up new tourist hotel and Yatri Niwas in the country with the assistance of the World Bank; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State/Union Territory Governments for construction of Tourist Bungalow, Tourist Centre and Yatri Niwases.

Fire in Army Hospital at Simla

2312. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out in the army hospital at Simla during December, 1998;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry therein;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the number of persons died or injured and the loss of property suffered therein; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid such fire incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) A fire broke out at 0155 hours on 21/22.12.98, probably due to electric short circuit in the Army Hospital at Shimla. No person died or was injured due to the fire. However, the hospital building (a wooden structure), known as Walker Hospital and an adjacent building housing library, recreation room, Guest room, furniture, Ordnance store, medical store and MES store were completely destroyed. Two ambulance vehicles were also destroyed.

2. A Court of Inquiry has been convened by the Army authorities and is in progress. Fire prevention and protection precautions are also being followed to avoid such fire incidents in future.

Monthly Season Tickets for Agra

2313. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that large number of persons commute between Agra and Delhi;

(b) if so, whether monthly season ticket (MST) is issued to the commuters from Agra to Delhi and vice-versa;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal is pending consideration for permitting MST for such commuters; and

(e) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

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) Season tickets are issued upto 150 Kms only, except on those sections where they were issued prior to 1951. Since the distance from Agra to Delhi is more than 150 Kms and season tickets between these stations were not issued prior to 1951, season tickets are not issued from Agra to Delhi and vice-versa.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Deployment of Army to Contain Internal Disturbances

2314. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times when army was called in to deal with internal disturbances in the country during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, State-wise;

(b) whether any policy review in the matter of deployment of army to deal with internal disturbances is being undertaken; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A statement containing the desired information is attached.

(b) and (c) It is a stated policy of the Government that the Army should be deployed for such tasks only as a measure of last resort and only if it is not possible for

the State Governments concerned to cope with the situation with the resources available with them.

Statement

No. of Times Army was Called in to deal with the Internal Disturbances in the Country

Sl. No.	State	From	To
		1996	
1.	West Bengal	29 May 96	2 June 96
2.	Tripura	7 Nov. 96	10 Nov. 96
3.	Tripura	15 Nov. 96	20 Nov. 96
4.	Assam	20 Nov. 96	25 Nov. 96
5.	Tripura	13 Dec. 96	19 Dec. 96
		1997	
6.	Tripura	24 Jan 97	27 Jan 97
		1998	
7.	Tamil Nadu	14 Feb 98	15 Feb 98
8.	Tamil Nadu	24 Feb 98	01 Mar 98
		1999	
	NL	NL	NL

The figures indicated above, however, do not include the employment of Army in conducting counter insurgency operations in Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura.

Independent Railway Police Commissionerate in Bihar

2315. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar and Railways have agreed to set up an independent Railway Police Commissionerate jointly to deal with the incidents of crime in trains; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Railways 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Installation of Library Management Software

2316. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been formulated to computerise the Research, Reference and Training Division of Library;

(b) whether retro-conversion of bibliographical records of the library has been completed;

(c) if so, when and the cost thereof;

(d) whether any Library Management Software has been installed in the Library to read the data; and

(e) if not, the reasons for non-installation of the Library Management Software and also reasons for retro-conversion without Library Software?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Retro-conversion of bibliographic records numbering 32,974 was completed in April 1998 at the cost of Rs. 1,64,870/-.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Labour Force in NCT, Delhi

2317. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total labour force in the organised and unorganised sector in the National Capital Territory of Delhi as on date; and

(b) the total work force employed in agriculture and industry in NCT, Delhi as on date?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) As per the information made available by the Labour Department of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi there were about 2.50 lakhs workers employed in the factories registered under Factories Act, 1948 in Delhi as on 31.12.1998. They have not conducted any survey to determine the labour force employed in un-organised sector and in agriculture industry.

Extension of Calcutta Metro Railways

2318. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to extend the Metro Railway System at Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the extension 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) Calcutta Metro's extension from Tollygunge to Garia (about 8 kms) will be taken up at an approximate cost of Rs. 696 crore, 33% of which will be shared by the State Government of West Bengal.

(c) In six years.

[Translation]

Acquisition of A.C.T. by H.A.L.

2319. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 889 on December 3, 1998 and state:

(a) the amount of money and the dates on which the payments were made to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) between 1984 and 1987 alongwith the amount of the interest paid thereon, if any, by the HAL;

(b) the date on which Rs. 122.02 lakhs were repaid by HAL, the amount of the profit and the head under which the profit thus earned by the HAL was indicated during the above period; and

(c) the time by which the Alert Cooling Trolleys are likely to be supplied out of the adjusted amount?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The amount of money and the dates on which the payments were made to M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) are as under:

Date	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
30.11.1984	9.21
8.2.1985	3.69
14.6.1985	14.74
15.10.1985	5.53
24.02.1986	31.32
07.06.1987	92.15
Total	156.64

No interest was paid by HAL on these amounts.

(b) The dates on which Rs. 122.02 lakh were repaid by HAL are as under:

Date	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
04.01.1993	12.90
17.08.1993	46.29
01.11.1994	7.00
10.12.1997	55.83
Total	122.02

No profits were earned by HAL on the above amount.

(c) All the eight Alert Cooling Trolleys have been supplied by HAL.

[English]

Ongoing Doordarshan Projects in A.P.

2320. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Urdu programme coverage in National Network by Hyderabad Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to give more time to Urdu programme; and

(c) the number of proposals pending for clearance with the Union Government and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Prasar Bharati have reported that programmes in the National Network of Doordarshan are telecast in two languages i.e. Hindi and English. However, programmes to mark special occasions like Id, Moharram and Idul Juha are telecast in Urdu. Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad telecasts 6% of its programmes in Urdu in its regional service.

(b) On Metro Network a news bulletin in Urdu is being telecast daily. A programme 'Gul-Sanovar' is also telecast in Urdu. A 17 episode serial 'Mirza Ghalib' was earlier telecast on DD-1 and the same was repeated recently on DD-2.

(c) Programme matters of Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous Corporation. They have intimated that no such proposals are pending with them.

Productivity of Dock Workers

2321 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether productivity of dock workers at the various ports is the lowest as compared to the output of dock workers in neighbouring countries;

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

(c) whether despite the poor output, these workers have opposed for privatisation of the ports; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase their productivity?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) In the absence of authenticated notified data and differences between ports in terms of cargo-mix, technology and equipment, a comparison of the productivity of port workers in India with other ports in neighbouring countries may not be possible.

(c) Some representations opposing privatisation measures in major ports have been received from Labour Unions.

(d) Measures to boost productivity of Indian Port workers including training, incentive (Payment by result) schemes and payment of Productivity Linked Reward.

Remuneration for Regional Language News Readers

2322. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the casual news reader in English and Hindi get more remuneration in comparison with the regional language news readers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the regional language news readers have to do more work as the script also has to be translated;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering more remuneration for the regional language news readers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) There is a marginal difference in the fee being paid to the casual News Readers in English and the News Readers-cum-Translators in Hindi and the fee being paid to the casual News Readers-cum-Translators in the regional languages in so far as AIR is concerned. As per the existing fee structure, the English and Hindi News Readers/News Readers-cum-Translators are being paid Rs. 350/- for a minimum of 3 bulletins in a shift of 6½ hours. The casual News Readers-Cum-Translators in the regional languages, both at the regional level and at headquarters, are being paid Rs. 300/- in 2 split shifts in a day.

The marginal difference in the fee structure is due to the difference in the duration of assignments and nature of duties of the two categories of casual assignees. The News Readers and News Readers-cum-Translators in English and Hindi have to work for a longer duration and also are required to read more news bulletins in a given shift. In comparison the casual News Readers-cum-Translators in the regional languages have to work only in two split shifts per day and are required to assist in translating news items for a 5 to 10 minutes bulletin and reading, if required. It is, therefore, evident that the casual assignees in the Hindi and English have to do more work and for a longer duration than the casual News Readers-cum-Translators in the regional language units which justifies the marginal difference in the fee structure.

In Doordarshan, there is no discrimination among casual News Readers on the basis of language. News Readers are broadly classified in two broad categories, viz. national and regional. Because of the importance and high viewership involving national bulletins, News Readers reading such bulletins are paid higher remuneration.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of Fruit Processing Industries with Foreign Collaboration

2323. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Sikkim propose to set up fruit processing industries with foreign collaboration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the new Industrial Policy of Government of Sikkim, investors are invited for setting up food processing industry in Sikkim.

In 1996, the Government of Sikkim had entered into a joint venture agreement for lease of Government Food Preservation Factory of Singtam, East District with M/s. Red Orchid Food Processing Limited, a company represented by Mr. Thomas Furrer, a Swiss national. This agreement was revoked in February, 1999 by the Government of Sikkim due to non-fulfilment of the purpose for which the Agreement was signed.

[Translation]

Encroachment at Gwalior and Morena Railway Stations

2324. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any encroachment has taken place in the premises and around Gwalior and Morena Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sheds of these railway stations are being used by other persons besides the railway department;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action 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) and (b) At Gwalior, there are 12 licencees whose licencees have been terminated. However, there is no encroachment at Morena Railway Station.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Notices to vacate the Railway land were issued to the licencees at Gwalior Station circulating area & eviction orders have also been passed by Estate Officer. However, the encroachers have gone to Court and have obtained a stay order and the matter is presently sub-judice.

[English]

Amendment in Child Labour Law

2325. SHRI BHIRU LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to amend the existing child labour law;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the above amendment is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features, *inter alia*, include that the offence be made a cognizable one, penalties be made more stringent and deterrent and the onus of proof of age of a child be on the employer.

(c) No definite time-frame can be indicated for introducing the above amendment.

Installation of Pit Line

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

(a) the number of requests received by the Railway Board from the Members of Parliament for installation of pit line and work shed for petty repairs at New Coochbehar Railway Station during the last three years;

(b) the action taken on each of them till date; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be sanctioned?

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) One request from Shri Chitta Basu, MP was received for installation of pit line and work shed for petty repairs at New Coochbehar Railway Station during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Construction of a pit line and maintenance facility at New Coochbehar was not found operationally justifiable due to insufficient work load. However, works have been sanctioned during last two years to improve the coach maintenance facility to support the limited work load available.

[*Translation*]

**Leakage of Secret Information
from Labs. of D.R.D.O.**

2327 SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of laboratories of D.R.D.O. under the Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any complaints for leakage of official secrets or tardiness of a scientist in the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, Timarpur, Delhi under D.R.D.O.;

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) whether the scientists working in any of the laboratories are liable to be transferred in other laboratories under D.R.D.O.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The number of Laboratories in DRDO is 51.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter was investigated and the allegations were found to be without basis. No action was called for.

(d) Yes, Sir. A general provision exists in the recruitment rules and career management covers the transfer of scientists between laboratories.

[*English*]

**Telecast of International Sport Events on
Doordarshan**

2328. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the existing policy of the Government for live telecast of international sport events;

(b) whether the telecast rights of the recently conducted India-Pakistan Cricket series were sold to ESPN;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are considering to live telecast all the international sport events on the Doordarshan Channels; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) All programmes matters of Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati and the Government do not interfere in such matters. Prasar Bharati has reported that it is Doordarshan's policy to telecast live all major sports events of National/International importance subject to availability of TV Rights, suitable time slots and technical feasibility.

(b) No, Sir. Telecast rights were with M/s. ESPN and Doordarshan had secured the rights from them to telecast daily highlights of these matches over its network.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Prasar Bharati has reported that it is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to telecast all major sports events where the telecast rights are available with it. Doordarshan have already obtained TV Rights for Australian Open, French Open, 1999 World Cup Cricket (11 matches plus highlights of other matches), Sharjah Cricket Triangular Series, UEFA League Championship, Davis Cup matches etc.

Vacancies of Artists

2329. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether vacancies for the artists specialised in playing on organ, a Western music electric key board instrumentalist are lying vacant in the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria fixed for the selection of the above artists and the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Profits/Losses on Investment in Airports Authority of India

2330. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment, Government and non-Government, made in the Airports Authority of India;

(b) the annual profit and loss account of the said Authority as on March, 1998;

(c) the percentage of profit being earned by private sector on the investment made by the Government as on March, 1998; and

(d) the reasons for the difference in the profit earned by the Government and private investors?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Investment of the Government in form of equity in Airports Authority of India (AAI) as on 1.4.1998 is Rs. 325.13 crores. So far there is no non-Governmental investment in the equity of AAI.

(b) The Authority had earned Post Tax Profit of Rs. 196.14 crores during the year ended on 31.03.98.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Widening of Bilaspur Airstrip

2331. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received for widening of the airstrip and restoring of air services in Bilaspur of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the time by which the widening of airstrip is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Bilaspur airstrip is suitable for 30 seater type of aircraft. This airstrip is not maintained in operational condition, since no airline has projected its requirement to operate from this airstrip. Airports Authority of India has no plans to develop this airstrip. As regards restoring of air services, it is for the airlines to provide air services to specific places including Bilaspur depending upon traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route-dispersal guidelines.

[English]

Ningha Aerodrome (W.B.)

2332. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ningha Aerodrome in West Bengal is being maintained by the Ministry of Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has any plan and programme for the development of this Aerodrome; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The airstrip at Ningha in Asansol District of West Bengal has been abandoned long ago, because of activities related to coal mining.

Closure of J.C.T. Textile Mill, Sriganganagar

2333. SHRI SHANKAR PANNU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any unit of J.C.T. textile mill, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan is lying closed;

(b) if so, the reasons for its closure;

(c) the number of labourers rendered jobless;

(d) whether the Government contemplate to revive this unit of the mill;

(e) if not, whether the Government are making any arrangements to provide employment to these jobless labourers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected from the Government of Rajasthan and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Demonstration of Trade Unions for Wages of Labourers

2334. SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Unions held a mass demonstration on February 1, 1999 to protest against the meager wages being paid to labourers and their retrenchment and also presented any memorandum to this effect;

(b) if so, the details of the demands raised by the Trade Unions; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) It has been reported that the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) observed nation-wide protest day (2 Feb., 1999) by organising rallies demonstration etc. in different parts of the country protesting against closure of industries etc.

(c) Various steps in the sphere of labour are taken based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. Steps are also taken to ensure better enforcement of Labour Laws.

Bungling by I.T.D.C. Officers

2335. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Officers of Indian Tourism Development Corporation have committed bungling of crores of rupees with the Government during the last one year;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop the recurrence of such type of improper activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) No such cases of bungling of crores of rupees by employees of ITDC during the last one year ending January, 99 has come to light/notice of the management.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However the action against officials (if any) found guilty of misappropriation of public money is taken in accordance with the rules on the subject.

[*English*]

Disposal of Old Aircraft

2336. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines Management had sometime back mooted a proposal for selling of 2-engined 300 aircraft which were over 20 years old;

(b) if so, the main reasons advanced by the Management therefor;

(c) whether the recently reconstituted Board of Indian Airlines has asked the airlines to explore the possibility of leasing out these aircraft instead of selling them; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Management thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A proposal for sale of two oldest A300 B2 aircraft was considered by the Board of Directors.

(c) The reconstituted Board of Directors had desired Indian Airlines to also explore the possibility of leasing out of these aircraft.

(d) The proposal for leasing out/sale of these aircraft is likely to be considered in the next meeting of the Board.

Unused Land of Airports Authority of India

2337 SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has taken any survey to find out exact area of the land lying unused with the Department.

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether the Union Government have accepted it in principle to use such land for commercial activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Master plans of major airports have been drawn up by the Airports Authority of India and which indicates the plan for utilisation of all the land at airport for future development. However, in the other airports detailed surveys are being undertaken to identify the unused land.

(c) and (d) The Airports Authority of India can utilise the vacant land at the airports for commercial purposes for augmenting its non-aeronautical revenues.

[Translation]

Educational Standard for Recruitment in Army

2338. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether different educational standards are maintained while recruiting candidates in army from Other Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the basis of recruiting candidates of 'Rawat' backward community and Other Backward Classes are different;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government propose to recruit the 'Rawat' community on the basis of such educational standards as are meant for recruiting the candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The minimum educational qualification required for General Duty (GD) category soldiers in the Indian Army is 10th class pass. However, certain relaxations in educational standards are granted to certain areas/classes/communities which include dispensation up to 8th class pass to 'Rawat' community from Ajmer, Rajasmd, Bhilwara, Udaipur and Chittor districts of Rajasthan.

[English]

Bird Hit Cases at Bangalore Airport

2339. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the bird hit cases reported at Bangalore Airport during 1998;

(b) whether the Government are aware that slaughter of animals in the vicinity of the airport is the reason for attracting birds and vultures at the airport area; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that Airport manual is strictly adhered to in order to prevent bird hit cases?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) A total of nine cases of bird hit have been reported during 1998.

(b) and (c) A few slaughter houses near Koramangla and adjacent areas have been a source of bird activities at Bangalore Airport. This matter has been taken up with the Airfield Environment Management Committee headed

by a senior officer from the Bangalore Development Authority and having representatives from the Aerodrome authorities of HAL, Airlines and Defence. Continuous efforts are made in association with local civil authorities to take effective measures to reduce bird hit incidents.

[*Translation*]

Closure of Industries

2340. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey during the last year to identify the number of small, medium and big industries lying closed in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to revive these industries within a stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Labour Bureau, Shimla receives information from the various State Governments on the number of permanent closures and workers affected thereby, separately for Public, Co-operative, Joint and Private Sectors in State. According to figures published by the Labour Bureau, Shimla, the number of such closures and workers affected thereby for the year, 1998 for Bihar is as under:

	No. of Units	No. of workers affected (provisional)
Public Sector	—	—
Co-operative Sector	—	—
Private Sector	2	19
Joint Sector	—	—
Total:	2	19

Press Club

2341. SHRI JAGDAMB PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government advance grants to Press Club of India and its branches; and

(b) if so, the details of grants given during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Central Food Technology Research Institute

2342. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore has prepared a report for the preservation and packing of Kharek and other fruits in Kutch District of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) On a specific request from Shri P.S. Gadhavi Honourable Member of Parliament, Kutch district of Gujarat, the Central Food Technological Research Institute has prepared a draft Study Report on "Development of Technology for Preservation and Processing of Kharek (Dates)", produced in Kutch district of Gujarat. The Report was sent by CFTRI to the Honourable Member of Parliament on 14.12.1998.

(b) No such report has been received in this Ministry so far.

Fruit Drinks

2343. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entry of multinationals drastically changed the entire market scenario in the fruit drink sector due to massive advertising and marketing exercises undertaken by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the inability of funding for massive advertisements, upgradation and market promotion, the sale of Rasika Fruit Drink operations are on a low key; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Major market share in fruit drink industry is held by Indian companies like by Parle and Godrej Ltd. Coca Cola and Pepsi are promoting fruit drinks 'Maaza' and 'Slice' respectively, but their market share is very low.

(c) and (d) The fruit juice bottling plant of Modern Food Industries Ltd. (MFIL), a Public Sector Undertaking of this Ministry manufactures 'Rasika' fruit drink. This unit was transferred to MFIL from Ministry of Food and it needs massive upgradation of facilities. As the core activity of the company is bakery operations, fruit juice bottling received lower priority in terms of investments. This has resulted in fruit drink operations remaining at a low key.

Upgradation of Mysore Airport

2344. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released any amount for upgradation of Mysore Airport in Karnataka during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been done for the purpose;

(d) if so, the estimated funds and the land required; and

(e) the steps taken to acquire the land?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The estimated cost of upgradation of the airport for operation of B-737 type of aircraft is Rs. 100 crores and 350 acres of land is required. Airports

Authority of India (AAI) has requested the State Government for handing over to them 350 acres of land, free of cost, for the above mentioned purpose.

Cancellation of Indian Airlines Flights

2345. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of Indian Airlines flights were cancelled at the last moment during the last three years in the country, particularly at Hyderabad airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to direct Indian Airlines not to resort to last minute cancellation of flights in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only 0.29%, 0.66% and 0.41% of Indian Airlines/Alliance Air flights were cancelled ex-Hyderabad during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 respectively because of adverse weather, airport restrictions, technical, miscellaneous and consequential reasons.

(c) The following steps are taken by Indian Airlines to reduce/eliminate cancellations:—

(i) Technical delays and cancellations are investigated, analysed and appropriate remedial action taken.

(ii) Special attention is paid to identify and rectify repetitive snags.

(iii) Effective co-ordination exists amongst various Departments to ensure that delays do not result in cancellations.

(iv) There is continuous follow up with vendors and aircraft manufacturers for upgradation of technical know-how and for improvement in the reliability of components.

Daily Flight from Chandigarh

2346. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether flights from Chandigarh to other cities of the country have been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to provide atleast one flight daily to New Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) At present Indian Airlines operates a twice weekly A-320 services on Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar-Delhi route and Alliance Air operates a once weekly B-737 service connecting Chandigarh to Leh.

Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however for the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Encroachment of Railway Property

2347. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large portion of the Northeast Frontier Railway property at Pandu, Maligaon and New Guwahati railway stations has been encroached upon and grabbed by private parties;

(b) if so, whether some complaints against this encroachment have been received by the railway administration;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some railway officers are hand in glove with these encroachers; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect this land and evict the encroachers?

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.

(c) Complaints from both sides *i.e.* to remove encroachments as well as to stop eviction drive have been received. Railway has not stopped its efforts to

remove the encroachments and 551 number of encroachments have been removed during the year 1998-99.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Preventive measures to protect Railway land include construction of Boundary wall/fencing, extensive plantation and a constant vigil against encroachments. Removal of encroachments is undertaken under the Provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 with the help of local Police Force.

Fighting Capability

2348. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding need of enhancing combat capability of the Indian Armed Forces;

(b) whether the Indian Army is facing a resource crunch; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps to do away with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In order to enhance the combat capability and to prepare for future battlefield scenario, the Army is continuously being modernised by updating resources both human and material to keep pace with the changing threat perceptions, technologies and geo-political environment. A concerted exercise is undertaken on regular basis and a prioritised procurement plan drawn. Meticulous adherence to the laid down schedules is exercised to ensure a high level of operational preparedness, within the available resources.

Poor Doordarshan Transmission in Bihar

2349. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor Doordarshan transmission has been reported in parts of Central Bihar and North Bihar in particular the districts of Aurangabad and Chapra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up a high powered transmission centre to improve the transmission in the aforementioned places; and

(d) if not, the reasons and justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Whereas a low power transmitter is functioning at Aurangabad, there is no approved scheme, at present, to set up any high power transmitter in Chapra and Aurangabad districts as most parts of these districts are getting coverage from HPTs functioning at Patna, Daltonganj and Muzaffarpur.

Courses Conducted in ITIs

2350. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Minimum Vocational Programme Courses being conducted by certain institutes are far better than the courses being conducted in Industrial Training Institutes as their syllabi provide more scope of learning a vocation;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that unlike I.T.Is these institutes don't have any provisions for apprenticeship for students and direct certification for employment;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to remove this discrepancy; and

(d) if so, by when, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Vocational Training is being imparted by a number of Agencies under different Ministries/Departments of Government of India and also State Governments. The Entry Qualification, Type and Duration of Training are different from one another and they target different requirements of Labour Market. As such comparisons are not possible.

As far as courses conducted by the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are concerned, the curricula of these

courses are designed and periodically updated in consultation with the Industry as per the requirements of the Industry.

(b) Apprentices Act, 1961 is applicable in respect of 4 categories, viz. Trade Apprentices, Technician (Vocational) Apprentices, Graduate and Technician Apprentices. Persons possessing minimum qualifications varying from class 8th pass to B.Sc. can undergo Apprenticeship Training for a period varying from 6 months to 4 years in the category of Trade Apprentices covering 135 trades. Rebate in the period of Apprenticeship Training is allowed to pass-outs from ITIs in certain relevant trades.

Persons passing out from 10+2 Vocational Education Schools can undergo Apprenticeship Training in the relevant subject field for a period of one year in the category of Technician (Vocational) Apprentices covering 94 subject fields. Similarly, persons passing out from Colleges of Engineering/Technology or Polytechnics can undergo Apprenticeship Training in the relevant subject field for a period of one year in the category of Graduate or Technician Apprentices respectively covering 97 subject fields.

Thus persons passing out from any Institute can undergo Apprenticeship Training in one of the four categories provided they fulfil the eligibility conditions prescribed under the Apprentices Act, 1961.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Production of Programmes by Telecast Centre, Bundi

2351. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Kendras have been divided into programme production and telecast unit and a unit meant for telecast only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether programmes are not being produced by the Doordarshan Telecast Centre, Bundi (Rajasthan);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken for production of programmes there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) A Doordarshan Kendra normally comprises of studio set up and transmitter. It telecasts programmes produced at that centre during scheduled time slot. Doordarshan centres having only transmitter set up are normally known as transmitting centres.

(b) Details of studio centres (PPCs) and transmitters functioning in the country at present, are given in a statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) As a studio set up has not been provided at Bundi, Programme production is not possible. At present there is no scheme to set up a studio at Bundi. However, a high power TV transmitter which is presently functioning at Bundi relays national network programme (DD-I) from Delhi and regional service from Jaipur.

Statement

Doordarshan Network (As on 01.03.1999)

S.No.	State/U.T.	PPCs	TV. Transmitters (Primary Channel)				Total	TV Transmitters (Other than Primary Channel)			
			HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	TRANS		HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
01.	Assam	3	3	19	1	1	24	0	3	0	3
02.	Andhra Pradesh	2	8	61	6	1	76	1	0	0	1
03.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	3	37	0	41	0	1	0	1
04.	Bihar	4	5	44	1	1	51	0	1	0	1
05.	Goa	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
06.	Gujarat	2	4	51	3	0	58	1	1	0	2
07.	Haryana	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	1	0	1
08.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2	8	29	2	41	0	1	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
09.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	4	6	31	1	42	0	4@	0	4
10.	Kerala	1	3	18	2	0	23	0	4	0	4
11.	Karnataka	2	4	42	3	0	49	1	0	0	1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2	6	69	10	0	85	0	1	0	1
13.	Meghalaya	2	2	2	2	0	6	0	2	0	2
14.	Maharashtra	2	5	68	9	1	83	1	1	0	2
15.	Manipur	1	1	1	5	0	7	0	1	0	1
16.	Mizoram	1	2	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	2
17.	Nagaland	1	2	2	4	1	9	0	1	0	1
18.	Orissa	2	4	58	9	1	72	1	4	2	7
19.	Punjab	1	4	5	0	1	10	0	1	0	1
20.	Rajasthan	1	4	58	13	2	77	0	2	0	2
21.	Sikkim	0	1	0	5	0	6	0	1	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
22.	Tamilnadu	1	3	36	3	2	44	1	0	0	1
23.	Tripura	1	1	2	1	1	5	0	2	0	2
24.	Uttar Pradesh	6	9	63	26	3	191	0	5	0	5
25.	West Bengal	3	4	19	3	0	26	1	1	0	2
26.	Delhi	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2*	0	3
27.	A & N Islands	1	0	2	10	0	12	0	1	0	1
28.	Daman & Diu	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
29.	Pondicherry	1	0	2	2	0	4	0	1	0	1
30.	Lakshadweep Islands	0	0	1	8	0	9	0	0	1	1
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total		46	84	653	225	18	980	8	46	3	57

* LPTs for Parliament Coverage.

@ One LPT for Kashmir Channel.

Total Transmitters 1037

Survey for Bari Sadari-Banswada Rail Line

2352. SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct survey for laying rail line from Bari Sadari Railway Station to Banshi-Dhariwad-Ghotal-Banswada in Udaipur district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the survey report is likely to be submitted?

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) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Electronic Device to Display name of Coming Station

2353. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to arrange an electronic device in train to display the name of approaching station or announce through microphones to enable the passengers to detrain; 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.

Development of Aviation as Core Sector

2354. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to make aviation a core transport sector so that it may play a very important role in the development of national economy;

(b) if so, whether this is proposed to be achieved by connecting regional hubs, creating a chain of air cargo complex, selecting suitable aircraft, rationalising fuel and airport taxes;

(c) if so, the other measures being considered to make aviation a thrust area for overall growth; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (a) to (d) Keeping in view the importance of aviation sector, a major initiative has been taken whereby all public sector enterprises are slated for disinvestment/privatisation/corporatisation. A decision has already been taken to initiate the process of corporatisation of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai airports and the proposed new airport at Bangalore. Similarly, it is proposed to develop more air cargo complexes to provide facilities and impetus for development of economy even in regional and sub-regional areas. A package of incentives to make the operations of smaller aircraft economically viable is also under consideration.

[Translation]

Exhibition for Sale of Railway Items at Pragati Maidan

2355. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an exhibition for sale of railway items was held in Pragati Maidan, Delhi during 1997-98 and its details were published in a booklet;

(b) if so, whether the Government have discontinued this practice; and

(c) if so, the reasons and 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) No, Sir.,

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Subsidised Flights for Himachal Pradesh

2356. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are subsidising flights to Himachal Pradesh as are being done in case of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to give subsidy to the flights bound for Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Government is not subsidising flights either to Himachal Pradesh or Jammu and Kashmir. However, the fares to Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern Region, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands are lower than other parts of the country.

Guidelines for Cable and Satellite Operators

2357. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any guidelines to govern both cable and satellite operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid trade war between cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Most of the satellite channels, including the foreign satellite channels, reach the viewers in India mostly through cable operators. In case of foreign satellite channels, there are no laws or guidelines to regulate their operation. Private Indian satellite channels uplinking from within the country

are expected to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Code of Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan). Operation of cable television network in the country is governed by the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and also the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. Under the Cable Television Networks Act and Rules, codes for programme and advertising have been prescribed. However, these codes do not cover programmes of foreign satellite channels which can be received without the use of any specialised gadgets or decoder. Action has now been initiated for amending certain provisions of this Act with a view, *inter-alia*, to bring these programmes of the "free-to-air" foreign satellite channels also within the ambit of the prescribed programme/advertising code of the cable law when transmitted through a cable operator.

(c) Government is not aware of any trade war between cable operators.

Setting up of a Naval Command at A&N Islands

2358. SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Naval Command at Andaman and Nicobar Island;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be in operation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The proposal to set up the Far Eastern Naval Command at Andaman and Nicobar Island is under consideration.

Newspapers

2359. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of registered newspapers and the places from where these are published daily;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to promote the newspapers published in regional languages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) There are 5505 registered daily newspapers published in different languages all over the country. The individual details of each of these papers are contained in a published document of the Registrar of Newspapers for India entitled "Press in India", which is updated annually. Each edition of the publication runs into hundred of pages and copies of the same are available in the Parliament House Library.

(b) and (c) There is no specific proposal at present.

Nuclear Command

2360. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to evolve and set up a strategic command and control system, after attaining nuclear weapon capability as a step towards creating a credible deterrent against weapons of mass destruction; and

(b) the precise nature and details of the command and control system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) India's nuclear deterrent is predicated on the basic principle of strict political/civilian control. Such control would be exercised through appropriate scientific, technological and military management of the nuclear assets of the country to prevent unauthorised or accidental use.

Gauge Conversion

2361. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gauge conversion of Barmer-Luni-Munabao rail line sanctioned about two years ago but the funds allocated have been diverted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the tenders for the gauge conversion of above line received and opened last year have been finalised; 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 AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The work was sanctioned in 1997-98. Funds provided in 1998-99 had to be curtailed to some extent due to the cut in Plan size which became necessary owing to lesser availability of resources.

(c) and (d) The tenders for the ballast supply were opened in November 1997, for Civil works in December 1997 and for major bridges in April 1998. The tenders for the supply of ballast for one zone, all civil works and for major bridges have already been finalised.

AIR Station in Tuensang

2362. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AIR Stations in Tuensang, Mon have been completed more than a year ago but till date work are not being commissioned for want of staff; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Concerted efforts are on to get the requisite staff sanctioned at the earliest.

[Translation]

Processing of Potatoes

2363. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
DR. BALRAM JAKHAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for processing of potatoes in the Public Sector is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any negotiations being held by the Government with the Private Sector Processing Industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith storage capacity; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) This Ministry does not set up any food processing unit on its own. However, the Ministry provides financial assistance for setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries, including for processing of potatoes, under its plan schemes. Grant of assistance is considered against specific proposals. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry, seeking assistance for processing of potatoes.

[English]

Air Service at Dumna Airport

2364. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Navbharat Times' dated November 15, 1998 in which it was reported that Dumna airport could not be used for night flights and Boeing flights due to defence security reasons as a result thereof the construction of terminal building was also stopped; and

(b) if so, the reasons for incurring infructuous expenditure of Rs. 11 crores by the administration in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The airport at Dumna (Jabalpur) has been developed for Boeing flights for day operations only under Visual Flight Rules (VFR). The airport cannot be used for night flights. Instrument Approach Procedure required for night operations is not feasible due to restrictions imposed upon by defence authorities.

(b) The expenditure is not infructuous since the airport can be used for operations of flights. Airlines are free to

operate flights keeping in view of economic viability and traffic potential.

National Commission on Child Labour

2365. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMED:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government and large number of NGO's have requested the Union Government to set up a National Commission on child labour; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) According to the information received from Government of Kerala, no proposal to set up a National Commission on Child labour has been taken up to Government of India by the State Government.

Flights from Ahmedabad Airport

2366. SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flights from Ahmedabad airport to other countries;

(b) whether there is any Plan to start international flights on Ahmedabad-Nairobi and Ahmedabad-South African countries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Indian Airlines is presently operating 3 flights a week to Muscat and 2 flights a week each to Sharjah and Kuwait from Ahmedabad.

(b) and (c) As there is inadequate traffic potential, there are no immediate plans to start direct air services from Ahmedabad to Nairobi and South Africa.

Completion of Railway Projects

2367. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores that have not been completed as per their targetted completion time of each of these projects;

(b) the cost overrun in respect of the projects running behind their respective targetted time schedule, project-wise; and

(c) the details of the present position of the above projects?

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) The details of on-going projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores are given in the White Paper laid on the table of the House on 28.7.1998. Following Projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores targetted for completion in 1998-99 are not likely to be completed as per target date:—

(Cost in Crs. of Rs.)

Name of Project	Original	Revised Cost	Remarks
(1) Goalpara-Guwahati: New Line (Part of Jogighopa-Guwahati New Line)	117.30	637.00	Jogighopa-Goalpara Commissioned. Goalpara-Guwahati work delayed due to law and order problem.
(2) Mudkhed-Adilabad: Gauge Conversion (Part of Purna-Parbhani- Mudkhed-Adilabad project)	181.19	221.97	Mudkhed Adilabad Gauge Conversion delayed due to the failure of the BOLT contractor to arrange funds in time.
(3) Baiyyapanhalli- Yeshwantpur: Gauge Conversion (GC) (Part of Yeshwantpur-Salem GC project)	159.3	185	Salem- Baiyyapanhalli already commissioned Yeshwantpur- Baiyyapanhalli will be completed in 1999-2000.

Losses in Doordarshan and A.I.R.

2368. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan and AIR are incurring losses during 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) All India Radio and Doordarshan are Public Service Broadcasters and not commercial organisations. The question of their earning any profit or incurring losses therefore does not arise.

Misuse of VVIP Squadron

2369. DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the *Asian Age* dated February 2, 1999 regarding use of VVIP squadron by ex-Prime Ministers;

(b) if so, the amount of outstanding dues towards former/present ministers, including Prime Ministers as on date on account of use of IAF planes; and

(c) the steps taken to realise the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Except the Prime Minister, no other dignitary is authorised to make use of the IAF aircraft/helicopters for duties other than official.

(b) A Statement indicating details of outstanding amount against former/present Prime Ministers is attached. Accounts at Air Hqrs. are being maintained Deptt./Agency wise and not in the name of individual Ministers.

(c) The recovery of dues is being pursued with the Prime Minister's Office and the respective Deptt.'s in the Central Government.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Prime Minister(s)	Amount Outstanding
	S/Shri	(Rs.)
1.	Late Rajiv Gandhi	1,86,17,280
2.	Chandra Shekhar	5,91,31,476
3.	P.V. Narasimha Rao	5,52,40,647
4.	H.D. Deve Gowda	26,48,164
5.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Nil

*[Translation]***Earning of Doordarshan/Akashwani**

2370. SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue earned by Doordarshan/Akashwani separately by way of commercial advertisements from June, 1998 to December, 1998; and

(b) the names of the programmes of Akashwani and Doordarshan which have earned maximum revenue separately during the above mentioned period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Prasar Bharati have reported that the gross commercial revenue earned by Doordarshan and All India Radio from June, 1998 to December, 1998 is Rs. 190.51 crores and 53.67 crores respectively.

(b) The programmes that earned maximum revenue for Doordarshan and All India Radio are "Friday Feature Films" and "Film Music Programme" respectively.

*[English]***Cancellation of Programme Produced by Dr. Sanjay Gosain**

2371. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether programme produced by Dr. Sanjay Gosain scheduled to be telecast on the new year eve was cancelled by Mumbai Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to hold enquiry to ascertain facts regarding cancellation of programme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER

OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati have reported that the programme produced by Dr. Sanjay Gosain could not be telecast on the scheduled time by Doordarshan Kendra, Mumbai on new year eve on 31.12.1998 because the Kendra was required to relay an important national network programme from Delhi. Prasar Bharati have also intimated that the programmes scheduled by Doordarshan Kendras are always subject to last minute changes due to relay of network programmes etc. and a clause to this effect is included in the agreements executed with the producers of sponsored programmes. In view of this there is no need for holding an enquiry in the matter.

Air Service from Jabalpur

2372. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI
BISEN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link Jabalpur with major cities like Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government have laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is for the airlines to provide air services to specific places including Jabalpur depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Gonda-Gorakhpur Railway Line

2373. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether clearance have been obtained for the conversion of Gonda-Gorakhpur meter gauge railway line into broad gauge under the North-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to undertake the work of the said 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) No, Sir. The clearances are not yet available.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The work would be taken up once the clearances become available.

[English]

Upgradation of Ambala Cantt. Junction

2374. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Railways to upgrade and to provide the deserving facilities at Ambala Cantt. Junction; 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) and (b) No, Sir. Since all the facilities, as required, for Ambala Cantt. Station have already been provided.

However, to further augment existing facilities works such as provision of two deluxe retiring rooms, improvement to circulating area, extension of platform Nos. 6 & 7 and improvement to water supply arrangements by providing an additional tubewell and Over Head Tank have been taken up at a total cost of approx. Rs. 74 lakhs.

Married Accommodation for Armed Forces

2375. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to redefine the entitlement norms for married accommodation for the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of funds required to meet the demand for the married accommodation; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) While there is no proposal to redefine the entitlement norms for married accommodation for the Armed Forces, the scale of authorisation of married accommodation for Other Ranks (ORs) has increased from 14% to 35% during 1998.

(c) A sum of Rs. 9700 crores (Approximately) is required at current prices to meet the demand of married accommodation for the three services.

(d) the requirement of funds are presently being met out of the overall budgetary allocations for capital works of the three services by suitable prioritisation of requirements.

[*Translation*]

Renovation of Jaipur Railway Station

2376. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made to renovate the Jaipur railway station;

(b) the amount spent thereon; and

(c) the time by which the above railway station is likely to be renovated?

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) Works of improvements to the circulating area, second

entry, booking office and modifications to the station building were undertaken. The facade and colour scheme of existing station building has been made in such a way so as to match the existing structure of pink City.

(b) Rs. 45.00 lakhs.

(c) Renovation works are expected to be completed by December, 2000.

[*English*]

Crash of IAF Planes

2377. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a MIG-23 aircraft of IAF crashed on February 2, 1999 near Patiala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the enquiry conducted, if any and the quantum of loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(d) the details of other IAF aircrafts which crashed during 1997, 1998 and in 1999 so far date-wise and place-wise alongwith the cause of their crash?

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

(b) On February 2, 1999 the pilot of MIG-23 aircraft was authorised to fly as No. 2 in two aircraft formation. During a turn, the aircraft got engulfed in the air outflow from the engine of the lead aircraft. Aircraft pitched down and went on its back while recovering. Pilot assessed the aircraft to be out of control. As the height was less than 4 Kms the pilot ejected.

(c) Court of Enquiry has been ordered and is still in progress, to determine the cause of the accident and quantum of loss.

(d) The details are annexed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Date	Type of aircraft	Location	Cause
1	2	3	4	5
1.	21.1.97	MIG-29	Pune airfield.	TD*
2.	29.1.97	MIG-21(T-75)	106/48 Km from Pathankot airfield	TD
3.	26.2.97	Jaguar	162 ^o /3.23 NM from Uttarlai	TD
4.	9.3.97	MIG-23 MF	130 ^o /33 Km from Halwara	HE (A)
5.	25.4.97	Kiran Mk IA	Bidar local flying area	HE (A)
6.	8.5.97	MIG-23MF	100 ^o /26 Km from Halwara	TD
7.	9.6.97	MIG-21(T-96)	065 ^o /15 Km from Awantipur	UR
8.	21.6.97	MIG-21(T-77)	Chabua Airfield	HE (A)
9.	23.8.97	MIG-17	Morah Helipad	HE (A)
10.	2.9.97	MIG-21	Ambala runway	HE (A)
11.	15.9.97	Kiran MK IA	Bidar local flying area	HE (A)
12.	17.9.97	MIG-21(T-75)	Bhuj airfield	TD
13.	9.10.97	MIG-23BN	170 ^o /32 Km from Halwara airfield	TD+HE (A)

1	2	3	4	5
14.	29.10.97	MI-8	Sulur airfield	TD+HE (A)
15.	10.11.97	MIG-27 ML	112 ^o /30 Km from Hasimara	TD
16.	14.12.97	Chetak	10 KM from Bhadra near Hissar	HE (A)
17.	21.1.98	MIG-21 M	345 ^o /52 KM from Sirsa	TD
18.	21.3.98	MIG-21 (T-75)	Chandigarh runway	UR
19.	21.3.98	MIG-27 ML	Jaisalmer runway	TD
20.	26.3.98	MIG-27	Suratgarh runway	TD+HE (A)
21.	12.5.98	MIG-21 (T-96)	1 Km from Pathankot airfield	TD
22.	23.5.98	Kiran MK IA	Bidar airfield	TD
23.	4.6.98	MIG-21 (T-75)	Hashimara airfield	HE (A)
24.	24.6.98	MIG-21(T-75)	Suratgarh airfield	TD
25.	27.7.98	MIG-21 (T-69)	020 ^o /07 Km from Chabua	TD
26.	14.8.98	MIG-21 (T-75)	040 ^o /10 Km from Uttarlai	HE (A)
27.	31.8.98	MIG-27 ML	Kalaikunda airfield	HE (A)
28.	3.9.98	MIG-23 BN	Near Halwara airfield	BH

1	2	3	4	5
29.	7.9.98	MI-25	048 ⁹ /33 Km from Pathankot	TD
30.	8.9.98	MIG-27ML	Pokhran range	TD
31.	7.9.98	MIG-21(T-75)	Near Sonamgarh Helipad	HE (A)
32.	27.10.98	MIG-21 (T-96)	Pathankot local flying area	HE (A)
33.	28.10.98	MIG-27 ML	Near Kalaikunda airfield	TD
34.	28.11.98	HPT-32	Near Allahabad airfield	UI
35.	2.2.99	MIG-23 BN	141 ⁹ /84 Km from Halwara	UI
36.	16.2.99	Jaguar	Pune over run area	UI
37.	7.3.99	AN-32	Palam Airport, New Delhi	UI

* TD-Technical defect; HE (A)-Human error (air crew); UR-Unresolved; UI-Under investigation; BH-Bird Strike

ESMA on Air Traffic Controllers

2378. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have enforced ESMA on Air Traffic Controllers in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof alongwith the officers sacked;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to sort out the grievances of ATCs; and

(d) the time by which a compromise is likely to be reached?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A notification under section 3 read with section 44 of the Haryana Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1974 (Haryana Act No. 40 of 1974) as extended to the National Capital Territory of Delhi has been issued by the National Capital Territory of Delhi on 16-02-1999 declaring air traffic services as essential services. A notification has also been issued for conferring on certain Central Government Officers the power of arrest, investigation and prosecution under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982 as amended from time to time. AAI has also taken strict disciplinary action by dismissing six delinquent air traffic controllers under the Employees

Conduct Discipline and Appeal Regulations of AAI. In the meanwhile, Air Traffic Controller Guild have given an assurance to the Delhi High court that there shall be no disruption of flight schedules. At present, flights are operating normally.

(c) and (d) The officials of the Airports Authority of India and the representatives of the ATC Guild have been meeting from time to time to amicably resolve the outstanding issues. The recommendations of the Julka Committee relating to rating allowance, flight data processing allowance, on the job training allowance, civil aviation training centre allowance have been accepted and implemented by AAI from November, 1997. The remaining recommendations have not been accepted by AAI.

Construction of Under-Bridge at Rampura

2379. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had sanctioned an under bridge at Rampura, Lawrence Road Industrial Area railway crossing (near Punjabi Bagh), Delhi; and

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work of 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 OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Legislation on Unorganised Labour

2380. SHRI T.R. BAALU:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to bring out legislation to protect the interest of the Unorganised Labour;

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the other steps proposed to be taken by Government to protect the interests of the Unorganised Labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Government have enacted a number of labour laws for protection of the interests of labour including unorganised labour. Some of these laws are: the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976 etc. Workers engaged in iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine industry and beedi industry are also covered by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned welfare funds. State Governments have also launched insurance and social security schemes covering large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom weavers, rikshaw pullers, etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of workers in these unorganised/informal sector has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government.

The Government are also implementing a number of poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rajgar Yojna (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awas Yojna (IAY), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) etc. which are designed especially to benefit rural poor including workers in the unorganised/informal sector.

The Central Government have also enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect the interest of workers engaged in construction industry which constitutes the second largest activity, after agriculture. It is also the endeavour of the Government to provide welfare measures and to extend legislative protection to more and more workers in the unorganised sector.

[Translation]

Recruitment Rally in Arah

2381. SHRI H.P. SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheduled recruitment rally organised in Arah, Bihar on February 19 and 20, 1999 for recruitment in the army went off successfully; and

(b) if so, the number of vacancies alongwith the names of the trade for which recruitment was made?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Recruitment Rally at Ara, Bihar was scheduled from 19 to 28 February 1999. Requisite administrative as well as security arrangements for the duration of above mentioned rally had been confirmed by the State authorities. However, without informing the Army Recruiting Organisation at Danapur, Bihar Police carried out their own recruitment at the venue where army recruitment was to be carried out. State authorities also expressed their inability to provide security arrangements for the Army Recruitment Rally.

In view of the above, in absence of availability of venue and other administrative and security arrangements, Army had no alternative but to cancel the rally.

The recruiting rally is now being rescheduled.

[English]

Skilled and Unskilled Labourers in Employment Exchange

2382. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of skilled and unskilled labourers seeking employment through Employment Exchanges in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken to provide them employment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) A statement containing education-wise distribution of job seekers is enclosed.

(b) The Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Statement

No. of Job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges, Classified by Educational level

Education level	No. in thousand at the end of 31st December		
	1993	1994	1995
1	2	3	4
1. Below 10th (including illiterate)	12658.7	12714.9	11947.3
2. 10th Class passed	13608.1	13566.5	13947.1
3. 10+2 passed	5619.9	5793.1	6104.4
4. Graduates (including Post-graduates)	3958.3	4215.2	4322.6

1	2	3	4
(i) Arts	1613.4	1692.1	1763.4
(ii) Science	776.3	800.0	801.8
(iii) Commerce	672.6	698.4	703.5
(iv) Engineering	152.0	158.5	168.1
(v) Medicine	31.9	30.6	31.5
(vi) Veterinary	3.5	4.0	4.3
(vii) Agriculture	33.5	33.2	36.3
(viii) Law	14.0	14.5	14.9
(ix) Education	558.5	615.1	608.0
(x) Others	102.5	168.9	190.9
5. Diploma Holder	430.6	401.8	421.0
Total: (1+2+3+4+5)	36275.5	36691.5	36742.3

Figures may not tally due to rounding off.

Corruption in Jamalpur Railway Workshop

2383. SHRI BIZOY KUMAR "BIZOY":
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government about the rampant corruption prevailing in the railway workshop at Jamalpur (Bihar);

(b) if so, the details of complaints received by the Railways in this regard;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome 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) During the last 5 years only three complaints have been received against officials of Jamalpur workshop.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The allegations in all the three complaints were substantiated and action under Discipline and Appeal Rules against officials found responsible has been initiated.

[Translation]

Survey for Vishrampur-Barwadih Rail Line

2384. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time by which the survey work for construction of the railway lines in Bihar from Vishrampur-Barwadih, Barwadih-Gaya, Gadawa-Hazaribagh Town, Bhawanathpur-Dehri On son, Barwadih-Dehri On son are 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) These survey works are likely to be completed by the dates shown against each:

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|------------|
| (i) | Vishrampur — Barwadih | — | 31.12.1999 |
| (2) | Barwadih (Daltonganj)—Gaya | — | 31.8.1999 |
| (3) | Garwa — Hazaribagh | — | 31.12.1999 |
| (4) | Bhavnathpur (Jadunathpur)
Dehri-ON-Son | — | 30.9.1999 |
| (5) | Barwadih - Dehri On-Son | — | 30.9.1999 |

Reservation of Passengers

2385. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between the existing reservation quota and reservation seekers at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to take any action to bridge the said gap; and

(c) the step taken by the Government 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) During rush period-like Summer, Pooja and Winter vacations, etc. only, there is some gap between reservation quota and demand for reservation, and some passengers are kept on the waiting list in popular long distance trains.

(b) and (c) Position of waiting list passengers is monitored on day-to-day basis and additional coaches wherever justified and feasible are attached to clear the rush. During summer holidays and other rush periods special trains are also run. New trains are introduced as and when possible on important busy routes to meet the demand.

Subsidy on Air Fares

2386. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any subsidy on air fare has been provided by the Government on certain routes;

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

(c) whether the Government are considering to give subsidy on fares for flights to Andman and Nicobar Islands; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. When the Indian Airlines hiked the fares in October 1998, the fares for flights to North East region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands were not finally raised.

[*English*]

**Permission to Private Agencies
to Operate TV Stations**

2387. DR. SAROJA V. Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted some private agencies to operate TV stations with low power transmitters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received by the Government for such permission; and

(d) the names of the private agencies proposed to be given permission to operate TV stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Starting of Second Channel of Doordarshan
at Bhagalpur**

2388. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand for starting a second channel of Doordarshan in some cities is under consideration of the Government;

(b) whether the Government propose to do the same in Bhagalpur district of Bihar also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal, a present, to start a second channel of Doordarshan at Bhagalpur in Bihar.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Development of F.P.I.

2389. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research work is being carried out by the Indian Food Trade and Development Organisation for the development of fruit processing industries;

(b) if so, the results thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have taken a final decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) As far as the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is concerned, no information is available regarding the research work being carried out by Indian Food Trade & Development Organisation.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Open Sky Policy

2390. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether infrastructural facilities at Airports are inadequate to support existing operations;

(b) if so, whether it is advisable to permit any new airlines in India; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government are going for a review of the open sky policy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The issue of permitting new domestic airline in India is covered by the New Domestic Air Transport Policy. The salient features of which are given in the statement enclosed. At present, there is no proposal to review the existing policy on domestic air transport services.

Statement

Salient Features of New Domestic Air Transport Policy

1. Foreign equity upto 40% and NRI/OCB investment upto 100% would be permitted in the domestic air transport services.
2. Equity from foreign airlines will, however, not be allowed directly, or indirectly, in the domestic air transport services.
3. Barriers to entry and exit from this sector have been removed. There would only be a pre-entry scrutiny of applications to verify the financial soundness, maintenance, security and safety aspects of operations and human resources development proposed to be undertaken by the applicant.
4. Choice of aircraft type and size be left to the operator.
5. To eliminate non-serious entrepreneurs and to achieve economies of scale, the minimum fleet size for a scheduled operator has been raised from the existing three (3) to five (5) aircraft and the minimum amount of the shareholders funds has been enhanced from existing Rs. 5.00 crores to Rs. 10 crores for aircraft of all-up-weight below 40,000 kgs and from Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 30 crores for aircraft of all up weight exceeding 40,000 kgs.
6. Total capacity in the air transport sector is assessed on the basis of trend growth of traffic and projections made for at least a period of five years on annual basis.
7. In the distribution of this predetermined capacity for induction, while preference will be given to Indian Airlines according to its fleet augmentation plan subject to its ability to do so, to meet a share of additional capacity that

would emerge each year. The proposals of private operators for induction of capacity would be considered keeping in view the demand, load factor, past track record and financial soundness etc.

8. The present policy of route dispersal guidelines has been retained and is being strictly enforced. According to these guidelines, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North-East, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep 10% of their capacity deployed on these specified trunk routes.

[Translation]

Promotion of Tourism in North Eastern States

2391. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for promotion of tourism in North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the estimated amount to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the development work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (d) To develop tourism in the North Eastern States, the Ministry of Tourism had set up a Task Force which has given a number of recommendations to facilitate and develop tourism in the North East. These recommendations include removal of entry restrictions, upgradation of Guwahati airport, development of inland water transport for tourists, development of certain road segments as National Highways and development of tourism infrastructure in places of major tourist attraction.

Every year the Ministry provides Central Financial Assistance to each of the North Eastern States for development of tourism infrastructure on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments. During 1997-98 the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned 49 projects for an amount of Rs. 1217.72 lakhs to North Eastern States. For the year 1998-99 Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Govts. has identified 89 projects amounting to Rs. 2050.00 lakhs for Central Financial Assistance.

*[English]***F.M. Station at Junagarh in Gujarat**

2392. SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have requested the Union Government for establishment of F.M. Station at Junagarh;

(b) if so, whether a decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up of a Radio Station at Junagarh was received from the Government of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A Local Radio Station with 5KW FM Transmitter and staff quarters is already under implementation at Junagarh and is targetted for completion by 2000-2001.

(d) Does not arise.

Casual News Correspondents/Reporters in A.I.R.

2393. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 500 persons are at present working in A.I.R. as news correspondents/reporters on casual basis; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to regularise these employees, who are on casual basis for a very long time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cameras for Out Door Coverage with (PGF) Jammu

2394. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Beta-cam and U-matic cameras used for out door coverage lying with Doordarshan Kendra (PGF) Jammu;

(b) whether these sophisticated equipments are used for aforesaid purposes; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) 3 Nos. Beta camcorders and 2 Nos. U-matic (Ikagami) cameras meant for outdoor coverage are available at studio centre, Jammu and are being used for same.

*[Translation]***Export Facilities to Films**

2395. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide export facilities to film industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps so far in this direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the need to promote and enhance the exports of films, television software, music and other forms of audio-visual entertainment products in a coordinated manner as well as to resolve problems

being faced by the entertainment community in the field of exports, an Export Promotion Forum for films and other audio-visual products has been set up in this Ministry, with members drawn from the fields of films, advertising, marketing, finance etc. Moreover, while presenting the Budget for the year 1999-2000, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced that facilities and tax benefits as are available for the export of goods and merchandise under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act would be made available for the export of films and audio-visual software also.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Job to Handicapped in Railways

2396. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by the Government to provide jobs to the handicapped persons on priority basis in railways and the extent to which the success achieved under these schemes;

(b) the number of handicapped persons provided employment on priority basis during 1997 and 1998 separately; and

(c) the names of the departments of the railways where handicapped persons have been appointed during the above period?

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) In the matter of provision of jobs to Physically Handicapped persons, Ministry of Railways follow the instruction of the Department of Personnel & Training, which is the nodal Department for this purpose. These instructions provide for reservation of 3% direct recruitment vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' categories to Physically Handicapped persons (1% each for Visually Handicapped, Hearing Handicapped and Orthopaedically Handicapped persons). Appointments are given against the posts identified as suitable for them. As a result of implementation of these instructions, a large number of handicapped persons have already been given employment in the Railways.

(b) The number of handicapped persons provided employment on the Zonal Railways in Group 'C' and 'D' categories on priority basis during 1997 and 1998 are as under:—

Year	Number of persons appointed		Total
	Group 'C'	Group 'D'	
1997	23	46	69
1998	104	103	207

Recruitment being an ongoing process, further action is on hand for recruitment against the quota of vacancies reserved for the physically handicapped.

(c) The Departments of the Railways in which handicapped persons have been appointed during the years 1997 and 1998 are as under:—

(1) Personnel, (2) Electrical, (3) Signal and Telecommunication, (4) Mechanical, (5) Commercial, (6) General Administration, (7) Medical, (8) Operating, (9) Engineering and (10) Accounts.

Survey for Nadikudi and Srikalahasti Rail Line

2397. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Udayagiri has been taken into consideration while conducting survey for laying of new railway line between Nadikudi and Srikalahasti in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present stage of the survey and the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the funds earmarked therefor during 1999-2000?

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) The survey has been completed and the report is under finalisation in consultation with the Zonal Railway.

(d) An outlay of Rs. 12.25 lakhs has been provided in the Budget 1999-2000 for financial adjustments.

Violation of Human Rights by Armed Forces

2398. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Army personnel indicated in connection with human rights violation, during the last year; and

(b) the steps being taken to prevent such violation by Armed Forces personnel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Eleven army personnel were indicated for human rights violations during the last year. Seven of them were dismissed from service and were also awarded imprisonment (one of them was awarded rigorous imprisonment for ten years, another for seven years). Two were sentenced to imprisonment for 89 days each. Reprimand was given in case of the remaining two.

(b) Besides awarding exemplary punishments to those found guilty of human rights violations, all the ranks are regularly sensitized through training on the human rights aspects. A formal standardised Operating Procedure has been evolved for the conduct of the counter insurgency operations to minimise inconvenience to the civilians.

Vocational Rehabilitation Centre

2399. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority has allotted some plots for the construction of a building for Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the handicapped;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has not been able to start construction work on these plots;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the estimated cost of construction of buildings during the allotment year and the present estimated cost; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to construct the building for Vocational Rehabilitation Centres?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The boundary wall has already been constructed. The construction could not be completed so far due to want of No Objection Certificate/grant of extension from DDA and thereafter for want of sufficient funds.

(d) The present estimated cost indicated by CPWD is about Rs. 7,89,60,000. As no estimate was worked out during the year of allotment, no comparison can be made.

(e) Based on approval of Standing Finance Committee of the Ministry of Labour, the administrative approval and financial sanction have already been issued. CPWD is finalizing the drawings for submission to DDA and Delhi Urban Arts Commission for their approval. CPWD has been asked to complete the project within 20 months.

Basic Facilities in Trains

2400. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the unsatisfactory condition of sanitation, electricity and drinking water in Darjeeling Mail, Tista Torsa Express and North Bengal Express Train;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed 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) Details of total complaints received during the year 1998 regarding sanitation, electricity and drinking water on Darjeeling Mail, Tista Torsa Express and North

Bengal Express are as under:

1. Sanitation	—	Nil
2. Train Watering	—	3
3. Electricity	—	3
4. Drinking Water	—	1

(c) Corrective action is regularly taken on all the complaints. Proper watering of coaches is ensured at Sealdah and also at nominated stations enroute. Watering facilities at these stations are adequate and are regularly monitored. In order to improve lighting, coaches are being converted from 24 Volts to 110 Volts modern electrical system. These three trains are now running on 110 Volts system. Any deficiencies reported are promptly attended.

Construction of New Airports

2401. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new airports under construction in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A new airport at Lengpui has been commissioned in December, 1998 while a new one at Tura in Meghalaya is likely to be commissioned in July, 1999. The new airport at Kargil in State of Jammu & Kashmir is being developed and is likely to be completed by October, 1999. An airport of international standards is being constructed at Nedumbassery near Cochin and efforts are on to commission it in April, 1999.

World Cup Cricket, 1999

2402. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to live telecast the World Cup Cricket, 1999;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of times test cricket matches and one day matches held in the country have been live telecast during the last three years;

(d) whether Doordarshan are getting enough sponsorship for this purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan will telecast live 11 matches of World Cup, 1999 which includes five first phase matches of India, 3 super six matches involving India plus first and second semi-finals and final of the World Cup Cricket, 1999.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Approx. 130 one-day international matches and 2 test matches.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Bonded Labourers

2403. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Report has been submitted by the Deputy Labour Commissioner on the recommendations that the administration should take steps to rescue bonded labourers working at brick kilns; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and the decision taken for the implementation of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No such report has been received by the Ministry of Labour of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Railway Booking Counters at Airports

2404. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open railway booking counters at various airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives behind opening railway booking counters at airports;

(c) whether the Government also propose to extend computerized reservation facilities in various railway stations in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise/location-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) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present reservation counters are available at Indra Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, Domestic Airport, Calcutta, International Airport, Sahar, Mumbai and International Airport, Chennai for the use of Air travellers as well as Air Staff and general public living around Airport.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. With the norms for providing computerised reservation facility being relaxed from 300 to 200 reservation related transactions per day, 43 new locations have been sanctioned for provision of these facility. The details of these locations are as under:—

S.No.	Railway	Stations/Location
1	2	3
1.	Central Railway	Shirdi Out Agency
2.	Eastern Railway	Sahib Ganj
3.	Eastern Railway	New Farakka Jn.
4.	Eastern Railway	Giridih
5.	Eastern Railway	Lalgola
6.	Eastern Railway	Mokama Jn.

1	2	3
7.	Eastern Railway	Buxar
8.	Northern Railway	Sultanpur
9.	Northern Railway	Pratapgarh
10.	Northern Railway	Abohar
11.	Northern Railway	Barmer
12.	Northern Railway	Hanumangarh
13.	Northern Railway	Laksar
14.	North Eastern Railway	Jainagar
15.	North Eastern Railway	Sitapur
16.	Northeast Frontier Railway	Lumding
17.	Northeast Frontier Railway	New Bongaigaon
18.	Northeast Frontier Railway	Jalpaiguri Town
19.	Northeast Frontier Railway	Kishanganj
20.	Northeast Frontier Railway	Tezpur
21.	Southern Railway	Jolarpet/Tirupatur
22.	Southern Railway	Changanacherry
23.	Southern Railway	Shoranur

1	2	3
24.	Southern Railway	Rajapalayam
25.	Southern Railway	Tiruvarur
26.	Southern Railway	Ramanathapuram
27.	Southern Railway	Karur
28.	South Central Railway	Palakollu
29.	South Central Railway	Dharwad
30.	South Central Railway	Machlipattnam
31.	South Central Railway	Gudur
32.	South Central Railway	Gudivada
33.	South Central Railway	Tanuku
34.	South Central Railway	Gadag
35.	South Eastern Railway	Khurda Road
36.	Western Railway	Viramgaon
37.	Western Railway	Vapy
38.	Western Railway	Nagda
39.	Western Railway	Dewas
40.	Western Railway	Sawai Madhopur
41.	Western Railway	Junagarh
42.	Western Railway	Ankleshwar
43.	Western Railway	Nandurbar

Flights between Bhubaneshwar-Port Blair

2405. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to revive air services between Bhubaneshwar and Port Blair; and

(b) If so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) It is for the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

[Translation]

ESI Hospitals in Delhi

2406. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of E.S.I. hospitals in Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Bahadurgarh;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more E.S.I. hospitals in these areas in view of the growing industrial workers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) There are 3 E.S.I. Hospitals in Delhi, 2 in Ghaziabad including NOIDA and in Faridabad. One more E.S.I. Hospital at Rohini, Delhi is at an advanced stage of construction. The E.S.I. Corporation has also decided to set up a hospital at Gurgaon.

Encroachment of Railway Land

2407. SHRI RAJNARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land adjacent to the Delhi-Shahadara-Loni-Saharanpur and Delhi-New Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut rail lines has been unauthorisedly occupied by the railway employees and anti-social elements;

(b) if so, the area of land occupied;

(c) whether these elements have constructed kuchha and pucca houses and cow-sheds on the above land;

(d) if so, the measures being taken to evict the said persons from the railway land; and

(e) the area of land evicted during the last two years and the number of persons against whom legal action was initiated?

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) About 93600 sq.m. of Railway land is under encroachments in these locations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Action warranted under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 has been initiated against the encroachers.

(e) During last two years about 26000 sq.m. of Railway land has been got vacated by removing 865 number of encroachments.

Use of Rail-cum-Road Bridge at Kachhlaghat

2408. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh to keep open the rail-cum-road bridge on the Bareilly-Kasganj route till the alternative arrangement of the Pantoon bridge; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Railways 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing arrangement of road decking will not be feasible after conversion of the line to BG. State Government has been advised to make alternative arrangements by 31.03.2001 till which time the road decking on existing rail bridge will continue.

Linking of Districts with Capital of Bihar by Rail

2409. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Bihar, particularly in backward areas linked with the State Capital by single/double rail lines;

(b) whether the Government propose to link remaining districts with State Capital;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; 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 AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) All districts in Bihar are linked with the State Capital except Godda, Shivhar and Chatra districts by single/double rail lines.

(b) and (c) Construction of new line from Mandar Hill to Rampurhat via Dumka is a sanctioned project execution of which will provide further rail connection to Godda district. A Preliminary-Engineering-cum-Traffic survey for new BG line between Motihari and Sitamarhi via Shivhar has been sanctioned and is in progress.

Survey for a new BG line from Gaya to Chatra has been completed and the report is under examination. Survey for a new line from Chatra to Tori has been included in the Budget 1999-2000. Further consideration of these projects will be possible once the survey reports becomes available.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Strikes in Indian Railways

2410. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes took place in Indian Railways during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, till date;

(b) the reasons for each strike; and

(c) the losses suffered by Indian Railways in each case?

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 strike took place in Indian Railways during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (till date).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Construction of Bridge over River Chambal

2411. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated cost of railway bridge over river Chambal;

(b) the allocation made therefor during 1998-99;

(c) the reasons for slow progress of above bridge;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for speedy construction; and

(e) the time by which it 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) Rs. 44 crores.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 10 crores has been provided for the work during 1998-99.

(c) to (e) The work is progressing as per schedule and will be completed by 31.3.1999.

[English]

Foreign Tourists Chartered Flights for Port Blair

2412. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Authority to allow

foreign tourists chartered flights for Port Blair (Andaman Nicobar Islands);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) A proposal has been received from Andaman & Nicobar Administration for operation of tourist charter flights to/from Port Blair. The proposal can be implemented only after completion of necessary infrastructural expansion at Port Blair airport and other procedural requirements.

Garments Units under ESI Scheme

2413. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the garment manufacturing units covered under Employees' State Insurance Scheme in Karnataka;

(b) the number out of them are in Bangalore;

(c) whether some units are running under losses; and

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering to exempt these units from the payment of Employer's contributions?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) 976.

(b) 949.

(c) and (d) There is no provision under the ESI Act, 1948 to exempt the loss making factories/establishments from payment of employer's contributions. As such the information about the establishments running under losses is not maintained by the ESI Corporation.

Quality of Indian Weapons

2414. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Indian weapons good, except in a war" appearing in 'The Times of India' dated January 20, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

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

(b) and (c) In order to strengthen defence and to prepare for future battlefield scenario the Army is continuously being modernised by updating resources both human and material to keep pace with the changing threat perceptions technologies and geo-political environment. A concerted exercise is undertaken regularly and a prioritised procurement plan drawn for meticulous implementation in order to ensure a high level of operational preparedness within the available resources.

2. The need for procurement of weapon and weapon systems for Armed Forces stems from the threat perception and the consequent need to counter these threats. Based on this various options available to counter the specific threats are considered. A professional assessment for procurement of specific weapon and weapon systems is made keeping in view the performance of the equipment *vis-a-vis* threat perception, its availability, product-support and cost-effectiveness. The professional Directorates in the Services Headquarters and Department of Research and Development are fully associated in the selection process.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Hospital under Labour Welfare Fund

2415. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central hospital at Bharvelli, district Bakghat, Madhya Pradesh was constructed out of the labour welfare fund;

(b) if so, year in which the amount was spent by the Ministry on the construction of this hospital;

(c) whether the hospital is functioning there regularly;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal from the Manganese Ore India Limited to take over the above hospital; and

(f) if so, the decision of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount sanctioned for the construction of the hospital was spent at different stages during the period of construction between 1984-88.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The Government of India have decided, in principle, to transfer the hospital to Manganese Ore India Limited.

Aviation Turbine Fuel

2416. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of aviation turbine fuel required for operating aircraft is more in India as compared to that in the international market;

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

(c) the percentage of difference in the price?

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

(b) The average international price of ATF is about Rs. 5,600/- per Kilolitre whereas in India it is about Rs. 15,000/- per Kilolitre for domestic operations and Rs. 9,600/- per kilolitre for international operators. ATF prices are fixed and administered by the Government.

(c) ATF prices in India for domestic operation are about 2.68 times of international price.

[*English*]

Tourism Counters at I.G.I. Airport

2417. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that counters meant for providing tourism related facilities at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi are being used illegally by private firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the private firms and erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) had issued license to M/s Punjab Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), a State Government Undertaking for the tourism counter at IGI airport. A complaint was received by AAI that PTDC has leased it out to a Patiala based private transport company. The matter has been investigated and no counters are being used illegally by private firms.

MoU between DRDO and Periyar Trust

2416. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has entered into a MoU with M/s. Periyar Trust for research into frost bite of Indian soldiers on the Siachin glacier;

(b) if so, the details of the MoU and the financial commitments, if any; and

(c) whether any office space in the Ministry of Defence buildings is proposed to be provided for the researchers deployed by the Periyar Trust?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) In order to make optimum use of S&T expertise and infrastructure available in the country, DRDO undertakes various programmes/projects in partnership with industries, academic institutions and other research centres. DRDO is already working with about 50 academic institutions/universities in the country in certain research areas needed. In furtherance of this drive, DRDO has signed an MoU with Periyar Maniammai College of Technology for Women (PMCTW), Thanjavur, a Government approved all women technical institute, to foster joint research in selected areas for growth of indigenous defence technology. Another objective of this MoU is to promote empowerment of women. Under this MoU, a task costing Rs. 2 lakh to develop a computer simulation model to identify the laser parameters for laser photodynamic therapy for frost bite has been approved for this institute. However, no funding has been done so far.

(c) No, Sir.

Losses of Air India

2419. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India continued to incur additional losses during the last five months (October, 1998 to February, 1999);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are proposed to be taken to take the airline out of the red?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the provisional results of October, 1998 to January, 1999, Air India had incurred loss of Rs. 80.10 crores as against budgeted loss of Rs. 109.04 crores.

The losses are mainly because of increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition and cost of operations, increase in wage bill and other staff costs and landing, handling and navigational charges and depreciation of rupee value.

Air India Limited has taken the following steps to improve the performance:—

- (i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue.
- (ii) Network rationalization and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability.
- (iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by undertaking more in-house repairs.
- (iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished.

[Translation]

Development of Chitrakoot as National Tourist Place

2420. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request to declare Chitrakoot as a national tourist place keeping in view its cultural, natural, social and religious importance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Union Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for selected projects identified in consultation with them based on their merits and the availability of funds. Chitrakoot is an important Pilgrim and Tourist Centre. The Union Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned financial assistance of about Rs. 35 lakhs during 1991-92 for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Chitrakoot. The facilities available to the tourists/pilgrims at Chitrakoot are a Tourist Bungalow, Yatri Niwas, Tourist Office.

[*English*]

Cleanliness in Guwahati Railway Station

2421. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have sufficient number of employees for cleaning the railway station at Guwahati;

(b) if so, whether adequate number of officers are also available to supervise the work done by such employees;

(c) if so, whether any norms has been prescribed for cleanliness of the railway stations; 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) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Station Managers are the overall incharge of the cleanliness of stations and at important stations, they are assisted by Health Inspectors and Safaiwalas. Adequate cleaning equipments and materials like acids, phenyles, booms etc. are also provided at the stations. Frequent announcements are made urging the public to cooperate in keeping the station premises clean. The cleanliness of station premises is also being regularly monitored by the officers, inspectors and supervisors.

Ongoing Doordarshan Projects in Maharashtra

2422. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing Doordarshan projects in the country specially in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of projects completed during the Eighth Five Year plan and the number of projects proposed for the Ninth Five Year plan;

(c) the status and financial provisions made therefor; and

(d) the number of proposals from Maharashtra pending with the Union Government and action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) A total of 21 studios and 276 transmitter projects (64 HPTs, 133 LPTs, 71 VLPTs, 8 transposers) including 3 studios and 28 transmitters (4 HPTs, 13 LPTs, 11 VLPTs) in Maharashtra State are at present under implementation in the country.

(b) During 8th Plan Period, Doordarshan had set up 16 studios and 415 transmitters of varying power. Targets in respect of studio and transmitter schemes in 9th Plan are 23 studios, 40 DD-I HPTs, 40 DD-II HPTs and 422 LPTs/VLPTs. In addition, schemes for replacement, modernisation and augmentation of facilities at various Doordarshan Stations were implemented during VIII Plan and are also envisaged during 9th Plan. Also satellite uplinking facilities in Doordarshan network were augmented and staff quarters constructed besides a number of ancillary schemes.

(c) 9th Plan proposals of Doordarshan have an outlay of Rs. 1836 crores.

(d) Proposals from various sources in Maharashtra have been received for the expansion of Doordarshan network. Besides the projects already under implementation further expansion of TV network is subject to availability of resources/infrastructural facilities and *interse* priorities.

Vacancies in Golden Rock Workshop

2423. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 3000 posts of different categories are lying vacant in the Golden Rock workshop;

(b) if so, since when these posts are lying vacant; and

(c) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled 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. There are only 392 vacancies in the Golden Rock Workshop.

(b) These vacancies have arisen over a period of three years.

(c) While the action to fill up the vacancies against promotion quota is in process, the vacancies against direct recruitment quota will be filled up as and when required, commensurate with the workload in the Workshop.

Land for Bijapur Airport

2424. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government requested the Union Government to release the compensation amount to the land owners whose land had been acquired for the expansion of Bijapur Airport in Mangalore;

(b) if so, the amount of compensation sought for; and

(c) the time by which the amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The airport at Mangalore (Bajpee) belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI). An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs was demanded by the State Government for

acquisition of land in 1988 and which amount has been released in March, 1989. The land has not been handed over to AAI so far.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Purchase of Material

2425. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1997 Railways had taken a decision to bring out the details of the material purchased/sold by Railways in a year; and

(b) whether the purchase of materials by railways has been done on the basis of tenders at minimum rates and its sale by tender on maximum rates?

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) Purchase on Indian Railways are made through a system of tendering at competitive rates duly considering the technical acceptability and other merits of the offers and keeping in view the policy laid down by the Government of India (Department of Supply and other Government Departments) and instructions issued from time to time.

Sale of materials is made either through auction at the highest rate or through a system of competitive tendering at the highest rate except in exceptional cases, where the tenderer does not meet with the tender requirements or his credentials are not considered adequate.

[English]

Customs and Excise Levy

2426. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways pay huge Customs and Excise levies on its imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to persuade with the Finance Ministry to remove the anomalies to attract private investment in railway projects?

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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

MoU between HAL and Airbus Industries

2427. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding with Airbus Industries to jointly develop A320-QC aircraft;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the exact nature of the collaboration worked out?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been concluded between Airbus Industries and HAL to conduct a joint study for conversion of A320 class aircraft to quick convertible and freighter versions. The joint study is to cover aspects such as technical, industrial, financial, marketing and international certification of the conversion programme.

[*Translation*]

New Signalling System at Delhi Railway Station

2428. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new signalling system has been introduced recently at Delhi railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the extent to which the new signalling system is likely to be benefited;

(d) whether the Government propose to install this system at railway stations of other main cities also;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be installed; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred on installation of this new system?

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 new signalling is a Relay based Interlocking called Route Relay Interlocking (RRI) system in which just by pressing of two buttons (Entrance and Exit of a route), the complete route is automatically set, checked for clearance, locked and the signal is cleared. This major RRI installation with 1122 Routes controls movements of all trains at Delhi Main station. The expenditure incurred for this new system is Rs. 15.75 cr.

(c) The main benefits to accrue with the new system are:—

(i) Number of routes for movements has been substantially enhanced from 530 in the earlier system to 1122 in the new system.

(ii) Additional reception and dispatch facilities to and from various platforms due to yard remodelling.

(iii) Improved reliability and performance due to replacement of the old signalling system which had out lived its useful life.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) A statement is attached.

Statement*Some of other main cities where RRI system is planned to be provided*

S.No.	Railway	Name of Station where RRI work is in progress	Expected date of installation	Cost in crore (Rs.)
1.	Central	Gwalior	December, 99	4.39
2.	Central	Agra Cantt.	Sept., 2000	8.25
3.	Central	Ballarshah	Dec., 2000	6.72
4.	Eastern	Gaya	April, 2000	9.85
5.	Eastern	Sealdah	May, 2000	2.50
6.	Eastern	Patna	April, 2000	12.61
7.	Eastern	Bardhaman	Nov., 2000	8.38
8.	Northern	Ludhiana	March, 2001	8.15
9.	Southern	Shoranur Jn.	Dec. '99	3.01
10.	Southern	Ernakulam Jn.	Dec. '99	3.05
11.	South Central	Domakal	June, 2000	3.68
12.	South Eastern	Simhachalam	Dec. '99	11.82
13.	Western	Valsad	June '99	2.65

[English]

**Construction of Khurda Road-
Bolangir Rail Line**

2429. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Khurda Road-Bolangir railway line;

(b) if so, the estimate cost of the above railway line;

(c) the fund earmarked for that railway line so far; and

(d) the time by which the railway line is likely to be started and 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) The work is sanctioned. All clearances have been received. Final location survey has been taken up. This will be followed by land acquisition and the work would be started once the land becomes available.

(b) Rs. 353.38 crore.

(c) Rs. 15.49 crore.

(d) The work would be started once the land becomes available, and will be progressed as per availability of resources and completed in the coming years. No target date has been fixed.

[Translation]

**Provision of Employment to
Registered Unemployed**

2430. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT:
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA:
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment exchanges do not keep the record of such persons who do not get employment within a period of three years after getting themselves registered with it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps to be taken by the Government to provide them job within a stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) As per instructions, the Employment Exchanges are required to keep record of registration of job seekers who do not get employment provided they continue to renew their registration after every 3 years from the date of registration.

(c) The Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

[English]

Supply of Wagons to Kerala

2431. SHRI P. SANKARAN:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons sent to Kerala with PDS supply for the last three years;

(b) whether there is any severe drop in the arrival of wagons during 1998-99 to the State leading to depletion of buffer stock;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken to increase the supply of rakes to Kerala?

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) The actual input of Food Corporation of India foodgrains wagons in Kerala for last three years are as under:

1996-97	275 wagons per day
1997-98	263 wagons per day
1998-99 (upto February '99)	280 wagons per day

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no problem in supply of Railway wagons for loading of Foodgrains for Food Corporation of India, for Kerala. However, programme for movement is given by the Food Corporation of India and Loading and movement is organised considering the loading and unloading potential and performance.

Wage Boards for Plantation Workers

2432. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a Wage Board for plantation workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Employment in any plantation is a scheduled employment under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the State Government is the appropriate Government for fixation of minimum wages.

Selection of TV Serials

2433. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid down any policy regarding selection of TV serials and their duration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the popular serials abruptly taken off are being re-introduced on Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tourists Places

2434. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are projecting various tourist and pilgrimage centres by way of literatures, pamphlets and making of films on them to attract more foreign tourists in the country through their tourism offices abroad; and

(b) if so, the name of such tourists/pilgrimage centres, State-wise alongwith the name of countries where publicity has been given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The Ministry of Tourism produces Publicity material like brochures, folders, films on various tourist destinations including pilgrimage centres to project India in a positive manner through its tourist offices in India and abroad.

Publicity material is produced on different States and Union Territories where there are tourist destinations, including pilgrim centres.

Group of Strategic Defence Review

2435. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Security Council has established a group of Strategic Defence Review (SDR);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith functions of the said group;

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be in operation; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help the future threats to India's security?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A Strategic Policy Group (SPG) is one of the constituent units of recently established National Security Council. SPG is to undertake a Strategic Defence Review as one of its priority tasks.

(b) The SPG consists of Cabinet Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary, Defence Secretary, Secretary (Defence Production), Finance Secretary, the three Service Chiefs, Secretary (Revenue), RBI Governor, Director (IB), Secretary (R) in Cabinet Secretariat, Secretary (DAE), SA to RM, Secretary (Space) and Chairman (JIC). Other invitees will be brought in as required. The SPG will provide the inter-ministerial co-ordination and backup for the National Security Council (NSC).

(c) SPG has been duly constituted for meeting as often as required.

(d) The formation of National Security Council and SPG will help meet future threats to India's security encompassing issues related to foreign policy, defence policy and internal security by visualising likely threats and dealing with them successfully in a co-ordinated manner.

Renovation of Amravati Railway Station

2436 SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a plan to renovate the Amravati railway station; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be renovated?

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.

Cases in Labour Courts

2437. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases disposed of through the labour courts and industrial tribunals separately during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to constitute additional labour courts and industrial tribunals for the speedy disposal of pending cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to change the procedure for expeditious disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of cases disposed of by the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts are as under:—

1.1.97 to 31.12.97	977
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1.1.98 to 31.10.98	724
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(b) and (c) There are 12 Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts dealing with Industrial disputes. In addition, two more Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts have been sanctioned.

(d) The Presiding Officers are requested from time to time to dispose of cases quickly.

Cargo Complex at Nedumabassery

2438. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the courts have approved the issue of permission to Air India to operate the Air Traffic at Nedumabassery Airport coming up near Cochin;

(b) if so, whether several airlines have made proposals to operate through this airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Kerala High Court has upheld the decision of Cochin International Airport Ltd. to award the contract for providing Ground Handling Services at Cochin Airport to Air India Ltd.

(b) and (c) Apart from the national carriers, requests have been received from the Government of Saudi Arabia and the Government of Oman for granting Cochin as a point of call to their designated airlines.

Domestic Child Labour

2439. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI MADAN PATIL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the number of domestic child labourers below the age of 14 years in Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai and their working conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the abolition of child labour at domestic level in the Metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 does not prohibit employment of children as domestic servants. The question of Government having conducted a survey of such children does not, therefore, arise. Government, however, is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms.

[Translation]

Modernisation of ITDC Hotels

2440. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise its India Tourism Development Corporation's hotels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the modernisation campaign is proposed to be financed fully with internal resources;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to demolish some of the hotels; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ITDC's Annual Plan 1998-99 includes revised plan provision of Rs. 29 crores for renovation/modernisation of its hotels. Hotel-wise details of the outlay are given in Annexure.

(c) and (d) The renovation schemes as stated in reply to (a) and (b) above are proposed to be financed from internal resources without seeking any budgetary support.

(e) and (f) It is proposed to reconstruct three Delhi based hotels namely Hotel Lodhi, Janpath and Ranjit in phases. In the first phase, it is proposed to demolish the existing Lodhi Hotel and reconstruct a 310 room, 5-Star category hotel. The reconstruction of other two hotels would be undertaken subsequently in the second phase. The reasons for reconstruction of these hotels are:

- * The existing structure is quite old and has started sinking/cracking in some cases.
- * The existing layout is not conducive to modern efficient operation of hotels.
- * It requires heavy expenses on maintenance.
- * It does not offer modern facilities as being provided by newly constructed hotels.
- * Private sector hotels in the vicinity have competitive edge due to new structure and modern facilities.

Statement

India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

Hotel-wise details of Revised Plan Outlay for 1998-99 in Respect of Renovation/Modernisation Scheme

(Rs. in Lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit	Revised Plan Outlay
1	2	3
01.	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi	1800.00
02.	Hotel Samrat, New Delhi	100.00

1	2	3
03.	Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi	50.00
04.	Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi	40.00
05.	Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi	100.00
06.	Hotel Janpath, New Delhi	25.00
07.	Hotel Qutab, New Delhi	100.00
08.	IGI Airport, New Delhi	10.00
09.	Hotel Manali Ashok, Manali	5.00
10.	Bharatpur Forest Lodge	45.00
11.	Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur	20.00
12.	Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur	50.00
13.	Kosi Restaurant, Kosi	5.00
14.	Hotel Agra Ashok, Agra	10.00
15.	Hotel Varanasi Ashok, Varanasi	20.00
16.	Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu	10.00
17.	Hotel Khajuraho Ashok	40.00
18.	Hotel Aurangabad Ashok	10.00
19.	Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar	10.00
20.	Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok, Bodhgaya	10.00

1	2	3
21.	Hotel Patliputra Ashok, Patna	40.00
22.	Hotel Airport Ashok, Calcutta	70.00
23.	Hotel Hassan Ashok, Hassan	20.00
24.	Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore	50.00
25.	Hotel Ashok, Bangalore	50.00
26.	Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort, Mamallapuram	100.00
27.	Hotel Madurai Ashok, Madurai	60.00
28.	Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort, Kovalam	50.00
		2900.00

T.V. Programme Production Centres

2441. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the quality of Doordarshan programmes so as to compete with Star TV and other foreign T.V. networks in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to set-up high-quality T.V. programme production centres like Central Production Centre in other metropolitan cities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that it is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to bring about qualitative improvement in its programmes with a view to sustain the interest of the viewers and to enable its programme to compete successfully with the programmes telecast by other satellite channels.

(b) Prasar Bharati have reported that at present there is no proposal to set up high quality TV Programme Production Centres in other Metropolitan cities exclusively on the lines of Central Production Centre, Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Non-Rotable Spares of Aircraft

2442. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has asked the Airbus and Boeing Industries to buyback surplus non-rotable spares of their aircraft; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the respective industry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has submitted a list of 1145 non-moving items to Airbus Industries, Germany and a list of 1168 non-moving items to Boeing Company, USA for buy-back.

In response to the above, Airbus Industries has offered to buy back 275 items at a price of USD 150,000/ and Boeing Company has offered to buy back 274 items at a total price of USD 180,489.

Scam in Kitchen Unit of Central Railway

2443. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam in the Base Kitchen Unit of Central Railway has been detected recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government 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 (c) No, Sir. Routine checks are conducted to monitor the catering services. Recently a check was conducted at Nagpur by Central Railway Vigilance Department and CBI jointly, wherein minor irregularities were detected for which departmental action would be taken on receipt of final report.

Linking of Rameshwaram with Sri Lanka by Rail

2444. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to link India (Rameshwaram) with Sri Lanka (Main Land) by Rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no demand for such a rail link.

Adjustment of Security Deposited by the Private Airlines

2445. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ: SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD):

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have adjusted the outstanding dues against the security deposited by the private airlines as on February 28, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount that is still due against each of the private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) No. Sir. Security deposit is taken to cover the dues for a period of 15 days operation towards credit period. Adjustment of Security Deposit against outstanding is normally done when outstanding exceed the Security Deposit amount. In some cases although the outstandings

are more than the Security Deposit, adjustment of Security Deposit against outstanding has not been done since in these cases legal action has been initiated for recovery.

(c) A detailed statement of outstanding dues against each Private Airlines as on February 28, 1999 is given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Statement of dues owed by Private Airlines as on 28 February, 1999

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the Airlines	Total Dues	Total Security Deposit
1	2	3
Jet Airways	547.19	674.53
Sahara India Airlines	147.80	146.36
Blue Dart Aviation	14.24	22.11
Necon Airlines	1.45	2.93
India Antl. Airways	0.83	0.86
KCV Airlines	4.40	0.30
UP Airways	11.66	13.80
East West Airlines	1787.03	7.92
Jagson Airlines	43.24	2.00
NEPC/Skyline NEPC Airlines	347.79	96.10
Trans Bharat Aviation	14.09	0.93

1	2	3
Citi Link Airlines	1.48	0.00
Modiluft Airlines	73.88	49.28
Continental Aviation	27.84	0.00
Ariel Services	0.15	0.94
J.K. Corporation	0.18	0.20
Eastern Airways	0.70	2.22
East India Hotels	0.09	0.72
B.S. Magithia	0.53	0.40
Gujarat Airways	7.97	12.70
Bengal Airways	3.65	6.97
United India Airways	1.83	0.00
Raj Aviation	1.26	1.37
Archana Airways	17.71	7.04
VIF Airways	13.22	0.45
Span Aviation	27.66	3.07
Saraya Aviation	0.93	0.97

1	2	3
Megapode Airlines	0.27	0.25
ACE Airways	2.56	0.88
Elbee Airlines	37.80	3.30
MESCO Airlines	1.75	7.35
Total	3141.54	1055.91

*[Translation]***Advertisements to Non-Government Magazines**

2446. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the non-Governmental registered magazines which are being given Government advertisements;

(b) the magazines out of them which are earning money from advertisements but not paying any remunerations to persons whose articles are published by them; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to put a ban on giving Government advertisements to these magazines so as to check exploitation of writers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) As per DAVP list there are 344 magazines which are given Government advertisements.

(b) and (c) With a view to uphold the principle of freedom of the press the Government does not interfere within the internal affairs of newspapers/magazines.

*[English]***Losses by Air India**

2447. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India continued to incur additional losses during the last two months of 1999;

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

(c) the steps being taken to take the airline out of the red?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per the provisional results of December, 1998 to January, 1999, Air India had incurred a loss of Rs. 19.29 crores as against budgeted loss of Rs. 37.46 crores for the period December, 1998 to January, 1999.

The losses are mainly on account of increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition and cost of operations, increase in wage bill and other staff costs and landing, handling and navigational charges and depreciation of rupee value.

Air India Limited has taken the following steps to improve the performance:—

- (i) Marketing efforts have been stepped up to generate additional revenue.
- (ii) Network rationalization and consolidation with emphasis placed on route profitability.
- (iii) Reduction in expenditure on outside repairs of aircraft by undertaking more in-house repairs.
- (iv) Several posts of India based officers abroad have been abolished.

Committees for Promotion of Tourism

2448. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to set up committees headed by Chief Ministers to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the States which have not so far established committees and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any periodic reports are submitted by the State Governments to the Union Government regarding boosting of tourism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, Ministry of Tourism constantly interacts with the State Govts. for development and promotion of tourism.

(c) and (d) Every year the Ministry of Tourism has intensive discussion with State Governments/Union Territories separately to discuss the development and promotion of tourism in their States, and in consultation with them tourism projects are prioritised for the year. The State Govts. are required to submit reports every six months on the centrally assisted projects.

[Translation]

Unloading of Parcel

2449. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the parcel booking by Railways are unloading at stations other than their destinations;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents occurred in each zone during the last three years;

(c) the details of losses caused to the railways and the railway consumers due to it; and

(d) the effective steps taken by the Government to avert such mismanagement?

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 RAMNAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, due to operational contingencies, incidents of over-carriage do occur sometimes for which remedial action is taken.

(b) and (c) This information is not maintained.

(d) Measures have been taken to rationalise and streamline the parcel booking and movement Schemes have also been introduced to lease out brake van space to enhance overall efficiency of transportation and minimise complaints.

[English]

Standing Labour Committee Meeting

2450. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Standing Labour Committee is held to discuss the labour problems every year;

(b) if so, the reasons for deferring the meeting during November, 1998; and

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to bring a legislation with a view to cover the unorganised labours in the Second Labour Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The meeting of the Standing Labour Committee is generally held once in a year. The meeting of the 35th Session of the Standing Labour Committee scheduled to be held on 23rd October, 1998, could be held only on 6.2.99 because of administrative reasons.

(c) One of the terms of reference of the Second National Labour Commission is to suggest an umbrella legislation for workers in the unorganised sector.

Derailement of Thiruvananthapuram-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express

2451. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the five bogies of Delhi bound Thiruvananthapuram Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express derailed near Udupi in coastal Karnataka on February 11, 1999;

(b) if so, the number of passengers killed/injured and value of Government property damaged thereby;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to the victims;

(d) whether any inquiry has been made in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken 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 RAMNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No passenger was killed or injured and value of Government property damaged in this accident is Rs. 4 lakhs.

(c) Since there is no casualty/injury in this accident, the question of payment of compensation does not arise.

(d) and (e) This accident has been inquired into by a Committee of officers which concluded that it occurred due to track and wheel defects. Action under Discipline and Appeal Rules has been initiated against the defaulting staff.

[*Translation*]

Employment to widows of Defence Personnel

2452. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed to provide employment to the widows of defence personnel; and

(b) the details of the job provided to them during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) and (b) The Department of Personnel and Training have issued instructions for providing compassionate appointments to the dependents of the Government servants dying in harness. Such appointments can be made up to 5% of vacancies falling under direct requirement quota in any Group 'C' and 'D' posts. Under the same provision widows/dependents of Defence service personnel dying in harness are also considered for appointment on compassionate grounds against vacancies in civilian Group 'C' and 'D' posts of Service Headquarters.

2. The information regarding employment provided to widows State-wise is not centrally monitored.

Discussion on World Trade Organization on Labour

2453. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ever held any discussion in the World Trade Organisation to relax the restrictions on the mobility of labourers at the international level;

(b) if so, dates on which such discussions were held;

(c) whether the restrictions on the movement of labourers at the international level has been relaxed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India made statement on this issue during the Second Ministerial Conference held on 18th and 20th May, 1998 at Geneva. Further, India has repeatedly raised this issue in the Special Meeting of General Council to finalise Work Programme of 3rd Ministerial Conference. The Meeting of General Council wherein India raised this issue were held on 23rd November, and 16th December, 1998 and on 2nd February, in 1999.

(c) and (d) The next round of negotiations on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) will

commence from 1.1.2000 as mandated under Article XIX of the GATS. India will be actively participating in these negotiations in order to ensure that restriction on the movement of natural persons at the international level are relaxed.

[English]

Construction of Railway Stations

2454. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to expand the railway stations in the suburbs of the twin cities on the railway lines leading to Mahbubnagar, Wadi, Kazipet and Manmad for reducing traffic congestion;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken by the Railways in this regard; and

(c) if so, the number of railway stations in the State being considered for expansion?

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) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in his letter to Minister for Railways has urged the Railways to take up surveys for constructing big Railway stations outside Hyderabad Municipal limits from where buses can ply to various parts of the city.

(b) Railways have already communicated their willingness to cooperate with the State Government to develop transport services within the present infrastructure to the extent possible and also to conduct feasibility study for the purpose at State Government's cost. Railways have requested the State Government to make payment for the feasibility study.

(c) Works for the expansion of facilities are going on at the following stations in Andhra Pradesh:

- (i) Secunderabad
- (ii) Vijayawada

(iii) Guntur Jn.

(iv) Hussain Sagar Jn.

(v) Cheruvun Adhavaram

(vi) Pandillapalle

(vii) Mallemadugu

(viii) Vishakhapatnam

(ix) Hyderabad

(x) Vizianagram.

Grounding of Foreign Pilots

2455 DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DGCA grounds foreign pilots" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated November 12, 1998;

(b) if so, the number of foreign pilots operating with private airlines are likely to lose their jobs;

(c) whether the Government propose to take a policy decision on the requirement of foreign pilots; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) At present no foreign pilot is operating flights of any scheduled private domestic airline. However, foreign pilots have been permitted to operate international cargo flights and helicopters within the country, for limited period till sufficient number of Indian pilots are trained by the operators and acquire appropriate licence and adequate experience to replace the foreign pilots.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the existing policy a domestic air transport sector operator is permitted to employ foreign pilots/engineers till he is able to train his own manpower. However, it is permitted only with the express approval of the competent authority and for such

period and terms as may be prescribed by the said authority.

[*Translation*]

**Violation of Safety Norms
by Construction Companies**

2456. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the survey conducted by International Labour Organisation, most of the Indian Construction Companies are violating the Minimum Wages Act and prescribed safety norms in regard to their labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ticket Booking at New Delhi Railway Station

2457. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that by allowing Ticket Booking for anywhere from any counter at all time there is a lot of rush on the New Delhi Railway Station during evening and passengers have to wait for long to buy tickets;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any policy to reduce this rush on ticket counters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; 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 AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) During the peak seasons such as Summer rush, Pooja rush and Christmas vacations waiting time at all reservation offices including in Delhi are for purchasing the tickets is relatively more as compared to other periods of the year.

Various steps taken and proposed to be taken by the railway for reducing the waiting time for purchasing tickets *inter-alia* include commissioning of additional computerised locations, provision of additional reservation/booking counters at the existing locations and commissioning of Self Printing Ticket machines etc.

[*English*]

Tourist Circuits in Gujarat

2458. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tourist circuits set up in the Gujarat particularly in coastal areas so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to assist the State Government to develop and modernise the above circuits; and

(c) if so, the tourist circuits identified for modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has identified Dwarka, Palitana, Somnath and Udwada as pilgrim centres under the Integrated Development of Pilgrim Centres Scheme, wherein the Government of India provides Central Financial Assistance on the basis of projects proposals received as per the guidelines.

In 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Ministry for Construction of Portable Dwelling Units at Kutch (Mandvi).

Transmission system

2459. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure followed to streamline the existing transmission system in the country;

(b) whether the Doordarshan propose to introduce digital transmission; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) The transmission system is working well, however, regular monitoring and supervision are done at various levels and all out efforts are made by Doordarshan to maintain regular services.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The scheme is under formulation. No time-frame can be indicated at present.

ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries

2460. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers getting benefit under ESI Hospitals and dispensaries at present, State-wise;

(b) whether these dispensaries/hospitals are not able to meet the medical requirement of industrial workers;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to open more ESI dispensaries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) A Statement showing number of beneficiaries of ESI medical care is enclosed.

(b) Under the ESI Scheme there are 129 ESI hospitals, 1450 ESI dispensaries, 43 annexes and 2885 IMP Clinics established for providing reasonable medical care and treatment to the insured persons. Necessary tie-up arrangement has also been made with reputed hospitals of the country so as to provide super speciality treatment to the beneficiaries.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. New dispensaries under the ESI Scheme are opened according to the norm prescribed by the ESI Corporation and on the basis of recommendations of the State Government.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of beneficiaries for Medical Care as on 31.3.98
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5,03,500
2.	Assam & Meghalaya	43,850
3.	Bihar	1,84,050
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	30,900
5.	Delhi	5,88,500
6.	Goa	70,800
7.	Gujarat	7,03,050
8.	Haryana	4,04,800
9.	Himachal Pradesh	35,900
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	16,400
11.	Karnataka	7,24,700
12.	Kerala & Mahe	4,61,950
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2,56,600
14.	Maharashtra	
(i)	Mumbai Area	11,11,250
(ii)	Nagpur Area	1,25,100

1	2	3
(iii)	Pune Area	4,16,900
15.	Orissa	1,54,700
16.	Pondicherry	35,950
17.	Punjab	4,35,750
18.	Rajasthan	3,11,650
19.	Tamil Nadu	11,07,750
20.	Uttar Pradesh	4,84,300
21.	West Bengal	8,87,600

More Flights to Gulf Countries

2461. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request from Government of Kerala to start more flights from Kerala to Gulf countries during holidays; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

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

(b) Apart from scheduled flights, extra section flights are operated by Air India, India Airlines and the Gulf carriers to meet the seasonal requirements.

Modernisation of R.P.F.

2462. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise Railway Protection Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) After due deliberations on the requirements of the Railway Protection Force keeping in view the nature of their job, the Modernisation plan has been taken up in the following spheres:

(i) Modernisation of Road Transportation.

(ii) Modernisation of Communication.

(iii) Introduction of Computers.

(iv) Equipping the Force with modern security gadgets.

(v) Modernisation of Training Facilities.

(vi) Upgradation of Weaponry.

(c) Does not arise.

Legislation for Marble Quarries Workers

2463. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a legislation for improving the condition of labourers working in the marble quarries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the action taken so far in this regard; and

(c) the estimated number of labourers working at present in marble quarries in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Connecting of Bilaspur with Channel 5 and 9

2464. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Kendra at Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh is to be connected with channel 5 and 9;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be connected with the above channels; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no approved scheme to install channel 5 and 9 transmitters at Bilaspur.

AIR Stations in M.P.

2465. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise number of completed/pending projects pertaining to setting up of All India Radio Stations in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon so far;

(c) the details of the Doordarshan/Akashvani projects to be commenced during the current Plan period; and

(d) the number of these projects to be taken up in various tribal areas, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) At present, 19 Radio Stations located at Ambikapur, Bhopal, Chattarpur, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Jagdalpur, Raipur, Rewa, Khandwa, Betul, Bilaspur, Shivpuri, Chhindwara, Raigarh, Shahdol, Balaghat, Guna and Sagar are functioning in Madhya Pradesh.

The details of Radio Stations under implementation and the expenditure incurred thereon are given in Statement.

(c) and (d) 4 Radio Stations, 5 upgradation/replacement Radio projects, 3 TV Studios, 7 High Power TV Transmitters (HPTs), 12 Low Power TV Transmitters (LPTs) and 1 Very Low Power Transmitter (VLPT), are presently in different stages of implementation/proposed to be taken up during the 9th plan period. Out of these, 3 Radio Stations, 1 TV Studio, 3 HPTs, 10 LPTs and 1 VLPT are located in Tribal sub-plan districts of M.P.

Statement

S.No.	Scheme with Location	Target Date of Completion	Expenditure Till 31.3.98 (Rs. in lakhs)	Targetted Exp. Till 31.3.99
1.	Local Radio Station, Saraipalli	1999-2000	13.89	17.25
2.	Local Radio Station, Mandla	1999-2000	20.20	57.25
3.	Local Radio Station, Rajgarh	1998-99	49.67	127.00
4.	Local Radio Station, Bailadila	2001-2002	—	—

*[English]***Hotel Corporation of India**

2466. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large scale corruption and malpractices are going on in the management of Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) particularly in its Delhi unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps that are being taken/proposed to be taken to streamline the organisation and bring to book the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) It is not true that there is large scale corruption and malpractices going on in the management of Hotel Corporation of India particularly in its Delhi Unit.

Meantime, the Disinvestment Commission which has considered the case of Hotel Corporation of India has recommended sale/transfer of properties belonging to Hotel Corporation of India through a transparent and competitive bidding process after undertaking a proper evaluation through a Financial Advisor.

Construction of ROB in Orissa

2467. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of road over bridges under construction in Orissa and progress made so far;

(b) whether the road over bridges at Jaipur-Keonjhar railway line have been constructed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the construction of second bridge on Mahanadi, Birupa and Kathjuri rivers are 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) At present following Road Over bridges (ROBs) are under construction/in progress in Orissa.

(i) Road Over Bridge near Jaipur-Keonjhar Road Railway Station. The work has been completed and over bridge will be commissioned as soon as State Govt. arranges for closure of level crossing.

(ii) ROB at Rasulgarh in Bhubaneswar : 78% work completed.

(iii) ROB at Bargarh Road: 30% work completed.

(iv) ROB at Bondia: 20% work has been completed.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Second bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa rivers are likely to be completed during next 5 years. At present there is no proposal for construction of second bridge on river Kathjuri.

Corruption in Railway Electrification Organisation

2468. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the rampant corruption prevailing in the Railway Electrification Organisation, Allahabad;

(b) whether the number of complaints have also been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any enquiry has been made by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the finding thereof; and

(f) the action 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) No, Sir.

(b) Some complaints about irregularities have been received by the Government.

(c) to (f) In the last 3 years i.e. during 1996, 1997 and 1998, Railway Vigilance Department has received 52

complaints out of which 40 have been investigated, 6 complaints had no vigilance angle and were sent to concerned department for administrative action or were filed without any action and 6 complaints are under investigation. As a result of these investigations, 44 number of railway officials have been held responsible.

Modernisation of Ordnance Factories

2469. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the technologies available in the ordnance factories are old and obsolete consequent to which the equipment coming out of those factories are not comparable with the equipments of many other countries and the production is also low; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to modernise these ordnance factories to improve their technologies and to make them self-reliant in defence equipments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Upgradation of technology and modernisation of Ordnance Factories is an ongoing process involving replacement of old plant and machinery which have out-lived its life as well as installation of new plant and machinery depending upon the need for induction of new systems/products.

An investment of Rs. 1241 crores is contemplated during 9th Plan period towards modernisation of Ordnance Factories against renewal and replacements as well as new inductions.

Quality of equipment from Ordnance Factories conforms to laid down specifications by the user and are issued to Armed Forces only after acceptance by Defence Quality Assurance Organisation.

Production in Ordnance Factories has been increasing from year to year as can be seen from the total value of issues made in the last 4 years given below:—

Year	Total value of issues (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	2307.66
1996-97	2596.77
1997-98	3070.68
1998-99 (planned)	3938.51

Construction of Hotels in North Eastern States

2470. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct guest houses and ordinary hotels for middle income Tourists at the important tourist centres in North-Eastern States and Sikkim; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism extends Central financial assistance to State Govts. for the Construction of Tourist Complexes, Tourist Bungalows, Yatri Niwases, yatrika etc. The assistance is provided for the projects which are prioritised in consultation with the State Governments. The accommodation projects identified for Central financial assistance during 1998-99 in North Eastern States and Sikkim are:

ASSAM

1. Yatri Niwas at Kako Pathar
2. Yatri Niwas at Khaspur
3. Tourist Complex at Kaziranga
4. Tourist Complex at Rajiv Gandhi Wild Life Park

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

1. Tourist Huts at Menchuka
2. Yatri Niwas at Bomdila

MANIPUR

1. Tourist Complex at Langol
2. Tourist Complex at Dolaithabi Dam
3. Tourist Complex at Khuga Dam
4. Tourist Home at Chakachai
5. Tourist Home at Behiang
6. Tourist Home at Thoubal Dam

MIZORAM

1. Tourist Home at Berawtlang
2. Tourist Cottages at Champhai
3. Tourist Center at Pinar
4. Tourist Cottages at Pherzawn

TRIPURA

1. Yatrika at 14 Goddess Temple complex
2. Tourist Lodge at Sabroom

SIKKIM

1. Yatri Niwas at Tashiding
2. Tourist Cottages at Namchi

MEGHALAYA

1. Tourist Bungalow at Nompoh
2. Tourist lodge at Lyndai Mahesh Khola

NAGALAND

1. Tourist Bungalow at Chumukedima
2. Tourist Huts at Ungma

The funds are sanctioned on receipt of detailed project proposals from the State Governments as per the guidelines.

Development of B.R. Hills in Karnataka

2471. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have released any amount for the development of B.R. Hills in Chamaraanagar district in Karnataka as a tourist place; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Development of tourist infrastructure is primarily the activity

of the State Government. However, Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the State Government, on the basis of specific proposals, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. The Ministry has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 16.65 lakhs for tourist facilities at K. Gudi.

Strike threat by ATC Staff

2472. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Traffic Control staff has again threatened to go on strike to press their demands for further hikes in their wages;

(b) if so, their precise demands and the Government's reaction thereon;

(c) whether their main demand has been implemented; and

(d) if so, the extent to which Jhulka Committee recommendations has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Air Traffic Controllers Guild (ATCG) had sent a notice to Airports Authority of India (AAI) on January 27, 1999 and resorted to "go slow" from February 1, 1999.

(b) The demands of ATCG are 1. Pay parity with the Pilots 2. Duty hours to be reduced from 42 hours a week to 36 hours a week 3. Payment of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) duty Allowance 4. Creation of more posts 5. Increased Human Resource Development allowance 6. Training in neighbouring countries once in two years and in a western country once in a period of 4 years 7. Payment of higher Conveyance allowance to ATC 8. Payment of higher Children Education Allowance 9. Free Air passage to ATCs on domestic sectors.

The officials of the AAI and the representatives of the ATCG have been meeting from time to time to amicably resolve these issues.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Jhulka Committee relating to Rating Allowance, Flight Data Processing Allowance, On the Job Training allowance, Civil Aviation Training Centre Allowance have been accepted and implemented by AAI from November, 1997. The remaining recommendations of Jhulka Committee have not been accepted by AAI.

Construction of ROB/RUBs in Assam

2473. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway crossings in Assam on National Highways;

(b) the number of such railway crossings have road over bridges/road under bridges on these Highways;

(c) whether the Government have taken any measures to build road over bridges/road under bridges on the remaining railway crossings; 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) 38 Nos.

(b) 8 Nos.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Two Road over bridges have already been sanctioned on cost sharing basis in lieu of following level crossings falling on National Highway.

(i) Level crossing No. SK/13 at km. 35/3-4 at Rangiya.

(ii) Level crossing No. SK/2 at Km. 9/3-4 at Changsari. Planning and execution for above works is in progress.

Proposals for 5 Nos. of Road over bridges in replacement of the following existing level crossings falling on National Highway are also under scrutiny.

(i) Level Crossing No. ST/31 at Thekeraguri at km. 94/9-10.

(ii) Level Crossing No. SK/31 Pathsala at km. 84/4-5.

(iii) Level Crossing No. SK/48 at Chaprakata at km. 139/5-6.

(iv) Level Crossing No. NN/152 at Jogighopa at km. 256/14-15 between New Bongaigaon & Jogighopa Railway Stations.

(v) Level Crossing No. NN/170 at km. 284/2-3 on National Highway - 31/B at Jogighopa.

Helicopters

2474. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued directions to private commercial helicopter operators making it mandatory for them to use category of helicopters for V.I.P. movements within the country;

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

(c) the norms adopted for the categorisation of Helicopters?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the safety standard required for such operations, it has been decided that all future imports of helicopters meant for VIP operations should be Category-A/Performance Class-I standards.

For categorisation of helicopters the norms have been laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), USA and Joint Aviation Authority (JAA). These standards ensure that the helicopters can continue with the flights even in the case of failure of one engine.

Pension Scheme

2475. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers of Indian Oil Corporation have requested for the implementation of Pension Scheme and Payment of pension to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The EPF Authorities had taken necessary action for implementation of the Employees' Pension Scheme in the Indian Oil Corporation. However in the meantime a petition was filed in the Supreme Court against the provisions of the Employees' Pension Scheme. The Supreme Court has since ordered for maintaining status quo in respect of the IOC. As such, further action to enforce the Pension Scheme in the IOC is possible after the case is finally decided by the Supreme Court.

Broadcast Centre at Amravati in Maharashtra

2476. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up a Broadcast Centre at Amravati in Maharashtra;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Scheme for setting up AIR Station at Amravati is targetted for completion by 2001-2002 subject to availability of infrastructural facilities and adequate resources.

Privatisation of Doordarshan Channel

2477. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI MADAN PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise/ commercialise any channels of Doordarshan;

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

(c) whether any code of conduct has been formulated in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the impact on other channels of Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of High, Low and Very Low Power Transmitters

2478. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of high power, low power and very low power transmitters and the transponders proposed to be set up in the country during the Ninth Plan Period, State-wise; and

(b) the allocation made by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) A statement showing high power, low power and very low power transmitters and transposers presently under implementation and commissioned during the Ninth Plan, State-wise is enclosed. The projects under implementation are scheduled to be completed during the 9th plan in phases subject to availability of funds and infrastructural facilities.

(b) The IX Plan outlay for Doordarshan is Rs. 1836 crores including Rs. 850.14 crores (Capital Rs. 807.8 crores and Revenue Rs. 42.34 crores) for transmission facilities.

Statement*State-wise No. of Transmitters under Implementation and Commissioned during 9th Plan*

S.No.	State/UTs	Under Implementation 1997-98					Commissioned During 1998-99				
		HPTs		LPTs	VLPTs	TRANS	Total TRs	BPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Total TRs
		DDI	DD II								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
01.	Assam	0+2	1	0	1	4	0	3	0	3	
02.	Andhra Pradesh	1+1	16	3	0	22	1	0	1	10	
03.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	6	1	7	0	1	10	20	
04.	Bihar	1+3	4	1	0	9	0	4	0	4	
05.	Goa	0+1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
06.	Gujarat	3	8	0	0	11	0	9	1	19	
07.	Haryana	0	5	0	0	5	0	1	0	1	
08.	Himachal Pradesh	0+1	0+1	9	0	11	0	2	9	10	
09.	Jammu & Kashmir	1+2	2	8	0	11	0	3	5	8	
10.	Kerala	2+2	3	2	0	9	0	1	9	1	
11.	Karnataka	4	11	3	0	18	2	3	1	6	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3+4	12	1	0	20	0	5	4	9	
13.	Meghalaya	0+1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
29.	Pondicherry	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
30.	Lakshadweep Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		34+30	131+2	71	7+1	276	5	67	61	133

Legend — HPT - High Power Transmitter
 LPT - Low Power Transmitter
 VLPT - Very Low Power Transmitter
 Trans - Transposer
 Trs. - Transmitter.

[Translation]

**Golden Jubilee Celebration of
 Official Language**

2479. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated and implemented any scheme to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Official Language as a memorable event; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government have not yet decided on a scheme to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Official Language.

[English]

Automatic Ticket Machine

2480. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to install automatic coin operated Self

Printing Platform Ticket Machines at all Railway Stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of stations where such machines have been installed or likely to be installed; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on installation of each machine?

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) Instructions have been issued to zonal railways to examine the feasibility of installing Automatic Coin Operated Self Printing Ticket Machines for issue of platform tickets at major stations. These machines have not been installed so far at any station. Central Railway has, however, tentatively selected Mumbai CST, Dadar, Kurla (T), Thane and Kalyan stations for installation of these machines. Since the machines to be installed have not been finalised as yet, it is not feasible to indicate the expenditure likely to be incurred on installation of each machine.

Land for Air Command at Ahmedabad

2481. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ambitious plan to set up a formidable air command at Ahmedabad has run into rough weather as Indian Air Force and Army are squabbling over land allotment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete measures for settlement in this regard have since been taken; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Plans to set up Air Command HQ at Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar is progressing as per schedule. There is no squabble between Army and Air Force over allotment of land at Ahmedabad. However, a proposal for transfer of 107.40 acres of land at Ahmedabad Cantonment for housing this Command on permanent basis is under consideration in the Ministry.

Provision of Services in Trains

2482. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licenced persons who provides important services to the passengers while travelling in trains;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide some facilities to the welfare of such persons and their families; 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) to (c) Licencees are managing catering/vending services on a number of Mail/Express trains on Indian Railways. The licencees are free to engage their staff for managing the services and they do not come under the direct control of Railways. Their welfare measures are therefore, taken care of by the licencees themselves.

Advertisements to Unestablished Publications

2483. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the several publications not registered with DAVP are also getting advertisement support from various State Governments, particularly in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to stop releasing advertisements to unregistered publications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Government advertisements through DAVP are issued only to newspapers/periodicals empanelled with DAVP. State Governments are free to frame and implement their own advertisement policies, which do not fall within the purview of the Central Government.

Affordable Tourism to Domestic Tourists

2484. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to make tourism and pilgrimage more affordable to the domestic tourists especially during the "Visit India Year"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): Government has decided to observe the Explore India Millennium Year commencing from 1.4.1999 and culminating on 31.3.2000.

Ministry of Tourism has drawn up a scheme for the integrated development of identified tourist/pilgrim centres. Two centres in each State have been identified for integrated development during the current year. For the improvement of infrastructural facilities and services, Central financial assistance is provided for the development to tourist complexes; wayside amenities; cafeteria and low priced accommodation units like yatri niwasas and yatrikas. These facilities are available at affordable prices to the domestic tourists and pilgrims.

The Central Ministries like Civil Aviation, Home Affairs, Railways and Archaeological Survey of India are being persuaded to improve the services and facilities at airports, railway stations, monuments, etc. The private sector is also offering special packages, discounted tariffs during Explore India Millennium Year.

Films in Regional Languages

2485. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the role of NFDC in making and helping the films in regional languages; and

(b) the details of Regional films produced with financial help from NFDC, language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) The NFDC is the central agency in India promoting quality cinema in the regional languages of the country. Over the years, NFDC has produced, co-produced and financed a number of feature films, short films and documentaries. The details of the regional films produced with financial assistance from NFDC are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

*National Film Development Corporation Ltd.
Language-wise Break-Up of Films
from 1980-81 to 1998-99*

Hindi	—	84
English	—	11
Malayalam	—	16
Telugu	—	4
Manipuri	—	1
Oriya	—	9
Sanskrit	—	2
Gujarati	—	3
Assamese	—	3
Punjabi	—	3
Tamil	—	2
Kannada	—	10
Bengali	—	23
Marathi	—	9

Houses for Beedi Workers

2486. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated funds to Uttar Pradesh for construction of houses for beedi workers during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has constructed houses as per the targets fixed in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of houses constructed during the above period; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to construct the houses for Beedi Workers as per target fixed?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Union Government in the Ministry of Labour has allocated an amount of Rs. 9 lakhs for Uttar Pradesh for construction of 100 houses for economically weaker sections of workers engaged in Beedi Industry during the last three years. The State Government has selected a plot of land measuring 1.9 acres in Farrukhabad district for this purpose. They have been advised to select the nodal agency for construction of houses and start work on the project as per the scheme.

Government Advertisements to Newspapers

2487. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Council of India has asked the Government to evolve a policy regarding release of Government advertisements to newspapers including those of State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER

OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Following features of the Advertisement Policy, recommended by the PCI, *mutatis mutandis*, are already incorporated in the Advertising Policy and empanelment guidelines of DAVP (i) Newspapers registered with the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India shall be eligible for inclusion in the approved list for release of advertisements. (ii) Newspapers will be considered as being eligible for advertisement if it has had regular and uninterrupted publication for four months. (iii) A newspaper seeking advertisement should fulfil the requisite qualification already prescribed by State and Central Government in regard to periodicity and regularity of publication, size of publication, printing arrangements, editorial and managerial set-up. (iv) The circulation of a newspaper has a bearing on the extent of advertisement released. The sources from which authenticated circulation figures could be obtained are: (a) The Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI); (b) Audit Bureau of Circulation; and (c) Chartered Accountant (CA). (v) It will be desirable that small newspapers having regional content are given some weightage. (vi) Suitable weightage may also be given to language newspapers/periodicals published from remote areas, such as North-East, tribal belts and hilly region and small paper run by linguistic group. (vii) As far as possible, organs of political parties should not be unduly patronised by the Governmental authorities.

Free Ration to Armed Forces

2488. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the benefit of free ration is given only to officers category of defence forces;

(b) if so whether all the service personnel, including non-commissioned officers are also to be given this facility in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Free ration is authorised to all ranks in the Armed Forces.

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

Welfare Measure to Labourers

2485. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of labourers working in organised sector in various States particularly in Kerala as on date; and

(b) the various amenities/facilities being given/proposed to be given by the Union Government for the betterment of the above mentioned labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) A statement giving the employment in the organised sector in various States including Kerala, as on 31.3.1997 is enclosed.

(b) In order to provide social securities, (e.g. Provident Fund, Minimum Wages, Employees State Insurance, Working Hours, etc.) various labour laws are in force.

Statement

Employment in organised sector as on 31.3.1997

(In thousands)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	North Zone	3179.4	1055.8	4235.2
1.	Haryana	428.7	240.7	669.4
2.	Punjab	592.6	253.4	846.0

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Himachal Pradesh	245.9	41.8	287.6
4.	Chandigarh	62.8	17.8	80.6
5.	Delhi	626.1	221.8	847.9
6.	Rajasthan	1023.9	269.7	1293.6
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	199.6	10.5	210.1
II.	Central Zone	3531.5	802.0	4333.5
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1419.2	259.8	1679.0
9.	Uttar Pradesh	2112.3	542.2	2654.5
III.	North Eastern Zone	893.8	590.9	1484.7
10.	Assam	538.9	566.8	1105.8
11.	Meghalaya	69.1	7.7	76.8
12.	Manipur	77.6	1.8	79.4
13.	Mizoram	39.6	1.4	41.0
14.	Nagaland	69.0	2.7	71.6
15.	Tripura	99.6	10.5	110.1

1	2	3	4	5
IV.	Eastern Zone	3644.0	1151.1	4795.1
16.	Bihar	1441.9	259.2	1701.1
17.	Orissa	709.3	92.8	802.1
18.	West Bengal	1492.8	799.2	2292.0
V.	Western Zone	3372.7	2403.3	5776.0
19.	Gujarat	954.6	816.8	1771.3
20.	Maharashtra	2346.3	1535.8	3882.1
21.	Goa	69.8	38.6	108.4
22.	Daman & Diu	2.1	12.1	14.1
VI.	Southern Zone	4905.2	2678.1	7583.3
23.	Andhra Pradesh	1510.8	472.1	1982.8
24.	Karnataka	1083.7	731.9	1815.6
25.	Kerala	625.0	552.4	1177.4
26.	Pondicherry	40.4	11.9	52.4
27.	Tamil Nadu	1645.3	909.8	2555.1
28.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	32.4	4.3	36.7
Total		19559.1	6685.5	28244.5

**Performance of Saintala Defence
Production Unit, Orissa**

2490. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Saintala Defence Production Unit, Orissa, during each of the last three years in financial and physical terms;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the unit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The production plants and machineries were under various stages of erection and commissioning during 1996-97 and hence no production could commence. Trickle production of ammunition commenced in the year 1997-98 and the value of production during that year was Rs. 2.20 crores. The production target of Rs. 93.93 crores (approx.) fixed in respect of different types of ammunition during the financial year 1998-99 is expected to be achieved.

(b) No, Sir.

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

**Air Flights from Nagpur to
Bangalore, Chennai, etc.**

2491. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nagpur City is not linked with air services to Bangalore, Chennai and Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to get Nagpur City connected to all the State Capitals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Presently Indian Airlines/Alliance Air connect Nagpur to Calcutta, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai by regular services.

Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport

services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is for the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Airports without Night Landing Facility

2492. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) airports in the country which are not having night landing facility; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to create night landing facility on all these airports in order to improve air services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The airports at Bombay (Juhu), Delhi (Safdarjung), Kandla, Keshod, Kulu (Bhuntur), Pant Nagar, Salem, Shimla, Vijayawada, Kota, Agatti, Behala, Dehradun, Kanpur (Civil), Lilabari (North Lakhimpur), Porbander, Shillong (Barapani), Tirupati, Tuticorin, Ludhiana, Jabalpur, Pondicherry, Lengpui, Cooch Behar, Gaggal and Rajmundry do not have night landing facilities. Of these, twenty six airports, eighteen do not have any scheduled operations. Four airports at Kandla, Porbandar, Keshod and Agatti have very limited flight operations and no night operations are undertaken. Terrain conditions do not permit Night Landing Facilities at Kullu, Shimla, Lengpui and Tirupati Airports.

Income and Expenditure of Indian Airlines

2493. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 8.4 million passengers have travelled through the Indian Airlines in 1998;

(b) if so, the earning of the Indian Airlines from passenger fares during 1998; and

(c) the expenditure on account of salaries/wages, maintenance, fuel etc., separately during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines earned revenue of Rs. 2522.55 crores by carrying 6.36 million passengers during the financial year 1997-98.

(c) The expenditure incurred under major heads for the financial year 1997-98 is as below:

Particulars	(Rs. crores)
Pay & Allowances including PF & Gratuity	694.19
Aircraft Fuel	648.40
Aircraft Maintenance being material consumed and outside repairs	517.41
Landing and Navigational Charges	164.27
Insurance	56.23
Food Services and other passenger amenities	88.76
Booking Agency Commission	202.89
Depreciation & Obsolescence	299.54

ESI Facilities to Industrial Workers

2494. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial workers getting E.S.I. facilities;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the coverage of ES.I. scheme to provide such facility to more workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of E.S.I. hospitals/dispensaries opened/expanded during the Eighth Five Year Plan and proposed to be opened and expanded during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) 83.62 lakh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The ESI Scheme is being gradually extended area-wise in a phased manner. As per the phased programme for 1999-2000, the corporation has planned to cover 1.33 lakh additional employees under the ESI Scheme.

(d) The ESI hospitals are generally constructed according to norm of 4 beds per thousand insured persons covered under the ESI Scheme. As such construction of new ESI hospitals/dispensaries is not linked to Five Year Plan. Accordingly new ESI hospitals/dispensaries are opened on the basis of need keeping in view the recommendation of the concerned State Government in this regard. A statement showing the present number of ESI hospitals and dispensaries, State-wise is enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Dispensaries	No. of Hospitals
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	135	9
2.	Assam	26	1
3.	Bihar	56	6
4.	Chandigarh	2	—
5.	Delhi	48	3
6.	Goa	8	1
7.	Gujarat	123	18
8.	Haryana	89	8
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7	1
10.	Karnataka	149	7
11.	Kerala	136	13
12.	Madhya Pradesh	64	6

1	2	3	4
13.	Maharashtra	78	13
14.	Meghalaya	01	—
15.	Orissa	52	5
16.	Pondicherry	13	1
17.	Punjab	70	7
18.	Rajasthan	65	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	160	8
20.	Uttar Pradesh	145	16
21.	West Bengal	37	13
22.	J & K	08	—

**Deaths due to unexploded shells
in Army Firing Range**

2495. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Unexploded shells maiming many at Army firing range" appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 18, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the case reported therein and the number of such deaths recorded during 1997 and 1998;

(c) whether there is any proposal to employ the retired Ammunition Technician as a special force to look after the Army Firing Range in order to avert such innocent deaths; and

(d) if not, the other remedial steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

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

(b) No case of death/injury to civilians at the Asan Field Firing Range has been reported to the Army.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Range standing Orders stipulate the safety precautions to be taken before carrying out firing practice. These *inter-alia* include posting of sentries at the entry and exit points to the range, demarcating the range boundary by flags and informing the villagers about the firing practice and advance through the local, civil and police authorities.

**Roll-On and Roll-Off Service
by Konkan Railways**

2496. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR HEGDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konkan Railway is going to start roll-on and roll-off Service between Mumbai and Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the revenue proposed to be earned by this service; and

(d) the other measures adopted by the Konkan Railway to increase its earnings?

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. In Fact, the service has already been started on trial basis between Kolad and Surathkal.

(b) The salient features of the service are - Loaded trucks will Roll on to Railway flats at Kolad station of Konkan Railway (about 145 kms. from Mumbai) carried by rail to Surathkal (20 kms. short of Mangalore) where they would "Roll Off" the Railway flats (wagons) and continue their further journey by road. Likewise, they would "Roll On" at Surathkal and "Roll Off" at Kolad in reverse direction. The trucks are charged a flat fee per trip. Recently a similar service has been started in a limited

way between Kolad and Madgaon (Goa). The principal advantages to the Road transporters are - reduction in travel time resulting in improved turn round of their assets; reduced cost of fuel; reduction in wear and tear and maintenance of vehicles. Other benefits would be decongestion of highways and overall fuel savings to the economy. The system is also eco-friendly.

(c) Konkan Railway is hopeful of generating a revenue of Rs. 20 crores through Roli on the Roll off service in 1999-2000 subject to the service becoming popular and rolling stock being available.

(d) Konkan Railway is also trying to attract other freight traffic from its natural catchment areas, like Gujarat, Mumbai and coastal Karnataka and coastal Kerala. However, the result achieved so far are not adequate.

Reservation Centres

2497. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up Railway Reservation Centre having quota for berths and seats at Achalpur in district Amravati, Maharashtra for all the trains having stoppage at Badnera Railway Station;

(b) if so, when it will be worked out; 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) to (c) Achalpur station is a narrow gauge station on Murtajapur-Achalpur section and only one pair of trains serves this section. The sale of tickets for long distance at Achalpur has revealed that the same is too meager to justify allotment of separate reservation quota at this station trains from Badnera and Murtajapur.

Metropolitan Transport Projects

2498. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of metropolitan transport projects under construction by the railways;

(b) the details of projects which are proposed to be started;

(c) the estimated cost of ongoing projects and proposed projects, separately; and

(d) the time by which the above projects are 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) to (c) Following are the details of projects which are either under construction or proposed to be started.

S.No.	Name of Project	Total Cost (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3

(i) Projects under construction:

1.	Thane Turbhe Nerul/Vashi part of corridor No. 2 in New Mumbai	Rly	131.47
		CIDCO*	271.92
		Total	403.39
2.	Belapur-Panvel double line Including material modification	Rly.	92.50
		CIDCO*	187.81
		Total	280.31

1	2	.	3
3.	Seawood Uran electrified line	Rly	163.49
		CIDCO*	331.95
		Total	495.44
4.	Kurla-Thane 5th & 6th line phase I up to Bhandup		49.84
5.	5th line between Santacruz- Borivali		64.17*
6.	Quadrupling of Borivali-Virar		401.66
7.	Automatic Block signalling between Virar and Dahanu Road		27.19
8.	Beach to Luz now Tirumalai MRTS phase-I		259.89
9.	MRTS phase-II from Tirumalai to Velacheri	Rly	141.96
		GTN@	288.25
		Total	430.21
10.	Electrification of Ranaghat-Gede		30.66
11.	Electrification of Ranaghat-Bongaon		18.33
12.	Calcutta Metro Railway-Dum Dum to Garia (\$1)	Rly	2169.79
		GWB#	231.90
		Total	2401.69
13.	Calcutta—Circular Railway (\$2)		121.40

1	2	3
(ii)	Projects to be started	
14.	Kurla-Thane 5th & 6th line phase-II from Bhandup to Thane	58.30
15	Electrification of Barashat-Hasnabad	39.19
16.	Gauge conversion from Chennai Beach-Tambram-Chengalpattu	135.92
		135.62
		Total 271.24

(\$1) The cost indicated includes extension of metro Railway from Tolleygaunge to Garia. This work has been sanctioned as Material Modification to the ongoing Metro Project and work will start on this portion.

(\$2) The cost indicated includes extension of Circular Railway from Princepghat to Majerhat (Single line). This work has been sanctioned as Material Modification to the ongoing Circular Railway Project and work will start on this portion.

* City and Industrial Development Corporation, Maharashtra.

@ Governemnt of Tamilnadu.

Government of West Bengal.

(d) All the above mentioned projects are likely to be completed with 6 years subject to availability of funds.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While no aircraft of Indian Airlines has been utilised/grounded for the purpose of VVIP duties during the last two years, the details of aircraft utilised/grounded by Air India are as under:

Use of Aircraft for VVIP Services

2499. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines are loosing revenue by using their aircraft for VVIP services during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and Airline-wise;

(c) the number of days in a year the aircraft of each airlines were utilised/grounded for the purpose of VVIP service during the last two years;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to purchase new aircraft for VVIP services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

	1996-97	1997-98
Number of days the aircraft was used for VVIP flights	42	32
Number of days the aircraft was grounded	55	28
Total	97	60

(d) and (e) There are no immediate plans to purchase new aircraft for VVIP services.

Amendment to the Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1995

2500. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is pursuing the Finance Ministry for early and suitable amendments to the Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985 to help workers to get their statutory dues; and

(b) if so, the concrete measures taken by the Ministry in getting this amendment approved by the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes Sir. Ministry of Labour has communicated its views on suitable amendments to the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 with a view to protecting the interest of workers.

(b) The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill was moved in the Parliament in May, 1997. However, with the dissolution of the 11th Lok Sabha, the proposed Bill lapsed. The Government is reviewing SICA in order to make it more effective in dealing with industrial sickness.

Direct Flight from Bangalore to Mauritius

2501. DR. SAROJA. V.: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Mauritius during his visit to India has assured to start direct flight from Mauritius to Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Government have also sanctioned three direct international flights from Bangalore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these flights are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Bangalore is at present not available as a point of call

to the designated airline of Mauritius under the Indo-Mauritius Air Services Agreement.

(c) to (e) Air India operates two flights a week to Singapore, one to Dubai and two flights a week with change of aircraft at Mumbai to Paris, London, Chicago and New York from Bangalore. Indian Airlines is operating three flights a week each to Singapore, Muscat and Sharjah from Bangalore.

False Circulation figures of Newspapers

2502. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DAVP are releasing advertisements on the basis of circulation figures supported by Chartered Accountants' certificates and Audit Bureau of Circulation;

(b) whether the several cases have been reported of false circulation figures of newspapers and other periodicals of the RNI/DAVP from Gujarat State; and

(c) if so, the details of such publications and the steps taken by the RNI/DAVP to "Unestablish" these publications during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Verification of circulation figures of a publication for issue of Government advertisements is accepted as per following order of preference: (i) the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI); (ii) Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC); and (iii) Chartered Accountant (CA).

(b) and (c) A list of newspapers/periodicals published from Gujarat, whose use for Government advertisements through DAVP has been suspended during the last three years as their circulation was treated as "unestablished by RNI", is enclosed.

Statement

List of Publications whose use for Government Advertisement has been Suspended During last three years as their Circulation was treated as "Unestablished by RNI"

1.	Hamsafar	Patan	Gujarati Weekly
2.	Haldhar	Bhavnagar	-do-
3.	Agekadam	Petlad	-do-
4.	Vyapar Udyog	Ahmedabad	-do-
5.	Satyakam	Bharuch	-do-
6.	Jay Raj	Mehsana	Gujarati Weekly
7.	Nav Gujarat Times	Surat	Gujarati Daily
8.	Our News	Mehsana	Gujarati Weekly
9.	Disha	Ahmedabad	Gujarati FN
10.	Chanakya	Jamnagar	Gujarati Weekly
11.	Outdoor Indoor	Ahmedabad	-do-
12.	Ramban	Rajkot	-do-
13.	Gujarat Leader	Ahmedabad	Hindi Daily
14.	Saikshanik Pragti Samachar	Rajkot	Gujarati Weekly
15.	Maha Gujarat	Patan	-do-
16.	Gujarat Arsi	Ahmedabad	-do-
17.	Prabhat	Mehsana	Gujarati Daily
18.	Sarvodaya	Kapadwanj	Gujarati Weekly
19.	Choti Duniya	Ahmedabad	-do-
20.	Janyug	Rajkot	-do-
21.	Krushi Vigyan	Rajkot	Gujarati Monthly
22.	Kutch Uday	Gandhi Dham	Gujarati Daily

Compensation to Indian Airlines

2503. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in compliance with the Kelkar Committee recommendations the Government have decided to pay a sum of around Rs. 200 crore as compensation to the Indian Airlines for grounding of its Airbus 320 fleet in 1990; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the Kelkar Committee are under consideration of the Government.

National Labour Commission

2504. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the first Gajendragadkar National Labour Commission have not been implemented uptill now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Status of implementation of recommendations of First National Commission on Labour is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Status of Implementation of Recommendations of First National Commission of Labour

Important recommendations of the Labour Commission have been implemented through amendments to certain labour laws like the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (for removal of wage ceiling for coverage), the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (mainly in respect of the unfair labour practices), the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 (enhancement in the wage limit for exemption from payment of Employees' Contribution), Factories Act, 1948 (for making penalties more stringent for violation of safety requirements and provision of Welfare facilities), and the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (enhancement in the rate of contribution and making default of dues a cognizable offence). Certain

new laws have also been enacted like the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1972, Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. In the areas of wage policy and minimum wages, employment services, vocational training, labour statistics and research and workers' education also, the recommendations made by the Commission have been largely taken into account in modifying the policies, procedures and programmes of the Government. The National Labour Institute was also set up in 1972 in pursuance of the recommendations of the Commission.

Committee for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers

2505. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Committee for identification, liberalisation and rehabilitation of bonded labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made so far by the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, Vigilance Committees both at the district and division levels have been set up to identify, release and rehabilitate bonded labourers. The details of released and rehabilitated bonded labourers are enclosed.

Statement

Name of the State	No. of bonded labourers identified and released	No. of bonded labourers rehabilitated
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	36,289	29,553
Bihar	12,986	12,270

1	2	3
Karnataka	62,708	55,231
Madhya Pradesh	12,804	11,897
Orissa	49,971	46,908
Rajasthan	7,478	6,217
Tamil Nadu	39,375	39,375
Maharashtra	1,382	1,300
Uttar Pradesh	27,489	27,469
Kerala	823	710
Haryana	544	21
Gujarat	64	64
Total:	251,913	230,915

Venue for ICFF

2506. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to create a permanent venue for the International Children Film Festival (ICFF) at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) It has already been decided, in November, 1997, that Hyderabad will be the permanent venue for the International Festival of Films for Children and Young People.

Telecast of Programmes under Category 'B'

2507. Dr. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of category 'A' programmes have been telecast under the category 'B' programmes by Doordarshan during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Doordarshan had incurred huge losses on this account;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken to check the recurrence of such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has reported that due to low commercial viability, two sports programmes/events namely 'Sunil Chaturvedi Benefit Cricket Match' held on 13th October, 1997 and 'Australian Open Championship, 1997' were brought under 'B' category from 'A' category.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Doordarshan earned commercial revenue of Rs. 9.00 lakhs through the telecast of these two sports events.

(e) Does not arise.

Continuation of Doctors after Superannuation in A.M.C.

2508. DR. SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Doctors of Army Medical Corps are still continuing in service despite attaining the age of superannuation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the provisions of Rule/Orders under which they are continuing; and

(c) the action taken against the officer concerned who had disbursed their salaries without any order in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There are 73 officers belonging to the Army Medical Corps (AMC) as on 1.2.99, who have attained the age of superannuation on 31.5.98 and thereafter. Pending issue of final Government orders enhancing the retirement age of officers belonging to the Army Medical Corps (AMC), an interim order was issued on 30.5.1998 deferring retirement of Armed Forces Personnel, except, *inter alia*, the Lieutenant Generals in the Army Medical Corps. Thereafter, another interim order was issued on 29.7.1998 deferring the retirement of these Lieutenant Generals also. A final view will be taken soon. The salaries of these officers are being disbursed under the provisions of the above mentioned orders.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 1999-2000 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri George Fernandes, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Defence for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT—2586/99]

- (2) A copy of the Defence Services Estimates for the year 1999-2000 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library See No. LT—2587/99]

Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the table the documents showed at item No. 3 in today's revised list of business.

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon, under section 36 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT—2588/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT—2589/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 1997-98.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT—2590/99]

Notifications Under Railway Act, 1989*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989:—

(i) The Railways (Extent of Monetary Liability and Prescription of Percentage Charge) Amendment Rules, 1998, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 24(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 1999.

(ii) The Passengers (Change of Names) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 704(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 1997.

(iii) The Authorisation of Rail Travellers' Service Agents (Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 842(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1998.

[Placed in Library See No. LT—2591/99]

(2) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members) Amendment Rules, 1999 Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 96(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 1999, under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railways Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library See No. LT—2592/99]

Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food Processing for the year 1999-2000*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the detailed demands for grants (Hindi & English versions) of the M/o Food Processing Industries for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT—2593/99]

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES**Fourth Report***[Translation]*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the table Forth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Committee of Government Assurances.

12.04 1/2 hrs.

*[English]***STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS****Fifty-third Report**

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Fifty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill, 1998.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, what about the discussion on corruption charges made by Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat?

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a question of maintaining the credibility of Lok Sabha. First of all its credibility be restored. Debate here would be of house of the credibility of the Lok Sabha is not maintained. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I call Shri Shiv Shanker to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): You can hear him, but what about your ruling?

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, there has been fake voting in the Lok Sabha.

[English]

It is a matter of concern. An action should be taken about it ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Shri Shiv Shanker to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, maintaining the credibility of the Lok Sabha is the fore-most issue ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you also. Please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I have called Shri P. Shiv Shanker.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali): Mr. Speaker, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shiv Shanker, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Bizay Sonkar Shastri, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajo Singh, please take your seat. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have allowed Shri P. Shiv Shanker.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Shri P. Shiv Shanker. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please take your seat. This is not the proper way.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, this is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Now I have called Shri P. Shiv Shanker.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called Shri P. Shiv Shanker. Are you aware of the rules of the House or not? Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. Shiv Shanker will now speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: First, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Hon. Speaker has called Shri P. Shiv Shanker to speak.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Senior Ministers are sitting here. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SAPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please take your seat. Shri P. Shiv Shanker will speak now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I have never seen such a bad behaviour from the Treasury benches. ...(Interruptions) Is this the way to behave in this House? You should name them. ...(Interruptions) That is the only way to do it. Nothing else could be done in this regard. ...(Interruptions) There is no order. ...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram): Sir, this is too much. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what action has been taken on fake voting. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: What sort of a behaviour is this? This is the behaviour from the Treasury Benches. ...*(Interruptions)* Is this how they behave in this House? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the procedure in this House?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Call by his name if he is not allowing you to speak only then he will let you speak ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I have called Shri Shiv Shanker. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Is this the way to behave in this House? ...*(Interruptions)*

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

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: What are you doing. Is this the way ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have been seeing that they have been defying your order for the last fifteen minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* You should take some action. Why do you not name them? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not Recorded.

12.18 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.19 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should tell the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs to control them.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: You should immediately take some action. They have been defying your order. ...*(Interruptions)* Why do the Ministers not take any responsibility? The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs should control them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Kurien, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Naik, please ask the hon. Members on your side to take their seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: I am asking Shri Ram Naik whether it is not the responsibility of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. He should control the Members on that side. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: He should control them. They cannot defy your orders. ...*(Interruptions)* We should have our say. It is our right.

SHRI A.C. JOS: If this is going to be their behaviour, we will not allow the Prime Minister to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: It is our right to have our say. They cannot deny it. It is our right. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Shri Shiv Shanker.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Now it is too much ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chaubey, this is too much.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shiv Shanker, please address the Chair and not the Members.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, before I would like to address myself to the subject on which I have given a notice, I would like to submit that it is most unfortunate that the Treasury Benches would like to gag our voice against the corruption charges which we are levelling, and the Ministers are sitting and they would not like to control them. This has never happened in this House. This is both unfortunate and unfair. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, you are kind enough to call a meeting of the leaders of all the parties today at 1 o'clock for the purpose of discussing as to what decision should be taken on the question of corruption

charges that we are levelling against the various Ministers and their Ministries, and the Navy. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): He is teaching us ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: No running commentary please. Shri Ashok Pradhan, this is too much.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Please take your seat. What is this? I have permitted Shri Shiv Shanker.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, in spite of the fact that these issues have been raised in this House, there is an articulated leak of certain news that is going about in the newspapers and particular the involvement of the defence forces in the slanging match of giving the news to the newspapers; this is something which is reprehensible. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shiv Shanker, there is a meeting at 1 o'clock. I have already called a meeting. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, this is an articulated leak. I charge this Government of articulately leaking out the news to the newspapers and the media for the purposes of having an undue advantage. It is regretful. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shiv Shanker, I have already called a meeting at 1 o'clock.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Therefore, we would like that the issues which we have raised with reference to Shri Guruswamy and the issues which we have raised with reference to the corruption charges in the Defence Ministry should be discussed in this House; and a JPC should be appointed straightway. There are admissions of the Ministers with reference to what has happened in the Defence Ministry and with reference to what I said about Shri Guruswamy. Therefore, a JPC should be constituted to discuss these matters. ...(*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, I would like to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: What is it that you would like to say? I am speaking on the basis of admissions of your own Ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kamal Nath, the hon. Minister is on his legs; please understand that.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, you have already said that a meeting of the leaders has been called to discuss whether we can take up this matter in the agenda or not. In spite of that, a senior leader and a deputy leader of the main Opposition is indulging in a slanging match. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not the way the responsible Opposition should behave. ...*(Interruptions)* They should also explain as to how the bogus voting has taken place in their Members' name. Please speak about the bogus voting which has taken place here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I called Dr. Mahadeepak Singh Shakya to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Dr. Shakya speaks.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I called Dr. Shakya to speak.

[Translation]

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA (Etah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to draw your attention towards a very important issue of public importance.

MR. SPEAKER: Swain ji, you please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a resolution was passed in this very Lok Sabha on 13.5.1998 in which it had been stated that the amount realised as customs and excise duty on Diesel and motor spirit would be deposited under the Road head way 3109 crores of rupees out of the duties to be collected would be given to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. This resolution was passed in this very Lok Sabha in 1988. But it is matter of regret this matter has not been considered even after the lapse of eleven years. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent a number of letters to the Government of India during these ten years but the Government has not given any satisfactory reply. As reply has been sent only on 23-11-98 in which it was stated that this matter is under the consideration of the Government. I would like to tell the Government that the road construction work executed by the Deptt. of Transport has been hampered due to shortage of funds. Therefore the amount of Rs. 3109 crores be released to the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): Sir, I would like to bring an important matter to the notice of this august House...*(Interruptions)*. I believe the value of the caste certificates issued in our country is the same ...*(Interruptions)*. The Central Government has issued an order that the value of the certificates issued to SC/ST and OBC certificate to the people concerned all over the country is the same...*(Interruptions)* But the Delhi State Government's standing rules do not accept this order. They are demanding that the candidates should first produce the caste certificates, especially the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs, only then they would get the Government jobs in the State of Delhi. This does not affect the general category people. This shows that the Delhi State Government is giving silent support to the general category people.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called his name. Please take your seat. I will call your name also.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand, this is not the procedure.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Recently, the same policy was applied at the time of giving appointment to not less than 4,000 teachers in the State of Delhi...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am a new Member...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You always disturb the House. Please take your seat. Let the hon. Member complete his speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanji): Sir, I have also tabled the notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Here is your notice. Please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Recently, the same policy was applied at the time of giving appointment to not less than 4000 teachers in the State of Delhi under NDMC, MCD and Directorate of Education. The case was registered in the last year as also in the current year.

So, I would request the Union Government to kindly look into the matter seriously and take necessary steps in favour of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna): Sir, subject of my notice tabled for zero-hour is like this. An all religion delegation for social justice left New Delhi for Orissa and Bihar yesterday *i.e.* 10th March, 1999. This delegation consists of eminent scholars like social worker Swami Agnivesh, Islamic scholar Maulana Wahiduddin, teacher in St. Stephens, Reverend Balsam Shambhu, Dr. A.K. Merchant and Dr. Mahendra Singh. This journey is being undertaken with the objective of making a sound society, checking the forces involved in spreading violence, boost the morale of the peace loving people and to save religions from vested interests. The delegation will visit the place where killing of Graham Steward Stence and his two sons had occurred. After that, the team will also visit the place of massacre of Dalits in Bihar and attempt to make congenial atmosphere of social and communal harmony. This delegation on tour consists of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Buddhists etc.

I would request the Government of India to provide all facilities for this all religion journey and the journey aimed at creating social goodwill should be welcomed.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very

important issue. The issue of bogus voting is not merely the case of corruption in the House. Mr. Gani Khan is sitting here in whose name bogus vote was cast. Another very important case of corruption is compulsory retirement offered to the higher officers in Judiciary, IAS, IPS and the defence services. They are trained at the cost of public exchequer. But, they join the multinational companies for luerative salaries resulting in the threat to the internal security of the country. As the democracy is under threat due to bogus voting in the House, similarly the same threat has raised its head with these officers shifting to multinationals. It is a grave question for the survival of the democracy.

The Government is enacting legislation to put an end to the bogus voting outside while the Congress people have indulged in bogus voting in the name of Abdul Ghani Khan Saheb here in the House. Legislation is going to be enacted to check bogus voting. How to check corruption is being debated ...(*Interruptions*) What steps are being taken to check all this? The officers of the judiciary, defence, IAS, IPS services are joining multinational companies for heavy pay packets. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, I may be permitted to draw the attention of this august House to a matter of immense concern and gravity. It is a matter which is very closely associated with the Constitutional right to know and information.

Sir, the United Forum of Prasar Bharati Employees comprising of dozen cadres including the Akashwani Announcers went on a day's token strike from the mid-night of 9.3.1999. The situation became very serious as the day passed through. It is learnt that at the behest of the Minister of information and Broadcasting, the Akashwani authorities on 9.3.99 played records of news bulletins in several languages which had actually been recorded on the previous day and they were meant for the previous day. This, in fact, was an attempt on the part of the Government to sabotage the democratically organised strike which was conducted in a democratic manner. A more serious matter is that it is the infringement upon the Constitutional right to know and also to get information.

* Not Recorded.

[Prof. A.K. Premajam]

Sir, I request the Government to look into this matter as it is a serious matter and punish the persons responsible for this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards my Parliamentary Constituency Begusarai. There is not heavy industry as well as, any other industry in this area for its economic development. People keep on migrating to other States in search of employment. This area is far backward in terms of economic and social development as compared to other areas of Bihar. There is an urgent need to promote small and cottage industry in the area to get rid of its backwardness, which has not been done so far. I would like to attract the attention of the Government to develop this area by establishing basic and heavy industry. Concessions should be given to the industrialists for establishing those cottage industry in the area which require raw materials available in the region.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani): Mr. Speaker Sir, with this notice, I put forward my demand for amendment in the Constitution for inclusion of Maithili Language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India. Mr. Speaker Sir, there are two conditions for inclusion of any language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution for — one, it should be recognised by the Sahitya Akademi and another — any State should declare it as its official language in black and white. Maithili is recognised by the Sahitya Akademi. There are M.A., B.A. (Hons), Ph.D. etc. degrees awarded in Maithili. But, it is a paradox in itself that this language is not included in the 8th schedule of the Constitution. Therefore, I demand its inclusion by suitable amendment relaxing one out of the two above conditions. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.39 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

Why do only the people sitting around Mr. Khurana keep on disturbing? Mr. Chaube and Mr. Shastri are sitting there...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Prime Minister's attention should be drawn towards this.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, ACCL (South Eastern Region India Limited) started construction work for Appollo hospital to be equipped with all the facilities for the treatment of cancer and other serious ailments in scheduled caste dominated Bilaspur area of Madhya Pradesh about seven years back but it is yet to be completed. Resultantly, the people of

the area are facing very difficult situation. My request is that the funds be released immediately for the hospital so that people may get proper treatment. The Government of India should take immediate action in this regard.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is not justifiable to include Haridwar in Uttaranchal keeping in view its geographic and religious importance. Its relevance in this context should be reviewed before taking a decision. Haridwar district is not only reverend to the Hindus but to the Muslims also. Kaliyar Sharif on Har Ki Pauri is a symbol of faith to both the communities. The feelings of the people of both the communities would be hurt on its inclusion in the proposed new State. The proposal is under consideration of the Government under the amended bill to include Haridwar in the State of Uttaranchal. I request the Government not to include Haridwar in the new State and let it remain in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter regarding women. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs, please sit down.

[English]

Hon. Members, you know that yesterday also, only very few Members could participate in the 'Zero Hour'. Today, there is a leaders' meeting at 1 P.M. There is only a list of limited names which the hon. Speaker, has drawn and given to me. I am proceeding to that list only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharaj Ganj): Hon. Speaker had assured us that we would get a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If your name figures in the list, you will get a chance ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. If your name figures in the list then I will give you the floor.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, he is disturbing everybody. Nobody is able to speak if he interrupts like this. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Sir, do not give him a chance if he disturbs everybody.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you keep on standing this way, even if your name is there in the list, your name will not be called to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The International Women's Day was celebrated on 8th March by women organisations also. But there was an unfortunate incident in Trivandrum of Kerala. There was an agitation by women against use of liquor under the leadership of Anti-liquor Association. The police had beaten up the women agitators like anything on the International Women's Day. These women agitators were agitating for a very good cause and the cause was in accordance with the Constitution. There is a specific clause in the Directive Principles saying that we should have prohibition of alcohol.

Liquor and alcohol was the issue on which the agitators were agitating. While they were agitating, the police found that not palatable. They had not only stopped the agitators from agitating but also beaten up the women. Since they were beaten up like anything on the International Women's Day, I am sure that the Government would inquire into the matter because it is not a question of a State. It is a matter of women being beaten up very brutally in India when the International Women's Day was being celebrated.

So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to tell something about it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: If what the hon. Member has stated is true, it is a very serious matter. We will call for the information...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palakkad): It is entirely wrong. The hon. Member is misleading the House. Unfortunately, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is also reacting to it. It is purely a State matter...(*Interruptions*)
The hon. Member is misleading the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: You cannot say like this. I am ready to authenticate it if you say that I am misleading the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: As I said earlier, it is purely a State matter. The hon. Member is misleading the House...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is reacting to it. Why do you want to interrupt him? Please do not interrupt.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I was saying that if what the hon. Member has said is correct, it is a serious matter...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, the hon. member has raised some important matter. The Minister wants to react to it. Why are you interrupting him?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: It is entirely wrong. What is this? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Normally, the practice of the House is that if a Member raises a point, if it is thought to be correct, we respond. But I am saying that we will call for the information and pass on the information to the hon. Member. We will request the Government to enquire into the matter and send the information...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Govindan, what the hon. Minister says is that he will find out whether there is any veracity in it. He did not say that it is correct. You should know it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, why are they objecting to it? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Shri Thomas, you do not know what happened. You are entirely misleading the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

* Not Recorded.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The police have beaten up the women. That is why they are agitating.

SHRI RAM NAIK: We will call for the information.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I do not mind the hon. Minister responding to it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: These people are interrupting and you say nothing. But when we do, you raise objections. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is yielding.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am only saying that if it is a question involving women and if something is to be stated, let him find out the truth. What I want to point out is that very selective responses are made by the Ministers on some issues. On how many Special Mentions made during 'Zero Hour' are the Ministers responding? Selective responses are increasing. Let us know the truth. But he should do it in a manner which is somewhat discreet...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Shri Somnath Chatterjee is a senior member. He has every right to cast aspersions on a minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How many matters have been responded to?

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am not in that habit. I thought that it is a serious matter which pertains to women and that is why I am responding to it. That is why, I said that I would call for the information. I would request the Government of Kerala to give the information.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important issue. Unemployment is rapidly increasing in our country. On account of that, the people go abroad in large number in search of jobs. About lakhs of our countrymen are earning their livelihood in Gulf countries. The United States of America and other developed countries imposed sanctions on India in the wake of Pokharan Test. As a result of this lakhs of those Indian workers who were earning their livelihood in Saudi Arabia as well as other foreign

countries are now being compelled to flee among. So I would make a submission to the Government of India to solve this problem by holding talks and having coordination with the countries concerned since the matter is very serious and is directly related to the livelihood of lakhs of people.

[English]

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE (Kopergaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the difficulties faced by the students studying in the Navodaya Vidyalaya at Takali Dhokeshwar, District Ahmednagar in Maharashtra.

The second phase of construction which was assigned to National Industrial Development Corporation was to be completed in 1993. But still it is incomplete. As a result, this 35 acre campus is without roads, street lights and drainage system. Even the toilet blocks are incomplete and the grown-up boys and girls have to go outside for morning calls. The Navodaya Samiti has also closed down the higher classes. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to complete the construction work and also provide good foodgrains from open market instead of purchasing the foodgrains from Government Fair Price Shops, which are usually substandard and damaged. I also urge upon the Government to start the higher classes from next academic year.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Minister, why do you not respond to this? That is what I want to say. You please do that properly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.M. KRISHNADAS: Mr. Minister. Why do you not respond?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): This is raised along with the state-matter, but not included in the central matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the matter of shortage of drinking water in my constituency, Tumkur district. It is the primary duty of the Central Government to provide drinking water in all the villages. The local bodies are not in a position to provide drinking water for want of financial assistance. Therefore, I suggest to the Government of India that they can use the Hemawati channel running in Tumkur district for providing drinking water. Water can be stored in Dodguni tank, Kibnal,ly,

Bilyare and Rampura for the purpose of providing drinking water. Water table can be increased. Now, the people have started shifting from Tumkur district to some other place along with their cattle. There is an acute shortage of drinking water. Therefore, I request the Government of India to come forward to assist the State Government to provide drinking water for them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI H.P. SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, listen to us too.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I told you not to interrupt. If your name is there, I will call you.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a most important matter pertaining to the short supply of rice in the public distribution system in Tamil Nadu. The off-take to the public distribution system in Tamil Nadu is 2 lakh tonnes per month whereas we are getting 1.09 lakh tonnes per month from the Common Pool. So, there is a gap of 91,000 tonnes. To procure this 91,000 tonnes of rice, we have to go to the market. We have to spend a lot of money to procure this. Already there is a subsidy to the tune of Rs. 1,256 crore to the public distribution system. Also, the Central Government has already fixed Rs. 50 per quintal over and above the support price. The Government is overburdened. That is why, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written to the hon. Food Minister on 14th February, 1999 explaining all these reasons. So, I request the hon. Food Minister to kindly allocate 1.65 lakh tonnes as originally allocated so that the public distribution system could be somewhat managed.

I request the hon. Food Minister to kindly see that proper supply is made. I request the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri Ram Naik, to react on this most important matter of extra allocation of rice to the public distribution system in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ram Naik is sitting here. I request him to respond to this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Minister to respond.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Why can he not respond now?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Baalu, how can I compel him to respond?

SHRI RAM NIAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am ready to respond. But Shri Somnath Chatterjee should again appreciate that it is not a selective response.

Sir, I would draw the attention of the Food Minister to the matter raised by Shri T.R. Baalu and request him to respond to his request separately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri R.S. Gavai.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amaravati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government's unprecedented action of dismissing the chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat is very much regrettable. This will have an adverse effect on the morale of the Armed Forces. So, I call upon the hon. Prime Minister to reveal to the nation as to why the country's Chief of Naval Staff was a danger to the security of the country. I would also request the hon. Prime Minister to constitute an independent forum of retired Chiefs of Armed Forces to inquire into the charges and see that whether they are genuine or not.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (Mohanlalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House through you to the factory named 'Scooters' India Limited' which was set up in 1973 at Sarojini Nagar, Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. The Company has fraudulently terminated the services of 850 employees. Because of this their families are on the verge of starvation. Many of them have committed collectively self immolation and many other ones have lost their mental equilibrium. So, I request the Government through you to enquire into the whole affair so as to find out the reasons why the company fraudulently terminated the employees who are now on the verge of starvation. They need rehabilitation and those who have committed self immolation must be given compensation.

[*English*]

SHRI D.C. SRIKANTAPPA (Chickmangalore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a matter regarding the functioning of Kudremukh Iron Works Limited, a public sector undertaking situated in my Parliamentary Constituency, Chickmangalore in the State of Karnataka. This Central Government organisation exports iron ore to foreign countries and thus earns foreign

[Shri D.C. Srikantappa]

exchange. It has got processing system. But due to the non-payment of electricity bill to the tune of some crores of rupees, recently power supply has been disconnected to this company. The factory was without work for want of electricity and due to that, it incurred a loss to the tune of Rs. six crore. If the electricity charge of Rs. one crore had been paid, the loss could have been avoided. This clearly shows the mismanagement of the company and it should be punished for such an act. The matter is of urgent public importance and needs immediate action to avoid any such mismanagement by the company in future

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. B.N. Reddy.

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice. Kindly allow me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Dr. B.N. Reddy.

DR. ASIM BALA: Sir, I want to raise a matter which is urgent and important.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Speaker has already listed all the important issues. I am only calling the names of the Members as per the list given to me.

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the acute drinking water problem in my district and my parliamentary constituency, Miryalguda in Andhra Pradesh. The problem is not only there in my district, but there is acute scarcity of drinking water throughout the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, the Central Government gives utmost importance for supply of drinking water throughout the country and the National Agenda for Governance of the present Government states that drinking water will be supplied to all the villages in the country.

13.00 hrs.

But we see that even today, the ladies have to travel up to two or three kilometres. They are walking in the hot sun to get some water. The National Agenda says that we will give utmost importance to the drinking water. So, while talking about this, the Minister has once said that this is a State subject. Whether it is a State subject or the Central subject, it is the duty of the Government to see that water is supplied to the people who are really in need of it. So, I request the Central Government to do something about it.

The flouride content in water is so much that the people are getting a lot of diseases. So, I draw the attention of the Government to do something immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, numerous anomalies exist in the present OBC-list spread over Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and so many States of the country. 'Kewat', 'Dheemar', fisherman, 'Machhuarey' and 'Gowara Gowary' castes should have been categorised in the Scheduled Tribe list. In many States movements took place for it for many times the movement in Maharashtra alone claimed lives of 100 in this connection. Likewise the Dhobi caste is listed in SC category in Bhopal sector where as the same one is treated as Backward caste in Madhya Pradesh & in the rest part of the Madhya Pradesh State. So I would like to request the Government of India to reconsider the so-called gradation made with regard to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes and remove the anomalies whatever exist therein with immediate effect. Moreover the standard of living of the Kewat and Machhuarey Goadgiwary and Gowara-gowary castes is similar to that of the scheduled tribes. I, therefore, request you to include those castes in Scheduled Tribe category and the Dhobi caste should be included in the list of the Scheduled Tribes of Madhya Pradesh and other districts of the State.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a tight schedule. We have a heavy agenda today. Therefore, the House will have to forgo the lunch-hour from one to two o'clock today. We will have to dispense with it. Is it the sense of the House? Otherwise, we cannot finish any agenda item.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes,

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House as well as that of the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Defence.

About 500 minipool dock workers of Marmugao Port Trust in Goa have not been paid 14 months' wages and other benefits as of date in spite of having huge funds in the treasury of the Workers' Association managed by the port, Handling Agent's Association and Marmugao Port Trust.

It is very disheartening to note that the Chairman, MPT is allowing private workers to work in the dock

premises for the work of minipool workers. This malpractice of handling agents has regularly been brought to the notice of the Chairman, MPT. But the Chairman went on assuring the Union that he would take action against the erring handling agents. Till date, the Chairman is silent over the matter.

I and Dr. M.K. Pandha, General Secretary, CITU met the LC of Vasco-da-Gama, Goa on 17th February, 1999 for settlement of the wages and also about stoppage of illegal engagement of private workers. At that time, the Chairman, MPT was not there.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to please take up the case of 500 minipool dock workers of MPT, to settle their wages immediately.

13.04 hours

(Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey in the Chair)

A news item has already appeared in *The Nav Hind Times* on 8/3/99... (Interruptions) The Goa Shipyard Ltd. has informed the Central Bureau of Investigation that the total expenditure incurred by its Chairman, Rear Admiral (Retd.) B.R. Menon, during his tenure of four-and-a-half years in Goa is more than Rs. 10 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should be very brief.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Yes. The CBI had already raided the house of the Rear Admiral (Retd.) B.R. Menon, Chairman of the GSL, and recovered about Rs. 10 crore. So, please assure the House that he will be ousted from the Chairmanship.

[Translation]

SHRI H.P. SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to bring this fact into the notice of the Government that due to non-availability of land, the poor people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have been living in Jawahar Camp, A-1/60, Kirti Nagar since 1990. They have their ration cards, identity cards etc. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak briefly on your subject so that other members may have the opportunity.

SHRI H.P. SINGH: I am speaking briefly. There is a very big market of marble there. The hutments of those who gave money to the police and D.D.A., were not demolished. But the children and wives of the poor labourers who had gone outside for their work were thrown out of the huts in their absence... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said what you wanted to say.

SHRI H.P. SINGH: I want to say that the work of rehabilitating those helpless and poor people should be done. The personnel of police and D.D.A. should be punished who had thrown their wives and children on the road... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA. Mr. Chairman, Sir, 15,000 megawatt power can be generated from the river Chinab in Jammu State. At this time, we are producing 500 megawatt power from only Salaal Project. Afterwards, we had undertaken two more projects first of Bagalyar and second of Sabla Kot. The Central Government and the N.H.P.C. have spent about 30 crore rupees on these projects. But, now we are hearing that N.H.P.C. is not taking up any project in Kashmir. More than three thousand personnel and workers who shed their blood and sweat for the sake of Salaal Project, are being transferred to Sikkim and Bhutan. I request the Government to take up the project of Sabla Kot immediately let this project be run by N.H.P.C and 800 megawatt power should be generated and so that the crisis of power may be done away with.

It is said that the Kashmir Government want to run these projects itself. However, the situation is that the Government have no money even for giving salaries to its employees. In such a situation, no project can be run by the State. It is essential that N.H.P.C. should take up the Project of Sabla Kot immediately and it should be started by them because it has already spent money on it and a survey has been already made by them.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I want to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious matter. Sir, everybody knows about the collapse of law and order situation in Assam. During the last several months, more than 50 innocent people were killed by unidentified killers all over Assam, and particularly in my Constituency.

On the 8th of this month, three groups of people in the broad day light went to three places with AK-47 and AK-56 and they struck. In one family, they killed a young boy. When the father and mother of that boy came out on hearing the shot of the gun, they were also shot dead. In another family, a eighty year old father and a seventy year old mother were also killed. In other places also, innocent people were killed. They were said that

[Shri P.S. Ghatowar]

they were supposed to be the relatives of the underground element.

Sir, it is a very inhuman act. All these things are happening in Assam with the connivance of the State Government. We would like to know how the State Government is allowing these unidentified killers to move with AK-47 and AK-56 and kill people. When the police goes there, they only recover the empty bullets and empty shell of AK-47. No arrest was made so far. Nobody was arrested. This situation is going on. They have given licence to some of the unidentified killers to go round the State and kill people as they like. It is a very serious situation. Nowhere in the country, such a situation is there.

I would urge upon the Central Government to inquire and ask for a report from the State Government. All these news have been covered in all the national newspapers. The Government has to take some action. Otherwise, they will say that such and such person is related to ULFA and go on killing people. Nobody was arrested till today. This type of killing is going on. It is a very serious situation. It is a shame on the part of the State Government and the law and order situation is very bad in the State.

The Central Government cannot keep mum and they must call for the report from the State Government as to how all these things are happening.

Under the Arms Act, no person is allowed to carry AK-47 and AK-56. It is becoming a daily affair in Assam. I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this situation and I request him to react on this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Handique, are you supporting him?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will convey the feelings of the hon. Member to the hon. Home Minister.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, there was a debate in the House on the North East situation and the hon. Home Minister gave a statement here. Even yesterday, in the CISF function, he has said that internal security is improved now. Even yesterday, he has said this. He gave an assurance in the House that he would send an all-party delegation from the House, if need be, to visit all the States.

North East is very serious today. The Government has to take some action. The Home Minister gave a

commitment here that he would send a small delegation of all the parties to assess the situation. Nothing has been done for the last three months. So, I would request the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to convey to the Home Minister that he should take his commitment seriously.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the feeling of Shri Rajesh Pilot also will be conveyed to the Home Minister, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: You convey to him the feeling of the whole House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Sir, we are intrigued to find out as to who are these unidentified killers. Even the Government gives an explanation that they are the unidentified assailants. How can it be? That means, with the knowledge of the Government these unidentified assailants are operating and creating a reign of terror in the whole State. They are killing common people and even those people who are distantly related to the terrorists in this way. There should be a Government inquiry into this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through you to a particular problem of my area. Due to the use of unscientific means of agriculture and the imbalanced use of Chemicals Fertilisers, the P.H. value of the land of my area has increased on a large scale and about 15 per cent land has become completely barren. P.H. value of the remaining land has reached the point of about eight per cent. It has endangered the land becoming barren. It is also affecting the productivity.

I request, through you, to the Government to look into this matter very soon, and having chalked out a project, take pains to introduce the scheme of land reform.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If hon'ble Members take little time, maximum number of the membes will get opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, coir industry is one of the oldest traditional industries in India. Now, it is facing a crisis. The crisis is caused due to the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord. If that is given effect to, it may lead to a catastrophe.

Now, the coir produces are not sold in the Cochin market. There is no market because of the fear of import from Sri Lanka. I may point out that about five lakhs of people are engaged in this industry. Eighty per cent of them are women workers. I am speaking in the period of International Women's Year. By our policy and because of this Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, four to five lakhs of people are thrown out of employment. So, I would request the Central Government to take immediate steps to see that the coir produces are not imported in India. Also, the Government has to find out some new nations in the South American States. So, we may make arrangements for export of coir to South American States. The Central Government should take immediate steps for that. I request the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs who is present here, at least, to make a response because five lakhs of people are involved. What will they do?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a defence cantonment in my constituency. The people of both the villages — Sukhna and Khadva have given thousand of acres of land to them over there. As a result there have remained only schools, ponds and temples in the villages. But the army jawans are trying to capture even these from the villagers forcibly and they are giving them threats. So, the people over there are agitated. I request the Government that the public places like the schools, tanks and temples and the road over there which are in possession of the army, should be given back to the villagers for their use ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota): Sir, I am Ram Narain Meena.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call you. Please wait. If the members are very brief, then every member will be accommodated.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House and the Government to the anti-India activities of Pakistani Intelligence Agency going on along the Indo-Nepal border.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Only yesterday, the Prime Minister had said that our relations with the Pakistan are improving...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let him continue.

SHRI ADITYANATH: Anti India activities are on rise on the Indo-Nepal border with the connivance of local administration and some members of certain political parties. I would request the Home Minister to take action towards curbing the anti-India activities of Pakistan on the Indo-Nepal border.

[*English*]

DR. ASIM BALA: Sir, the Central PWD Engineers are staging a *dharna* in front of the Udyog Bhawan for the last three days, that is, from 9th to 11th March, 1999, today. It is because of the anomalies created by the Fifth Central Pay Commission among the similarly placed cadres in the same department but the duties and responsibilities are similar. Even the disparities remain. The Engineers are very sincere in their works and duties. They demand equal pay for equal work. They have also been pursuing the matter for a long time but all their attempts are in vain.

Sir, as a last resort to press their demands they are forced to go for a demonstration in front of the Udyog Bhawan. I urge upon the Government to sit with the agitating engineers and remove the anomalies mentioned in the demands immediately. Otherwise, there may be chaos.

I once again urge the Government to settle the matter immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RITLAL PRASAD VARMA (Kodarma): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to draw the kind attention of the Government towards an important issue that a project named 'Bihar Plateau Development Project', viz, B.P.D.P. was started with an amount of Rs. 444 crores from the World Bank in Bihar, but it was suspended in 1993-98. The bungling has been done in this project and it is the second biggest scam after the 'Fodder Scam'. The World Bank has made available the amount for the development of Chhota Nagpur, Santhal Pargana Vananchal through a Scheme to construct a 2500 metres long bridge and a road with a 4200 km length; but all this amount has been ill-wiffully consumed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make your point clear.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RITLAL PRASAD VARMA: There was a plan to irrigate 21000 hectares land by this project and moreover, it was also planned to improve the condition of Adivasis and Harijans, but as far I think, even 5000 hectares were not irrigated either in all, who cares then for the 21000 hectares? I demand of getting it investigated through CBI immediately and to trap the corrupt persons.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Union Government and the Jammu-Kashmir Government have repeatedly made statements that there is normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, but Pakistan's Intelligence Agency ISI's activities are going on large scales. Recently, I.S.I. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has patiently heard your speech, now this is your turn to do so.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: The temporary camps of security forces have been destroyed by RDX and several security personnels suffered injuries. A continuous increase in the activities of ISI even after the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan is definitely something to be thought of and worried about.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a serious question and I would like to have the entire House's consideration over it.

The country has a four crore unemployed youth and eleven crores illiterates. In total, fifteen crores youth suffer agony and hunger. They young people are healthless and helpless...*(Interruptions)* All the political parties. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not make a speech please, be brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT: I want to point out that the youth are turning towards terrorism because they are in a badly dejected state. A youth today demands his political participation in power. I demand of a 33 percent reservation for youths in the Parliament and the legislative Assemblies so that they can build a destiny of their own. All political party leaders please give their views in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* The persons between the age of 25 years to 40 years are considered youth ...*(Interruptions)* I want to apprise the House in this regard of the continuous decrease in the participation of youth in the Parliament.

Today, only 12¹/₂% young people are there in the Parliament. Therefore, it has seriously to be considered by all parties. ...*(Interruptions)* Young people coming from the age-group of 25 to 40 years are in this category...*(Interruptions)* I want to tell that only two persons from the age-group of 25 to 30 years are the Members of Parliament.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P. SANKARAN (Calicut): Sir, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation regarding the development of Calicut Airport.

Calicut Airport is one of the 12 model Airports of India and also one of the busiest from the point of view of the number of international passengers using the same. It may be noted that 370 number of flights are operating to and from Calicut Airport every week at present and 39,720 number of passengers are using this airport in a year, making use of the existing facilities. But at the International Terminal of the Airport which is very badly designed considering the needs of the passengers, the facilities are highly inadequate and the space available is totally insufficient. Therefore, a proposal is placed before the Airports Authority of India to interchange International and domestic terminals with some modifications, which are found acceptable to the officers of the Airports Authority of India.

On behalf of the passengers, I earnestly request that the International Terminal be shifted to the domestic terminal after bringing in the suggested changes. This will become absolutely essential when the runway extension is completed and wide bodied Aircrafts land in Calicut with at least 50 per cent more passengers than what this terminal is struggling to handle now.

I request the hon. Minister for Civil Aviation to give an assurance in the House that the demand will be accepted.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Sir, this is to invite the serious attention of the Minister of Labour towards the miserable condition and total unsatisfactory functioning of the Beedi workers Welfare Fund Scheme. It was organised about 20 years back. Neither lakhs of beedi workers had benefited nor the institution itself.

*Not recorded.

In my Malabar area of Kerala having about three lakh people working in beedi industry, most of them are registered under the Welfare Fund Scheme. An Assistant Commissioner's Office functioning in Kannur is having only one U.D.C., one driver and two Class-IV staff. Almost all the posts are lying vacant. This is the main reason of not getting the benefits to the workers. The workers and their unions are demanding upgradation of this office as a regional office. Now, it is working under the Bangalore region. The Government has not conceded this demand so far. The housing loan and subsidy are not attractive. The long-standing demand of the workers are loan of Rs. 25,000/ and subsidy of Rs. 10,000/-. Scholarship and health care facilities are also in poor manner. There are three hospitals in Kannur sector. All the three hospitals are insufficient to look after the beedi workers. So, the workers demand merger of the three into one and make the hospital with 25 beds.

I request the Government and the hon. Minister of Labour of consider these genuine demands of beedi workers immediately.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NARAYAN MEENA: Sir, through you I would like to draw the Government's attentions towards this issue, that the Government is ruling from Delhi, and making arbitrary decisions. ...(*Interruptions*) Recently, an exercise to assess the capabilities of the Air-Force has been made. I represent from Rajasthan, this exercise has taken place at Pokhran in Rajasthan. Though I am a member of the Standing Committee on Defence Ministry, inspite of it, I had no information about this. ...(*Interruptions*) We are also not told that which member got selected, such a discrimination and a game of hide-n-seek is on vogue, charges of corruptions are being levelled...(*Interruptions*) I just want to tell that many bombs were not exploded there but with much publicity was made in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sir, what do you want?

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: I was neglected by the Government inspite of my being the member of the standing committee of Parliament. Members from Congress were not called...(*Interruptions*) They want to run the country on party line...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

* Not Recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM (Gulbarga): Thousands of villagers and bank employees from the nooks and corners of the country have come here. Justice given to them in 1992 has been withdrawn by a Government later on. Two High Courts have delivered judgments in their favour. I demand the Central Government and Hon. Finance Minister to end the pay scale anomaly with the employees working in rural areas. I request the Central Government to encourage the thousands of employees working among rural masses by giving them justice before they lodge complaints in Supreme Court.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Chairman Sir, the issue of Uttaranchal State has been high profile in which hundreds of people from different communities were killed.

Bills to grant Statehood to Uttaranchal, Vanachal and Chhatisgarh were introduced from the Government in this Lok Sabha on 22-12-98. It was welcomed in whole area especially the people of Uttranchal thanked the Central Government. But some political parties keeping their political interests in mind are raising the issue to separate Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar Districts from Uttranchal in the name of Caste, Religion, Community, Language and Culture, where as there are no complaints from common people and everyone is in the favour of Uttranchal State. I request the Central Government that the way Prime Minister during his visit to Bihar on 7th March has declared the Bill to grant Statehood to Vanachal in the current session. Welcoming that declaration I demand to introduce the Bill for Vanachal with it and pass it.

[*English*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I want to raise a very serious matter.

We allege that the Doordarshan and the All India Radio are not being allowed to function as autonomous bodies. On 20th February, 1999, there was a Convention in Delhi on National Integrity and Harmony, but that news was not covered. There was a total blackout. Today we have seen in the newspaper that the nominated members of the Prasar Bharati Board have alleged that there is a persistent and consistent intervention and interference by the hon. Minister, Shri Pramod Mahajan and that is why they have sought the intervention of the Prime Minister. So, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to allow the Prasar Bharati Board to function as an autonomous body. Otherwise the impartiality and neutrality of the Board cannot be maintained. These are very important electronic media and they should function as autonomous bodies

[Shri Lakshman Chandra Seth]

so that the voice of the Members of all the parties can be rightly reflected. This is a matter of very great concern and I place it before you for your intervention.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena): Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards my district which is at the banks of River Chambal lacs of villages and land are eroding due to the erosion of banks. I request the Central Government to take proper steps to check the erosion of villages.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur): Mr. Chairman Sir, Dr. Kapil Jain and Dr. Vikas Sardana of University College of Medical Sciences and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital instigated 60-70 upper castes Resident students by announcing in loud speaker to abuse Dalit students saying them 'Bhangi, Chamar'. They broke their doors and beat them. The principal and hostel warden Dr. R.K. Sharma did not reach there to protect Dalit students. Police did not take any action against attackers. Dalit students were not given any kind of protection. There is an allegation that attackers were related to a B.J.P. Leader. Therefore efforts are being made to hush up the matter. I demand to provide protection to Dalit students.

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to speak regarding immediate appointments in the first stereophonic transmission centre of Madhya Pradesh. The radio station of Jabalpur is functioning since 1964. It is airing on media at present. F.M. Transmitter is set up there at the cost of Rs. 3.5 crores. This F.M. transmitter is still to be inaugurated because of the lack of technical staff inspite of ready to function since 1996. This is the first stereophonic transmitter of Madhya Pradesh. Therefore I would like to request the Government to dedicate to the country ready to function F.M. transmitter of Rs. 3.5 crores upto by appointing immediately necessary technical staff.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE EDEN (Ernakulam): Mr. Chairman Sir, Cochin FM radio station was started in 1989. The commercial programmes were started in 1996. The programmes of the FM radio station are very popular and lakhs and lakhs of people are listening everyday to these popular programmes. The quality of the morning programmes is appreciable and comparable to any programme of any other media, including electronic media.

Recently, the popular morning transmission has been stopped. When I personally enquired about this, the authorities told me that this had happened due to the shortage of staff.

In the above circumstances, I would request the Government to appoint adequate staff in the FM radio station, Cochin and restart the morning transmission at the earliest. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am forced to raise the matter in the House after not being succeeded inspite of making a lot of efforts. The population of Kanpur is 40 lacs. The Union Government had approved the construction of a dam on river Ganga involving the cost of Rs. 172 crores with a view to solve the problem of potable water. The Union Government and the Government of Uttar Pradesh had to share equal burden. The Planning Commission issued an official letter and released the first instalment of Rs. 6 crore. After that Union Government did not sanction a pie to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. I have met the Deputy Chairperson of Planning Commission, hon. Urban Development, Finance and Prime Minister in this regard. After the letter of the Planning Commission, no approval have been taken from the Cabinet through a note and therefore the work is held up for a year. State Government had invested Rs. 50 crores and is not willing to invest further till the contribution of Union Government does not reach. I would request the Union Government to and the anomaly created by past Governments and release the last and coming contribution after getting approval of the Cabinet through a cabinet note.

[English]

SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH (Phillaur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I bring to the notice of the Government and this august House, through you, the shameful incident of atrocities committed on the students and doctors, belonging to Dalit community, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, of the University College of Medical Sciences and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Delhi by the so-called upper caste students and doctor of the same institution between the night of 22nd and 23rd February, 1999 from 10 p.m. to 5.00 a.m.

Dr. K.K. Sharma, who was leading the mob, announced on the mike that the students of the upper caste should come out of their rooms and beat the Dalit students.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, not only this, when the two *dalit* Resident Doctors, Dr. Sanjay and Dr. Vijay Kumar, went to see the injured *dalit* students, they were also beaten. No FIR was lodged by the police for ten days, what to speak of inquiry. Instead of inquiring into the incident, the police is putting pressure on the poor victims for a compromise.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I demand the present BJP Government to get the matter inquired through CBI and punish the culprits, particularly Dr. K.K. Sharma, who was a leader involved in the incident, and Dr. B.B.L. Aggarwal, the Principal of the Institute, for shielding and sheltering the culprits.

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam): People of my constituency, Nagore, District Tiruvarur, are very much agitated because the Southern Railway suddenly stopped Kamban Express. The Kamban Express (6714) used to run between Chennai and Rameswaram, and the Nagore Express (6156) used to run between Chennai and Nagore. From 20.4.1999, the Kamban Express was stopped. Instead of that, they are running a fast passenger between Karaikudi and Thiruvarur, and then attaching six bogies of the fast passenger to the Nagore Express at Thiruvarur. Thereby, the two services have been merged. These are the only two Express trains connecting people from three districts, namely, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam. This move has caused a lot of inconvenience to the common people in my constituency and they are agitated over this issue.

I request both the Cabinet Minister and the State Minister for Railways to retain the services of Kamban Express.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already made your request.

SHRI M. SELVARASU: Sir, the Railway Minister is sitting there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not responding.

SHRI M. SELVARASU: People are agitated over this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not responding. But I think, he has noted your point.

SHRI M. SELVARASU: In the people's interest, I have raised this issue. The Minister is sitting there.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Railways has noted your statement. He will do, what he should do. I can not compel him to reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will speak on rail budget also. You can express your opinion at that time also.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I suggest that the hon. Member can meet the Railway Minister.

SHRI M. SELVARASU: Sir, I have already written a letter to the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshehra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Social Welfare of Government of India is running de-addiction hospital and de-addiction centre in Haryana for last ten years. The Ministry of Welfare, Government of India donates 90% of the grants and district Red Cross Society and Child Welfare Council bears 10% of amount given to it. Mr. Speaker Sir, there are some problems of those workers. Those staff working on de-addiction centre, are suffering from continuous economic and social exploitation. These officers and staff fulfil professional and educational qualifications laid down by Government of India so they have also right to equality like other employees. I would like to draw the attention of the Government and what to say regarding their demand. They are receiving consolidated amount of Rs. 2250 per month considering their higher qualification and experience, instead of their consolidated salary they should be paid higher salary. The employees working in de-addiction centres are not getting any other facilities such as dearness allowances etc. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All issues cannot be presented in zero hour. Just put up your issues. Do not elaborate it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: This is the issue I put up here. The Government will have to clarify this matter. Uniform service conditions should be laid down on state level. The facility of central Employees Provident Fund should also be given to them. The employees working in these centres are struggling for their problems for last ten years. These officers should be paid their salary as per the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission like Central Government, State Governments and other non-Governmental organisations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going to be mentioned in record.

...(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, over two dozens of buildings have been demolished by the D.D.A. on March 9, 1999 at New Ashok Nagar of East Delhi of my constituency. It is one of those 1071 colonies, which the Government of Delhi has sanctioned and referred to the Government of India and this matter is under consideration of the High Court. The D.D.A. has demolished the buildings there.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Please tell me in brief. Please do not elaborate it.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an important issue. All members are sitting here. Today hundreds of person have reached honourable Prime Minister. Sir, through you I would like to request the Government that it is one of the 1071 colonies of Delhi. The D.D.A. has mercilessly demolished the building without giving any prior notice. Today people are lying under the open sky. I would like to ask the Government through you as to why buildings are being demolished whereas the Government of Delhi had decided not to bulldoze any colony after Dec. 1993. So it is a conspiracy to defame the Central Government. I would like to request the honourable Minister to interfere into this matter so that the problem could be solved. Its issue is related to one of several authorised colonies of Delhi. It is not the issue of mine only but also related to all M.P's of Delhi, hailing from their respective areas to that places. Again I would like to request to the honourable Minister to take appropriate action regarding that matter because injustice is being done with the poor there.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my opinion here. I belong to Bhind parliamentary constituency which is at end of Madhya Pradesh and it adjoins Uttar Pradesh. The inactive Congress Governments of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh provide only 2500-2600 cusec water in place of 3900 cusec to those areas. So the farmers of the entire district are on the verge of starvation.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is completely wrong. Madhya Pradesh Government owes due worth Rs. twenty eight crores to Rajasthan Government for cleaning the canals of Chambal. Due to non payment of the dues, canal have not been cleaned. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: This is the matter of farmers and you are anti farmers. So, you are speaking like that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: It is very essential to upgrade, clean, modernize and strengthen canals. Even Farmers of Rajasthan are not getting water. So they are being ruined. The BJP Government in the centre is also not providing any amount for maintenance of canals...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: It is so because the Government is anti-farmers the farmers have sown the seeds on credit and water is also not available there. The farmers have been spoiled there and now they are on the verge of starvation. I would like to request to Central Government through you that Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Government who are anti-farmers should be given instructions to supply there 3900 cusec water as per the agreement, so that the farmers may get relief and are saved from starvation.

13.50 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to provide funds to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for early construction of proposed railway ovc. bridge at Dharamshala Bazar in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translation]

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a railway underbridge at Dharamshala Bazar in Gorakhpur city (Uttar Pradesh). Prior to it, unmanned there was a level crossing in place of this under-bridge. The outgoing and incoming traffic from Gorakhpur to Maharajganj, Padrona, Nepal ext. had to face many problems because of the increased number of passengers and mostly lying closed of this unmanned level crossing and as a result of it, underbridge was constructed in place of unmanned level crossing. At present the under bridge is there but only light motor vehicles pass through this bridge and the heavy Motor vehicles entry is restricted because of the insufficient height of this bridge. There has been a considerable increase in traffic for the last 8 to 10 years, and the traffic going from Gorakhpur through this underbridge gets jammed because of the heavy rush. Being the development of Gorakhpur dependent on this road and being the Medical College situated on this road. Gorakhpur development is adversely affected due to it because one has to face a lot of difficulties to take the patient to the Medical College in time and get them provided Medical facilities in time as there is heavy rush

at the underbridge. If there is a little bit of rain, the water gets flooded five to six feet beneath this underbridge and the traffic gets blocked for many days.

In view of the above said situation there is an urgent need of construction of railway overbridge at this place. The proposal of railway overbridge has already been sent to the Uttar Pradesh Government. So, I demand the Minister for Railways, Government of India to bear half of the expenses of the total estimated cost of this proposed railway overbridge and get it constructed as soon as possible.

(ii) Need to look into the problems being faced by people in getting loan from banks under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I inform under rule 377 that my parliamentary constituency Erandol, district Jalgaon (Maharashtra) is very backward area in view of industrial development, and as a result of it there is a lot of unemployment and the people of this area are financially weak. There are some agricultural based small scale industries here which are being run with the help of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and becoming very helpful to solve problem of unemployment. But there is a need to provide loans to more and more people through banks under this scheme so that more and more people can be provided with jobs and agricultural based industries can be developed. But the people are facing many problems in getting loan from the banks under this scheme.

So, I request the Minister for Finance, through you, that banks should be instructed to make such sort of management so that people seeking loans may have to face the minimum grievances.

(iii) Need to set up a Central Sanskrit University at Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): The all original voluminous books on ancient History, religion, culture, politics, philosophy and knowledge and science are in Sanskrit language. The knowledge of Upanishada, Shaddarshana, Ashtadash Purana, Ayurved, Astorology, Grammer and Astronomy etc. are also in Sanskrit language which is impossible without study of ancient style of Sanskrit learning ancient style of but it is being done away within Madhya Pradesh in a very planned manner.

All Sanskrit colleges and schools were affiliated to Dr. Sampumanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi (U.P.) but they were affiliated to Avdhash Pratap Singh University, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh in 1985. There was not any grant or separate arrangement was made for this purpose. This ancient style of Sanskrit learning is falling down slowly. In this situation there is an urgent need to establish a central Sanskrit university or Sanskrit vidyapeeth in Madhya Pradesh.

At present the condition of Sanskrit education in Madhya Pradesh is that the State Government is planning to do away with the classes of Shastri and Acharya in the existing eight Sanskrit colleges by bringing down their status to higher secondary level in coming session. Non-Sanskrit degree holders have been posted as a principal in Sanskrit colleges. Sanskrit degree holder and under prevailing such practice, it is no use imaging of promotion and upgradation of Sanskrit language. Many a thousand sanctioned posts of Sanskrit teachers have not been filled up for many years in order to discourage the students of Sanskrit education. As a result of it there has been a constant decrease in Sanskrit scholars. My submission is from the Government to take immediate action for the establishment of a central Sanskrit university or Sanskrit Vidhyapeeth in Rewa the birth place of literature Ban Bhatt. While taking these situations into account, there are many Sanskrit colleges situated in Rewa and its nearby areas and the offer of land and building has already been made by the Sanskrit scholars of Rewa.

(iv) Need to set up proposed Zinc mines processing plant at Rupa Hally in Rajasthan.

SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to do Agucha Rampura Zinc mines in my parliamentary constituency, Bhilwara. The Zinc related raw material is taken out from this mine. It provides of higher class and huge quantity of zinc. The recommendation of process plant has been made in Rapasan which is 155 km. far away from this mine and 7 to 8 lakh of rupees will be spent on freight everyday and there are so many problems by which the cost will be increased.

I request the Government that the plant should be installed in Rupahali District, Bhitwara. Thus, transport expenses will be saved and water can also be made available, land is also good, railway line is there and a broad gauge line is being laid this year there.

[English]

(v) Need to connect Bundi and Ajmer in Rajasthan by Rail.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota): The importance of religious monuments such as Dargah of Khwaja Muinuddin Chisti at Ajmer and Pushkar is known to the world over. Conducting survey work for construction of railway track from Bundi to Ajmer to inter-connect various cities, important from the point of view of history, defence and natural resources such as the famous Bundi city, Kota, Baran in Rajasthan and Guna, Gwalior and Bhopal is in public interest. Thus Ajmer and Pushkar will also get interlinked. Even before India attained independence, the work of laying of railway track between Bundi and Ajmer was started, but was left midway due to lack of adequate funds. The track of the above work can be found even today. It is, therefore, requested that necessary arrangements may kindly be made by the Union Government to take adequate measures to start the construction of railway track between Bundi and Nasirabad, Ajmer as per survey report which was completed in the year, 1995. This will prove to be a focal point in inter-connecting the different potential parts of the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. This will greatly help in the development of these regions and is also in the national interest. Agriculture, tourism and industrial sectors will get a new fillip with this. Upon the construction of this railway track between Bundi and Nasirabad, Ajmer these resourceful cities will get connected with Gwalior and Bhopal through the existing railway track via Kota-Baran in Rajasthan. It will be useful to connect the military Chhawanis of Nasirabad and Bhopal.

(vi) Need to give recognition to Karnagarh Palace of Rani Siromoni on the occasion of 200 years of Chuar revolt and also issue a commemorative stamp on the occasion.

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH (Tamluk): Sir, this year is the anniversary of 200 years of 'CHUAR' which sparked off against oppression of British rule in large parts of Midnapur. Chuars, the downtrodden peasants made the land of Jangal Mahal cultivable for their livelihood. But all these lands were brought under the possession of Zamindars by British rulers which caused the revolt. This revolt continued for a long time. Rani Siromoni, a queen of Karnagarh came forward to lead this revolt. She was arrested and kept in jail at Calcutta for a long time. This is a historic event in the history of freedom movements in our country. Therefore, I propose the following to Hon. Prime Minister to take immediate positive steps in the matter of implementation

in order to commemorate this historical event:—

- (a) To give status to Karnagarh Palace of Rani Siromoni as heritage palace by Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Tourism.
 - (b) To release a stamp by Ministry of Communications.
 - (c) Erect statues of Rani Siromoni at Calcutta, Midnapur and in the precincts of Parliament.
 - (d) Include in syllabus this historical revolt for the students.
 - (e) Archaeological survey of the Karnagarh Palace.
 - (f) Financial assistance to the State Government for celebration of the said historic revolt.
 - (g) To set up one monument in the district Headquarters of Midnapur.
 - (h) Undertake research on this historical event.
- (vii) Need to take effective steps for promotion of Scent Industry in Kannauj, U.P.**

[Translation]

14.00 hrs.

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV (Kannauj): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the scent industry in Kannauj which is my parliamentary constituency. Many years ago the scent of Kannauj was famous for its quality in for and wide areas of the country and world over but due to the lack of an effective Government policy, this industry is gradually disappearing in Kannauj. People involved in scent manufacturing do not get assistance from the Government. Scent manufactured in Kannauj is by no means harmful to our body and mind, rather use of this scent makes you feel physically and mentally fresh. If the Government desire, they can earn a lot of foreign exchange also by promoting this scent industry in Kannauj as the demand for this herbal scent can be generated easily in the international market.

I would urge the Government kindly to examine the points raised by me and take actions to promote the scent industry in Kannauj.

[English]

(viii) Need to carry out Tests to ensure suitability of transgene cotton seeds sold by multinationals in India.

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY (Krishna Giri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Union Government a dangerous situation created by the sale of a variety of cotton seeds by a multinational company in Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu.

An American multinational seed company known as Monsanto has set up 40 centres in India with the permission of the Government. It is selling various seeds of transgene genes variety. This company is also selling cotton seeds in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu. Since this variety of cotton was not grown in India, the farmers of Dharmapuri district are in the grip of fear about the nature of these seeds.

Since terminator seeds have been successfully developed in cotton and soyabean, the farmers are afraid that the seeds sold by Monsanto could be terminator seeds. This variety of cotton is known as Bollgard. It is reported that these seeds, like terminator seeds, will affect the soil and the water resources. The farmers are not sure whether they can save seeds even for one crop.

This fear in the minds of the farmers might lead to abandoning the cotton crop. Therefore, I request the Government to direct the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and similar organisations to test all these seeds including transgene seeds sold by multinationals in the country. Only if these seeds are found to be suitable and harmless in Indian situation, they should be allowed to be sold.

I hope, the Central Government will take immediate action to alleviate the fear of the farmers.

(ix) Need for all-round development of Ladakh Region.

SHRI SYED HUSSAIN (Ladakh): As it is known to hon. Members of this House, Ladakh is the most backward region of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Central Government is required to strive for and give all the help to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, for the development and progress of the Ladakh region and do away with the backwardness of the region.

I demand a tunnel to be built across the Zozila Hills to provide the area with an all-weather road approach to

Ladakh from the Valley, Srinagar. The Ladakhi people, thus, will get over a major problem. Thus, Ladakh will be connected by road with the rest of the country.

Kargil's airport, though completed, has not yet started functioning. It is immediately required to open the airport to passenger flights.

It is very urgently required, especially at the moment, to take up the matter of constant shelling of Kargil district from across the border.

Due to closure of and lack of educational institutions and colleges in Ladakh, students are compelled to go to study outside the region, at Srinagar, Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country. Due to backwardness of the area and to make education affordable to them, it is required to provide them with scholarships and financial help. Therefore, I request that Ladakh region should be exempted from income tax due to its backwardness. The region was exempted from income tax prior to the year before last.

(x) Need to look into the Implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana Scheme in Balasore and Bhadrak districts of Orissa.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): As per the JRY Manual effective from 01.04.94 of the Ministry of Rural Development, at para 63.2, it is inscribed that "each well/irrigation source constructed under the scheme of 'Million Well' will be located in the holdings of the beneficiaries and an entry to that effect will be made into the revenue records" and at least two-thirds of the funds utilised under the scheme in any year are to be spent on poor small and marginal farmers belonging to SCs/STs.

Likewise under JRY 22.5 per cent of the funds earmarked at all three levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions must be spent on individual beneficiary scheme for SCs/STs.

However, the SCs/STs/small and marginal farmers of Balasore and Bhadrak districts of Orissa have not got their due share of benefits under the scheme. This is revealed by the hon. Minister of Rural Areas and Employment himself while answering the Unstarred Question No. 1899 dated the 10th December 1998 on the floor of Lok Sabha.

That 759 Community Irrigation Projects, Water Harvesting Structures, Creeks, etc., have been constructed in Balasore district and 353 such structures have been constructed in Bhadrak district in lieu of 'Million Well'

scheme. As regards CIPS and WHS etc., the structures are being constructed on Government land which has not yet been transferred to the beneficiaries since the rules do not permit transfer of possession of irrigation sources constructed on Government land.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter.

- (xi) **Need for early completion of by-pass at Pune in Maharashtra to connect the National Highway with State Highway.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI VITHAL TUPE (Pune): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the number of accidents in Pune city of Maharashtra has gone up significantly due to the heavy traffic congestion on roads. In order to ease the traffic congestion and reduce the resultant pollution, a by-pass project to connect the National Highway passing through the city with the State Highway was started but work pertaining to the parts of Eastern Division is pending completion since long. In view of this, it is urgently required to complete this by-pass road starting from Kaman to Loni Kand as early as possible.

I, therefore, request the Government to accelerate and complete this work as early as possible.

14.10 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we will take up Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The time allotted is eight hrs.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj may move the Motion.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following.

"That the Address be presented to the President in the following terms:

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both

Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 22nd February, 1999."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, under sub-section (i) of section 87 of the Constitution it has been provided that whenever a new Lok Sabha would be constituted, the President will address the joint session of both the Houses every year at the outset of first session of that Lok Sabha. It has also been provided under sub-section 2 of the same section that points raised by the President in his Address will be discussed on the floor of the House by Members of Parliament. Under the same very provisions, today I am initiating this discussion after moving the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. We express our high gratitude towards His Excellency, the hon'ble President for having Addressed the nation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, though President's Address is considered to be a policy document of Central Government but the reading of it by the hon'ble President glorifies and dignifies the entire occasion. But it is really very sad that sometimes attempts are made to mar the occasion by some unexpected incidents. I am sorry to state that this time also certain such incidents took place. Some of our colleagues made an attempt to place their demands before him even before he stood to address the nation. Preferring not to lay much emphasis on that incident, I would say in this context only that it is better if we give up the habits of playing politics on certain occasions. That will save not only our reputation but also the dignity of the Parliament. It will add to the respect of the President and we shall be able to abide a good Parliamentary tradition. I hope that my M.P. colleagues must pay attention to my advice.

The speech of the President plays a dual role. On one hand, it points out the details of the Government's success. On the other it reveals the future programmes of the Government. This address was the last of this century. So, the President, feeling proud of all the post-independence achievements, advised us to face the future challenges with devotion and confidence. It is a happy coincidence that the 50th anniversary of the republic is beginning from this year. So, he made us realize our responsibilities also. I want to thank the President for his such types of introductory statements.

The President started with the national agenda. The National agenda is the document which our Government has prepared after sitting with its supporting parties as the policy and the programmers of the administration. During the last days, I have heard the debates about every subject intently. Shri Mohan Singh in the House at this time. I still remember while initiating his debate on imposition of President's Rule in Goa he had said that

the Congressmen took 40 years in forgetting the ideals of freedom struggle, but the men of B.J.P. have forgotten their political obligations only in one year. This had hurt me because this statement is far from the truth. I want to say through you to this House that this Government is not the B.J.P. Government only; this Government is the Government of the supporting parties led by the B.J.P.

Sir, I don't hesitate at all in accepting that most of our political commitments are not acceptable to the colleagues of our supporting parties. So, sitting with them we have formed the National Agenda, as a programme accepted by all. They know that it is the pressing need of the present political circumstances which is being accepted and worked out by us. So far as the question of the National Agenda is concerned, perhaps there had been hardly any Government which has implemented so soon many points of its declared programmes, as this Government has fulfilled the issues of the National Agenda. National Security was our first priority and I am glad that the President started his address with that. He said in para for "Carrying of nuclear tests successfully in Pokhran on the 11th and 13th May last year has been historical step, thereby India has become an atomic power nation. The Government has taken this step after assessing the needs of national security considerably." The day of 11th May was not an ordinary day. On that day, every Indian rising above the cast, religion and language had felt the pride because everybody had felt himself as an Indian only. On this day, national self-respect had roared, every Indian was walking with his chest and shoulder high.

Sir, it is true that Pokhran Test was not carried in one day. The preparation for this had not started after our arrival. It is true that the search was already going on, it is true that the testing capability had been attained during the tenures of previous Governments. But it is also true Mr. Chairman, Sir, that no Prime Minister had ever mustered courage of allowing the carrying out of nuclear tests despite having the capability. Only one Prime Minister could muster this courage and he is Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. On the one hand, he showed his self-confidence by allowing this test and on the other hand he has presented the proof of his statesmanship having made two important declarations after the success of nuclear test. I am glad that the President has referred to both the declarations in his address. The first declaration was that India will never make use of nuclear weapons against any nation which has no nuclear weapons. This declaration is in conformity with that religion of warfare in Indian culture as per which no armed warrior attacks on the unarmed warrior. He either offers him the weapon or fights by throwing away his own weapon. The second

declaration the Prime Minister has made is that India will not take the initiative of the use of these weapons against the nuclear power nations. That is to say, no First use, no offensive use. Perhaps no other policy can be so logical and strategic as this is regarding the nuclear weapons. Disarmament was not talked of by the previous Governments. They would make the scientists carry out the researches or whenever the question of nuclear tests came, they would say that there was an alternative. I want to ask to what was the propriety of the fact that there was an alternative. We were in a dilemma on both the sides. We were criticised by the international communities even at that time but we were unable to assure our countrymen about their security. There is a saying—"between two stools, we come to the ground." And this was our condition. Today saying that we shall not be first in its use, we are not in any dilemma. Our point has got importance and meaning because we have said that we shall not attack first. The National Poet Dinkar in his poetic work 'Kurukshetra' had said, "Khsama shobhti ush bhunjag ko jiske paas garal ho, ushko kya jo dant heen Vishrant Vineet saral ho". Talking about peace without gamering any strength is cowardice but after becoming powerful not taking initiative in attack and use shows our commitment and devotion to peace.

I, therefore, want to say that this Government had not taken the decision of Nuclear Test in a frenzy or out of ambition. This decision was not taken inquisitively. But the decision of Nuclear Test was taken by this Government in full wisdom, fortitude and farsightedness. As the President was describing the incidents in a sequence, so he referred to Pokhran in the beginning and the Prime Minister's Lahore tour at last. But I want to present both the incidents in the House together. I strongly believe that if 11th May 1998 had not taken place, 30th February 1999 would also have not been there. They have an inter-relationship. The Pokhran of 11th May and the following 28th May of Changai hills made 20th February, 1999 possible. Since it put an end to the historical competition going on between the two countries. The feeling of retaliation seething in both countries calmed down. And this generated the feeling of friendship. It invited the friendship with stretched arms. It caused Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ride the bus and it made both the Prime Ministers of two countries embrace each other. That moment was a historical one which cannot be expressed by Hindi words 'Bhav vibhor' nor by the English word 'Nostalgia'. It was such a moment that putting that feeling into words is difficult. That moment was not caught by the camera only. Not only India and Pakistan but also across the eyes of the world who were gazing at this moment had caught it. That moment has shared the initiative of improving the relationship between India and Pakistan. That incident has cherished a hope

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

to solve the pending disputes for years together. Thus, between two fine margins—Indo-Pak friendship and nuclear tests—two important achievements, the address of the President read out is an important one, wherein the remaining successes and details of programmes are registered. Mr. Chairman, Sir, when nuclear tests were conducted, some angry countries talked of imposing some financial constraints on us. I am pleased that the Hon'ble President took up this point in his address immediately after the nuclear tests and he talked to combat against it very firmly. The Government of India recollected its immigrant brethren at such a time—the Finance Minister formulated a scheme known as "Resurgent India Bond" wherein Non-resident Indians came forward as mammoth donors. And they came in as aid to the Government. This scheme which was meant for any target, was not ascertained as to how much amount will come from Resurgent India Bond. But one calculation was being made by the economists that if two billion dollars *i.e.* 8-9 thousand crores rupees come to the country through Resurgent India Bond, there could be some improvements in the situation. But, I am proud to say that this scheme lasting only for three weeks or working only for fourteen working days has provided huge piles of amount to the Government of India. It has provided two times more amount, than the successful estimates. Two billion dollars was the target of success. But, 4.2 billion dollars *i.e.*, 18 thousand crore rupees were handed over to the Government of India by the NRI's.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a question put up by the former Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram is flashing in my mind. He had asked as to what the prudence of Resurgent India Bond was? Whose mind was working behind the Resurgent India Bond and what was its rationale? I was feeling sad and amazed too after hearing that question because he must be knowing this as the former Finance Minister. He had already seen the Indian economy, he knew that the position of financial payment by India could go haywire under the pressure of financial sanctions. He knew that we had been kept down-graded by the credit rating agencies. If Shri Chidambaram ji was sitting here today, through you, I would have liked asking him whether calling over own people at the time of crisis is illogical, whether we are supposed to justify the logic behind this decision? Are we supposed to justify its prudence? Whether we are required to justify it in detail?

Through you, I want to tell the House that when all the powerful nations were looking at India angrily, when they were putting improper pressure on us, our country was standing with confidence and guts and therein lay the prudence of issuing Resurgent India Bond. This was the logic behind starting that scheme and this was the justification of that decision. Whenever we referred to

Swadeshi, we said it by treating the NRI's as the part of India. While elaborating the concept of Swadeshi, we had said that India would be built by the Indians as we had imagined about the Indians living in the villages, so had we thought also of NRIs. I am glad that NRIs have come as per our expectations and furthermore we have formulated two major schemes relating them with their motherland. One is—P.I.O. card Scheme. It means the people of Indian origin. We have decided that people of Indian origin now would be able to enter India without visa. The Home Minister will soon elaborate this scheme. Now, the people of Indian origin will no more face the problem of visa. Such one more scheme was mentioned in this budget also. It has been started in the budget that automatic approval shall be provided to 100 per cent property and investment put in by NRIs in some areas. I am referring to those schemes in view of the fact that the Indian soil is looking nearer and smelling fragrant to those NRIs living thousands of miles away of India, due to these schemes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we and you often visit foreign countries. It seems to me that the people over there have cherished this dream that the money they have earned there should be invested in their motherland somehow. It seems to me that that time has come when their cherished dreams will materialise.

We had one more commitment. It was to provide an honest and transparent administration. I am glad in saying that our Government had presented the Lokpal Bill in this House in the last session while initiating that commitment. It was being considered for the number of years and it was straying into different committees. We presented it through the Joint Committee. We not only presented this. A discussion had been going on for a number of years as to whether the Prime Minister should be brought or not in the ambit of this Bill? Here in the House the Prime Minister had himself said that the Prime Minister should be brought under its ambit as he is not above any law. The Prime Minister was brought under the domain of the bill we had presented. Not only this, the right to information was also discussed. In this connection, we took another important decision. We not only talked about the fulfilling the commitment of the right to information outside the House and on the floor of the House but also repeated the commitment given in 44th para of the President's speech. It shows how much devoted we are towards providing right to information? Not only this, the Finance Minister has taken a revolutionary initiative in this budget. He has brought the slab of excise duty to 7 from 11, the slab of custom duty has been brought to 5 from 7, probably a common man will not be able to understand this. Many economists have applauded this saying that he has made a blow on the very root of corruption by initiating this system. While

preparing the budget, he has put an end to the role of big commercial houses not only for this time but once for all. Such an honest initiation has been taken by the Minister for Environment also. All of you must have got that letter. I got that letter, too. In it, he said that every scheme approved by his Ministry has been made available on the internet. Nowadays, environment is a very delicate issue. Whenever some scheme is approved by the Ministry, it is frowned at by many. There are not only the details and the names but also the basis on which these schemes have been approved are there on the internet.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was hoping that the friends of the Opposition will applaud these honest endeavours but I was sorry when some colleagues of opposition tried to charge our Government with corruption. Shri Jogi ji is not here. He was speaking loud that the scandal of five thousand crore rupees has come up. Had he been here, I would have asked him if his hang-over of scandals has not come to an end as yet?

An ancient of casting bogus vote in this House took place last week. How could he come out of that? I am not displeased with Jogiji any way. But I am distressed that Shiv Shankerji had raised that issue Sharadji is seated.

If Shiv Shankerji had been seated here, I would have uttered this to his face. He is a senior member of this House and has held many important portfolios in the country. I felt distressed because he had suffered from false allegations. He is a such sort of man who has himself drink this poison and paid a heavy price for this kind of false allegations. I felt distressed to know that he had to resign from the office of Governor because of allegations but allegations levelled on him could not come true even a bit. So I was feeling that the person who had suffered from this type of allegations himself would certainly take some precautions in blaming others but he did not do that. He levelled the allegations on our Government having malafide intention and dishonesty while citing a reference of an article. I want to ask all of you as to who one of us has not faced these kind of allegations. Is it not true that inspite of knowing about the falsity of the allegations, many times this type of allegations are levelled because of petty interest and light politics. Sharadji sits just behind you, Shri Madhavrao Scindiaji sits in your opposite side, Shri Motilal Voraji sits on my side here and Shri L.K. Advanji, Shri Yashwant Sinhaji, Shri Madan Lal Khurana ji sit on my right hand side. Shri Kalpnath Rajji sits adjoining Shri Arif Mohammed Khanji in that block. I want to ask you whether we can return those days to Shri Kalpnath Rajji which he had to spend in the jail without any reason. Will you fix any compensation for that agony and woes which our friends had to bear. For how long will this practice continue after all. These things have taken a very wide shape during

the last ten years and a series of useless prosecution has been going on. Triffling political game can perhaps he had from these but the country will have to pay a heavy price for this.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Kamal Nathji name will also be there.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am mentioning few names only as an example, but I want to ask as to who can not become the victim of this. I want to ask one thing to Sharadji that the role of treasury bench and opposition will continue changing. Sometimes we will be that side and sometimes you will be this side, but the country should be run. We must not throw each other in the burning furnace in order to get petty political gains so that faith of the people of this country towards these institutions may not sink and the people may not think the all representatives of the country as dishonest. If they loose their confidence, we will have to pay a heavy price for this. So, I request my colleagues if they act upon my advice, this country can be saved from being thrown into the furnace.

Chairman Sir, our Government have had a dream to make this country as a prosperous country. I know that this dream can not become true unless the infrastructure development becomes strong. I am happy that the President has only discussed about the steps in para 21 and 28 in order to fulfil the promises of infrastructure development. I don't want to discuss about all these schemes but I want to discuss about a remarkable scheme, the road infrastructure scheme. This scheme is related to the 6 lane road, which will connect Silcher to Saurashtra and Kashmir to Kanyakumari. This is a scheme for constructing an express highway. Probably some people do not think that this is an ambitious and impracticable scheme but I want to say that when Shershah Suri thought about the construction of G.T. roads, some of his ministers must have also thought so. May be, some of his people must have named it as impracticable and ambitious scheme but today, We all take pride of it. You know that for the development of industry and agriculture of this country strengthening of road infrastructure is a must and I want to say from the floor of this House that this scheme is neither impracticable nor ambitious. It is the need of this Government's will power, that it will complete this task and give a very important and developed infrastructure road to India because this Government have already taken near about twenty decisions of its will power which are the examples in themselves, for example, I would like to discuss about the solution of Kaveri water dispute. You do know it because you have been here in this House for years together. You must have noticed the Kaveri dispute being raised here. This controversy had been

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

moving between courts and commissions while going from pillar to post and had been involving between scares of petitions and sinking continuously at last this Government found out the solution of Kaveri water dispute in view of national interest and without having any eye on selfish interest or petty politics and playing the role of the head of the family who performs his duty while bestowing his love, affection and respect upon everybody.

Likewise, I would like to discuss about two decisions of Information and Broadcasting Ministry. As I have said that you have been here in this House for years together you must have seen that the film industry related members of the Parliament were always raising a demand whether it was a budget discussions on the discussion of I. & B. ministry's working. The demand to accord it the status of film industry had been raising in this House and that too for the last 40 years. Today, I am quite happy in telling that the work which could not be completed by the former Governments in 40 years, this Government have completed that work only in 40 days and the Finance Minister has given his consent during the presentation of his first budget...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): What have you done in agriculture sector?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: So far as the agriculture is concerned, this time the whole budget is agriculture based. Rajeshji, at that time Finance Minister had said while pointing at you, I will also discuss about those schemes but now I am discussing about the two decisions of Information and Broadcasting Ministry. The decision which could not be taken by the former Governments during the last 40 years, this Government have taken them within the 40 days. Likewise, another decision about the uplinking facility to Indian companies. I don't understand as to how an illogical policy was going on in this country. Indian companies made rounds before Moscow, Thailand and Singapore and stood with folded hands before the R.B.I.

14.38 hrs.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia *in the chair*]

Their officers used to make shuttling there and say when facilities are available with India as to why they are not provided. I don't know as to why the illogical policy was going on in India. This Government have made a policy and the facility of uplinking made available to all those Indian companies within 3 months which were taking this facility from Moscow, Thailand and Singapore.

Rajeshji, now please give some attention to it. The Kisan Credit Card scheme is a scheme of agriculture. Rajeshji, I am addressing you. You asked about farmers and I was telling that Kisan Credit Card Yojana and Group Insurance scheme were related to the farmers. This Government have introduced the scheme of delicensing sugar industry and scheme of building of 20 lakh houses every year. It is said in my area that if a housewife wants to know whether the rice is boiled or not she does not overturn of full cooking brass-kettle but checks only a piece of rice. So, I am discussing about those schemes which will show the will power of this Government.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak): What about the prices of Urea? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: You have been listening and reading the address of the President of India for the last so many years.

If you have observed one thing in the presidential address that the President had been expressing his concern on the situation of Kashmir for the last many years but this is the first time when the President has expressed his satisfaction on the situation of Kashmir and said a word, he is satisfied and the situation in Kashmir is proving and this is not an imagination. This is a solid reality.

Tourism is touchstone to check the peace and order in any place. The tourism had sunk for the last ten years. Tourists had not been going to Kashmir for the last ten years, as nobody can enjoy tourism on the risk of his own life. Today, the Gulmarg and Pahalgam of Kashmir have reclaimed again, the houseboats of Dul lake of Kashmir have reclaimed again, the advance booking of hotels is going on in Kashmir. I had gone there on the occasion of 50th anniversary of Radio Kashmir a few months before. When I saw hundreds of school children playing in parks, my eyes got wet out of happiness. But I want to say one thing that this is not our destination, this is only a bivouac of peace. Only when the displaced Kashmiris will be able to return to their homes that will be our destination of peace and we are working for this aim. The displaced Kashmiris treat 20th January a day and they have given it a name "The Holo Caust Day". This is the unfortunate day when they had to leave their homeland. They also organised a function in Delhi on the same day. I had gone to their function on this 20th January. I had put up the commitment of this Government before them and said that today they were observing the holocaust day. They had to leave their homes before some nine years ago on 20 January 1990 but this is the commitment of this Government that they will celebrate

"Reunion Day" not the "Holo Caust Day" and go back to their property and live a peaceful life there. That is our destination. And these pleasant halts must be taken us to that destination. We have become hopeful of this speech.

Likewise is the North eastern issue. For as the question of peace keeping in north-east is concerned, I am happy that when the Hon. Home Minister had said here about the talks of N.S.C.N. and told that there had been a ceasefire for one year. This is a great achievement of this Government. Before today, there were some ceasefires of two or three months. You can not go for a peace during a period of three months cease fire. But this is the first time when the insurgents organisations have expressed this faith in this Government and accepted the ceasefire for one year. I want to say before this House that the Government will utilize this period of ceasefire and go ahead towards the permanent peace in north east and we will fulfil its commitment. So far as the development of north-east is concerned, I am happy that the people of these States were demanding industries and there has been a provision of tax holiday for ten years for north-east in this budget. It means a boundless industrial growth will be there. Alongwith this, what a big incident has taken place, this Government have organised national games in Manipur first time. Live telecast was broadcast. First time a local person of north-east has sentimentally connected with a local person of India and vice-versa. The truth is that every person, each category, Indian and foreigners are expressing their faith in this Government. As I have said, lakhs of tourists have approved the peace in Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

I am talking about faith. I was saying that lakh of tourists have approved the peace in Kashmir by reaching there. The non-resident Indians have contributed money through Resurgent India Bonds and expressed their faith in this Government. *Mia Nawaz Sharif* had approved the Indo-Pak friendship by warm welcome of *Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee*. But I know that the functioning of this Government is not suitable to our opposition colleagues its existence is also not suitable, so they will never approve this speech of the President.

I don't expect it but I want to request that *Sharadji* when you stand up for making a speech on this address as an opposition leader, please consider at least one point during the assessment of this Government as to what this Government had received from their former Governments. When we came into the power. We received a corrupt political system, a squeaking economy, a lazy and a burden some administrative system and from all above the lack of majority. There are some limitations of a minority and coalition Government. But

inspite of all these limitations and pressures works were completed by this Government. This Government will be remembered as a directive Government at some fronts. I know that word of *Bhishm Pitamah* when he was on the bed of arrows and *Dharamraj Yudhishtira* had gone to him for getting directions about the State Governance, *Bhishma Pitamah* had told him that you could not escape by blaming the past. If the past had, been good as to why the governance would have been handed over to you.

Therefore, we don't want to escape behind the shield of this inheritance or these limitations. We are shaking off this system. We want to liberate this country from status quo-ism. We are shaking off this country and going towards the system variation and going towards it step by step.

Many times some slogans are raised about me but I want to say that this is my Government, this is the Government of my party. This Government have come into existence after a long struggle and hardworking of many years. The penance and devotion of lakhs of people have made this Government. This Government should run and work well, only this thing is important for me. This Government of *Shri Atal Bihan Vajpayee* will become glorious, fulfil the expectations of the people, this is my desire and praying the God, I present this motion of thanks in this House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: *Shri Ajit Panja*, may second the Motion.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: *Shri Panja's* party will be out of the Parliament this Session. We have read in the newspapers that *Trinamul Congress* will boycott the Session till the telecom rates are not revised. Have they revoked their decision?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (*Calcutta North-East*): Sir, as usual *Shri Pilot* is not well informed. The telecom issue has been kept in abeyance and therefore, we are here. He should be properly informed having known his background and knowing me.

Sir, I am grateful to you for calling me to second the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Sir, I second the Motion. The momentous Address has been accepted by the people with great acclaim because in a very lucid manner our President had delivered the speech, touching the very heart of the

[Shri Ajit Kumar Panja]

people. It is also memorable having its source from Article 87(1) of our Constitution on the 22nd of February our President delivered the speech to both the Houses of Parliament.

Sir, this has been accepted by the people because it has given vent to the feelings and aspirations of our people. The President has spoken not only of the last year, that is eleven months passed by this Government, but also of the future as to what is prospectively to be done so far as India is concerned. Not only in India but also outside India, in the world, this speech has been accepted in view of the confirmed Foreign Policy which has been enunciated in our President's Speech.

The election result, by which this House the Twelfth Lok Sabha was born, has made one point very clear. That is the regional feelings and aspirations have given a vent to people all over India and they have realised that they are all Indians and each State and Union Territory has sent its representatives in the Lok Sabha having a strength of 545 Members.

These regional feelings and aspirations should be honoured by all of us. Under that circumstances, our Prime Minister has given an effective leadership in finding out a national agenda.

Sir, we are a small party with seven Members. We are also called to participate in that agenda and tell to our hon. Prime Minister, who is having the majority of the Members that the very small State and Union Territories are sending one or two Members, even from Bengal we are sending seven Members and that these are the result of regional feelings and aspirations of the people. That is why, on the 1st of January, 1998, the West Bengal Trinamul Congress was born under the leadership of our leader, Ms. Mamata Bandyopadhyay. The reason was that West Bengal was not looked after properly by the Centre years after years and even in West Bengal, the Government there was and is not looking after the districts and the blocks up to the village level. So, the grassroot Trinamul Congress was born and that is called, 'Trinamul Congress' Trinamul means the grassroot. These are the feelings and aspirations.

We are grateful to this Government that we have been given a proper honour by the present Government. Of course sometimes we are not being looked after nor we are being consulted and that is why, we stood on our own ground and on our own manifesto. We stood the other day when the telephone prices were being increased and we told the Government that this should not be done. We are grateful to the Government and

also to the Prime Minister that immediately this Government has reacted and kept it in abeyance until further discussion. We do not get this from the Bengal Government when we ask for justice on any issue.

So far as this country is concerned, each State and Union Territory must be respected for one reason. Mother India is having so many children, hundred crore children all over, each having their own aspiration and each having their own mother tongue. The first thing that we learn, our knowledge comes from the private tutor, that is from the lap of our mother. Therefore, this House must recognise the feelings and aspirations of the people from all parts. Otherwise, there will be a great difficulty.

Sir, a great man, Mao Tse-thung uttered—the CPI(M) forgets about this—"thousand flowers bloom" filling all over China. Each one must be taken care of. All aspects must be looked after. Each corner must be looked after. So far as India is concerned, there is one language, one main language. We have got so many recognised languages; so many people talk in their own dialects. We have so many cultures; it is a mix culture. Therefore, these are the aspirations to be looked after properly.

This Government should be congratulated for succeeding the following within a very short span of time. Firstly, the Government has succeeded in accelerating the process of economic development. Secondly, the Government has succeeded in strengthening internal and external security. Thirdly, the Government has succeeded in concerted effort for betterment of the friendship and cooperation not only with the neighbouring States but also with other countries outside our neighbouring States.

Sir, we must be Indians and be very proud citizens of India. Our freedom was obtained after the sacrifice of a large number of our people. Many sacrifices took place. Therefore, realising that, we must always know as to what should be done in the present juncture. We must be strong. As a Minister, with the blessings of the House and the people, I had been to other places and I had felt, those countries who are sending their representatives just because of they are having nuclear power were given a better treatment.

For what reason? Should not we, Indians, have our prestige? Therefore, Pokhran nuclear test took place on 11th and 13th May, 1998. That made us very proud. I know there are some people who will speak against it. When India became free in 1947, some political parties in India did not like it. They started saying "Independence is not real. Do not forget this fact".

We know when Indira Gandhi ushered in Green Revolution, there were some people there to criticize her. When the late Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, found out computer as one of the ways of development, he was criticized as "computer baby". We know that India will now prosper under the leadership of our able and affectionate Prime Minister. Pokhran has given us pride. We, Indians, can now sit around the table and dictate terms with other so-called strong nations. Therefore, not only this Pokhran test has made us proud, but also there are many instances where various nuclear research will take place and our country will march forward. There were criticisms and that is why our Prime Minister immediately reacted knowing that some people in the country may be misdirected by wrong and false propaganda. Therefore, he announced two things. They are 'no first use' and 'not to use it against non-nuclear weapon nations.' These are the two things announced by him. Above all, why there should be hostile discrimination? It is a global sphere, everyone must be treated equally. Therefore, when others are treated equally, we, India, should also be treated equally. That cannot go on. Under those circumstances, the global nuclear disarmament shall have to be established as enunciated by our hon. Prime Minister.

Let me come to National Security Council. It is a great pride for India that so far as India is concerned, National Security Council also demonstrates the strength of this Government to carry on India's development with independence with heads erect-free from fear.

Sir, the BJP Government came to power. We are criticized as to why we are supporting. It is stated that there will not be a secular Government. I have 20 years experience in actual political life and 14 years experience in this Parliament. So far as secularism is concerned, we had a doubt too. Look at the situation all over India for the last one year. But, Sir, can't you see the last 10 years comparative table shown and disclosed by the authority? It shows that there are a less number of communal incidents and deaths in the last one year when compared to the last 10 years. All the religions had conducted their festivals peacefully during the last one year. Sir, from Trinamul Party, under the leadership of Madam Mamata Banerjee, we were keeping a watch. All the seven MPs were asked to keep a watch all over India about the happenings and to report to the Home Minister and to the Prime Minister. We are grateful to them. With our phone call, we were called immediately and that day itself protection was given by sending appropriate police forces and by making intelligence report therefor. Therefore, so far as secularism is concerned, we had doubts in our minds. We are confirmed that this Government is going to bring in all the religions—Hindu,

Muslim, Budh, Christian, Jain, Parsi and Sikh—together, thereby bringing Punjab, Sind, Gujarat, Maharashtra, David, Utkal and Bang together. This Govt. is maintaining peace and we are happy about it.

So far as the other incidents are concerned, I must mention this. I know the Congress friends would not like it. What has happened to this Party? In Bihar, Dalits are killed. Whatever may be the cause, the support to President's Rule has been withdrawn. But what for? It is just because of Congress want to get power in Centre. I can understand the compulsion of Communist Party (Marxist) and their Members. I can understand because they are in similar position as in Bihar. There are killings in West Bengal. Nobody is looking at it. There are financial irregularities in Public Ledger Account. They are similarly situated like in Bihar. But I cannot understand.
...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DONE (Birbhum): Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what rule?

15.00 hrs.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DONE: I am on a point of order. Shri Ajit Kumar Panja has said that so many killings are going on in West Bengal. That should be expunged.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You quote the rule first.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DONE: Those words should be expunged from the proceedings... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Please sit down.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, you are giving a ruling and they are also giving a ruling!

As I said, there may be compulsions on behalf of the Marxists because they are similarly situated as in Bihar. Killings in Bihar, killings in West Bengal, financial corruption, PLA account case which went up to the High Court, all are there. The same thing, that is, financial corruption is there in Bihar, it is there in West Bengal also. They are similarly situated. Hence CPI (M) did not support President's Rule in Bihar. But what has happened

[Shri Ajit Kumar Panja]

to the Congress? Dalits are being killed. They have forgotten the talisman of Gandhiji that "wherever there is a tear, try to wipe it out", and that is gone. They have cooperated with the Marxist Party. They did not allow it to go to the Rajya Sabha and get it passed; it had to be withdrawn. They will have to pay for this.

That is not correct. As I had been in that party, I know that this was never the philosophy of that party. I had seen an uncompromising Indira Gandhi, I had seen an uncompromising Rajiv Gandhi, and I had seen Shri Beant Singh sacrificing their lives. Gandhiji was ready to give his life whenever there was a call to save the Dalits. I had seen Indiraji giving her life. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon): He was shot dead by Godse. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Do not say who shot him. Kindly do not discuss it. It will open a Pandora's Box. Those people who have done this are from which party? If you want it, I will tell you.

Sir, please see that Gandhiji was killed, Indiraji was killed. We saw that one man shot dead Gandhiji, two men with an AK-47 gun shot Indiraji dead, our beloved prime Minister, Rajivji was thrown apart by a bomb. Two people did it. Shri Beant Singh, the Chief Minister of Punjab was killed by one man. No we must understand the machinations of these people. They go for character assassination first. Hon. members, I appeal to you to bear politely. They go for character; if they do not succeed they go for political assassinations. Look at this great line of heroes. They are dead and gone.

I have suffered. I had not come to this House though I was a Member. For one and a half years I was taken to the Tis Hazari Court. I was not allowed to use the lift because I was an accused having allegedly taken five lakhs of rupees in the Hvala case. It is my constituency and the people of India that stood by me. My mother stood by me. You are not understanding. These are the things coming in. First attack their character because in India we love our character. Then, whom to attack? Attack the Executive. See what the position is. The IAS Officers have been described as, thieves and dacoits. Then what is to be done? Legislature, Executive and Judiciary are there all under character assassination.

Look at the position of the Judges. I am a lawyer myself. If one walks in the corridor, everybody says, "This or that is a thief." All the three main pillars of democracy are gone. Even hon. Speaker's Chair was tainted with black things. Have we not seen that the other notable person Shri Ashok Jain who against whom wrong and false allegations were made is dead and gone? I stood

by myself. I fought it back. What about Shri Ashok Sen? That personality who had earned crores of rupees was alleged to have taken ten lakhs of rupees and charges were framed against him. He is dead and gone.

Kindly appreciate this. Do not go on shouting "corruption, corruption, corruption" under headline news. It will be dangerous. Please look into this. Sit together. I am telling in this House that unless we are very alert on this it will be dangerous. I have seen the gentlemen sitting there, one after another, walking with me in the same Tis Hazari Court for no fault of their own. Stand-up and protest against these evil forces.

People have elected them and got them back. Now we must find out who have done this conspiracy. It is easy to find out but we must be very careful in finding out. Democracy must be worshipped in a proper manner. It is not democracy, it is democracy. Eternal vigilance is the price of our liberty and I appeal to this august House, through you Sir, that this point must be borne in mind by all Members, belonging to all parties.

Terrorism is a proxy war. Our Prime Minister made a statement on the other day and we must have a discussion on that. I had been to Guwahati. The whole town looks like a military town. Military is standing there with open arms. I have been up in the hills in the North East. People are suffering there. Who are the people doing this? Saying that some terrorists have surrendered and those who have surrendered are killing their opponents, is not sufficient. Intelligence must be maintained. I call upon the Government to please look after our brothers and sisters in the North East, their financial needs, their employment. There is no university in Mizoram. In 1986, Rajiv Gandhi decided to give a university to Mizoram, but nothing has been done since then. It is in the list of business. I appeal to you, and through you to this House, that this must be provided. Who is looking after Meghalaya? Who is looking after Silchar? We are saying that from Silchar to Saurashtra we are going to have 6 lane Highway. It is very good, Sir, and it should be there, but we must see that those people who are staying there are looked after economically. Unless they are looked after economically, unless they are economically brought up, things will not improve. They are being won over by outside forces. They are using our youths for the purpose of destroying our mother India. We have such lovely sister States in the North-East, but everyone there is in peril. If you walk in Imphal, you have to go back before six o'clock. If you walk in Silchar, you have to go back inside your home at 8 P.M. Why? If in Delhi we can walk freely, then why not in the North-Eastern States also? The subversive activities of the terrorists, the proxy war, wherever it is in

the country, must be fought out properly and quickly. Otherwise this huge sum of money being spent on arms and ammunitions will continue and our boys and girls in Mizoram will not get any university for the purpose of study.

Sir, it is heartening that this Government has taken firm steps in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a preventive step taken and that is why the number of tourists going to Kashmir has gone up. I congratulate the Government for gradually bringing this beautiful State of Jammu and Kashmir back to the mainstream. We must have a thorough discussion in the House on how it is to be done in other States also. We should decide the focus points and discuss them thoroughly so that our Executive there could be helped properly.

The other point I want to mention is about the economic growth. I must congratulate the Finance Minister who was here some time back. I was, for some times, dealing with the Finance Ministry. It is heartening that they have targeted 6.5 per cent growth in GDP. In spite of various economic sanctions against India as a fallout of Pokhran by some big countries, our people have shown their perseverance and patience and they have stood by us. That is why the Government has targeted 6.5 per cent growth of GDP in the 9th Plan, which is really commendable.

Now I come to the Indian rupee. Have we ever experienced any insecurity with regard to Indian rupee during the last one year? In spite of volatileness elsewhere, the Indian rupee has remained stable. It has kept up its structure. Its value has not fallen down, nor is it quivering like quick silver. This is a good thing achieved by this Government. After we achieve the 6.5 per cent growth rate, the value of the Indian rupee will be increased....(Interruptions) If you do not know the subject, you do not speak please.

I am talking about value system. He is thinking about CPI(M). This is the difficulty. I hope that next time, he will not be in that party.

Therefore, this must be discussed by all of us. Whatever may be the political affiliation, let us stand together. I revere the Leader of Opposition as one of the best political leaders in the country. Let us sit together, give a hand to our Finance Minister and tell him about various thoughts. Sir, the nationalist forces must stand together if we want to withstand the anti-nationalist forces. The nationalist forces should come forward and tell us. They have a vast and long experience not only in this House, in the Ministries at the Centre, but also in Maharashtra. They may please come forward and tell

Prime Minister what is to be done, as we are trying to do. The stability of Indian rupee is a great source of solace to us. Therefore, the Government and the Finance Minister must look into it properly.

Our Budget has addressed itself to the problem of unemployment, but not to my satisfaction. Attempts are being made to solve this problem of unemployment. I do not want to take much time. I will give one small example of what has happened in our country. Sir, 281 posts of Block Sarkar were advertised by Calcutta Municipal Corporation. What does a Block Sarkar mean? It means that the boys and girls appointed to the post will have to go out in the streets in the morning and see whether the sweepers are correctly doing their work and whether hygiene is properly kept or not. One month's time was given for applying for the post. Now, six months have passed. Ten lakh applications have been received. In the Surender Nath Chatterjee Marg office of the Corporation, these applications have been stacked in two rooms. The other day, the Government of West Bengal and the Calcutta Municipal Corporation has come out in public that they have no money and no infrastructure to examine those ten lakh applications. This is the pitiable condition so far as unemployment is concerned. I have already told the Government that there must be a day when all of us discuss this problem of unemployment and how and in what manner, it should be tackled so far as India is concerned.

I must congratulate the Government for National Policy on Agriculture. Eighty per cent of population is living in the rural areas. The other day the Planning Commission stated that 78 per cent of our population is living in the rural areas. The hon. Members will please give their mind that all of them are in the private sector. Our kisans and tillers are not in the public sector. They have no commune. There is no such Soviet system in agriculture. But they are all with two *bigha zamin* and green revolution was brought during Indiraji's time in 1967. I know that CPI Members do not like it. In 1967, Indiraji brought green revolution. I congratulate this Govt. for at least doing something for Kisan. The number of kisans who got credit card has gone up to 20 lakh from six lakh. This is a commendable thing. We must find out something more for them so that they can really utilise it. The kisans of our country are excellent. You give them water to drink and water for the purpose of cultivation, they will really produce gold for our mother India. Therefore, watershed management has been

[Shri Ajit Kumar Panja]

created in one hundred priority districts. It is really a commendable thing. I am sure that the Agriculture Minister will please see that these are implemented as quickly as possible.

Red revolution is good for their own country, whether it takes place in 1917 or 1950. In our country, the "green revolution" established history and this Government has established "white revolution" another landmark of development in production of milk.

It was the highest milk production, 720 lakh tonnes, in the whole world in 1998-99, and it was one of the most befitting things done by this Government.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): The achievement was made during the last one year! What are you talking about?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: In the year 1998-99, the milk production has gone up to 720 lakh tonnes.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Do you know at what age a cow gives the milk?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: What do you mean?

SHRI A.C. JOS: You understood my question, but you do not want to reply to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jos, he is not yielding, please take your seat.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: I know that my learned friend is still labouring under his previous symbol of 'cow and calf'. I know that he is still labouring under it.

India has produced 720 lakh tonnes of milk, and we have ushered into this 'white revolution' in the year 1998-99. I found from the records that India has become the world's largest milk producer. In regard to wheat production, India has obtained the third position in the whole world where wheat is being produced. These are the commendable things which this Government has been able to do.

About Kisan Credit, I have already discussed it earlier and placed my views before this House.

Coming to infrastructure, Sushmaji has already spoken about this particular road. Hon. Members, please do not think that it connects Silchar to Saurashtra or Jammu and Kashmir to Kanyakumari. We are also aware of the golden quadrangle connecting all our big cities. But kindly

think of the movement that will take place. We are not realising that. This is a boon for the integrity of the country. The movement from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Silchar to Saurashtra with the connecting link to all the cities will express the diversity and the culture of India. It is not a lane only because this type of infrastructure will give expression to our cultural heritage. This Government has done a great thing by proposing a National Integrated Transport Policy, which means all the airports, ports, rivers and also units which will connect roads will come under this. It will not only help the economic development of our country but will also bind our different cultures together. This will further strengthen the unity in diversity.

So far as the working-class is concerned, I am happy to note that some attempts have been made and I find that a thought has been given for improving the lot of the working-class. I find that this Government is addressing itself to the problems of the unorganised labour. In case of organised labour, trade union movement has gained ground in our country. But in case of unorganised labour, they are in great difficulty. Being a lawyer myself, I had a free interface with this unorganised labour. They are strewn all over and there is no proper legislation. This Government has addressed itself to the problems of this sector, namely, social security, occupational health safety, minimum wages and safeguards. I had an occasion to deal with seven lakh of permanent workers in the coalfield area. My personal experience is that not only their wages have to be increased, but we must also give them good homes, water supply and health. Working class people should be given a sense of security of home. They must have a good house to live in. They should be able to feel that their wives and children are safe at their home while they are in their work place. This would improve their health which will in turn increase their productivity. I welcome the second National Commission of Labour which has been set up after 30 years. This will go a long way in improving the lot of our working class.

If I do not mention the great work done by this Government for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it will not be proper. The fund allocation for these sections of people has been increased three times. I congratulate the Finance Minister and the Government on this. Fund allocation for the two most important corporations, the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Corporation and the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, has increased three times. This will go a long way in improving their lives. I hope the hon. Members from the Congress party would realise that helping those who indulge in killing dalits will not take them anywhere but

helping this Government to carry out this work will improve the lives of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and instill a feeling in them that they are not a neglected lot.

The Government must take care to see that certain malpractices are curbed. Files are put up for permission to release reserved vacancies into open category on the pretext of nonavailability of candidates in the reserved categories. This practice must be stopped. It must be looked into as to where the posts are advertised. I have personal experience in some of the Departments where I had the opportunity of working. Once a file was put up to me with the request that certain vacancies in the reserved category should be de-reserved as there was not availability of candidates in the category of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes even after the mandatory advertisement was issued. I asked for the advertisement and I found that a vacancy in Tripura was advertised in an English manner in Maharashtra. By doing this they complied with the formality of advertisement and ultimately denied the job to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This must be taken care of by this Government and the officers concerned. The right of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people as provided under the Constitution must be given to them based on the policy.

Sir, I must say a few words about our mothers. If our mothers are not properly looked after, if women are not properly looked after, we will be nowhere. The first facts of life we learned were sitting on the lap of our mothers. Our mothers are our first private tutors. I must congratulate this Government for giving mothers the prestige due to them.

This Government must be congratulated for showing its concern and making a provision for giving 10 kg rice per month free of cost to a person who is old and living in a rural area. They may not be able to reach many places. But this Government must be congratulated for the love and attention that they have shown to our elders. In my village in Burdwan, old people came running to me and said, "Mr. Panja, our sons could not look after us but this Government thought of us. We saw in the newspapers that we will be getting 10 kg rice in a month free of cost. We are very happy. I suggest that this Government must implement it.

Hon. Ministers are sitting here. I appeal to them to leave aside all matters and implement this programme. Wherever the Ministers go they should find out from the Block Development Officers, who are the kingpins in our economic infrastructure in India, whether they have done a survey to find out the number of old people living in their areas and whether 10 kg rice is distributed to them free of cost. There are nearly 558 blocks. If this is done,

we would be doing a great help to people. If this is done, I tell you that God will bless you; and Allah will give you *dua*.

I quite remember, when I was in the Planning Ministry, our beloved Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi called me and told: "Mr. Panja, can you give me one fair price shop within one kilometre of the mother's home? Mr. Panja, can you give me one potable water point two kilometres from our rural mothers?"

And, this is the idea you have been able to carry out. I must congratulate you. Please go ahead and see that this is implemented thoroughly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: I am concluding within a few minutes.

Sir, now, I come to the point of Education. We are at the end of this century. At the turn of this century, what Swamy Vivekananda has said about Education, and I quote:

"A nation is advanced in proportion as education and intelligence spread among the masses....If we are to rise again, we shall have to do it by spreading education among the masses. Educate and raise the masses, and thus alone, national revival is possible."

Now, we are at the end of this century. This Government must be congratulated for finding out what Swamy Vivekananda has said in their Budget Speech. I was pleasantly surprised when I found that the hon. Finance Minister has made a provision that there will be one primary school within one kilometre of habitation. If he implements it, he will be in time with the Theory of Entitlement enunciated by Prof. Amartya Sen, by which he got the Noble prize. Education right is the Theory of Entitlement. Please take it to the people. If this Govt. implements the purpose of having one primary school within one kilometre of a habitation, it will turn India around, and we will be able to have proper planning and development of India.

There is a saying:

Swadeshe pujayte Raja, Vidwan Sarvatha Pujyate.

It means that 'Kings and the Ministers are worshipped in their own countries alone but a learned man is worshipped all over the world.'

[Shri Ajit Kumar Panja]

There is also a saying:

Udarcharitanam tu Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam

It means that A man who is transparent and open in his mind, the whole world is his own family.

Therefore, this education, this Theory of Entitlement, as enunciated by Prof. Amartya Sen has been given proper regard by this Government, and I am sure that they will implement it, and we will be able to go a long way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, I will just conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, this should be your concluding point.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Yes, sir, this is my concluding part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It should be your concluding point and not part

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, after the Pokhran Test was conducted, there was a lot of criticisms by them as if we are going to attack Pakistan. But after it was conducted on 11th and 13th May, 1998, within seven days, another country reacted thinking as if we are competing with them. No, this is not so. Otherwise, our Prime Minister would not have gone there by a public bus from Delhi to Pakistan. He went there with the goodwill which as supported the confidence building exercise. His Lahore visit has created a sense of confidence building between the two countries and the neighbouring places...(Interruptions)

Do you want to say something?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Sir, I do not blame them. After finding our Prime Minister going by bus to Lahore, some people in Bengal belonging to Marxist Communist Party and their leaders are thinking of going by Hero Bicycle from Calcutta to Dhaka. Let them do so. I do not blame them. They have missed the bus and now they are quarreling about it.

Sir, this has gone a long way in establishing what is required to be done. Therefore, in 12 months of this Government, I tell the House one by one the 12 major works done by them. I would like to make the following enunciation about the achievements of this Government:—

- (i) This Government proved that by taking care of regional aspirations National Agenda could be formed and the country could be run.
- (ii) Pokhran successful nuclear tests have made India brave and strong.
- (iii) The proxy war of terrorists has been controlled. The number of tourists has increased in Jammu & Kashmir.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey in the Chair]

15.31 hrs.

- (iv) Secularism has been established firmly by maintaining peace and communal harmony and this Government has been able to prove that in one year, there has been minimum amount of bloodshed than in the last ten years due to communal violence. The best Puja, best Idd and the best of the religious festivals could be continued this full one year long and not a single incident has taken place and wherever there was any incident, this Government immediately tackled it.
- (v) Annual GDP growth rate targetted at 6.5 per cent with Indian rupee becoming stable despite technology restrictions by some interested countries.
- (vi) The Government have caused white revolution with expected milk production of 720 lakh tonnes and becoming the third largest milk producing country in the world.
- (vii) Six National Integrated Highway Projects establishing National Integration firmly from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari and from Saurashtra to Silchar have been taken up.
- (viii) Internet Service provider policy to accelerate the spread of Internet services in the country has been adopted. There is effective progress in software.

- (ix) Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998 to facilitate additional 20 lakh houses in a year has been adopted and easy loans are provided for housing.
- (x) Second National Commission on Labour after 30 years for around improvement of our working class has been set up.
- (xi) Primary education is becoming widespread by establishing Prof. Amartya Sen's theory of entitlement i.e., one primary school within one kilometre of habitat.
- (xii) Extreme good relationship with the neighbours, particularly Pakistan and improved foreign policy have been established.

With these words, I support the Motion of Thanks and second it. "Charai beti" excelsior *Vande Matram* Jai Hind. We must work and advance altogether leaving aside our political aspirations and political struggle.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members present in the House whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated may, if they desire to move their amendments, send their slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial number of the amendment they would like to move. Those amendments only will be treated as moved. A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

Motion moved:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

"that the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 22nd February, 1999."

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to express my thanks for Honourable President's Speech, delivered in the Joint Session. Presently the country is facing a tough situation. We are lucky in that, a dynamic personality like Shri R.K. Narayanan is presiding over the post of President of India, one who can lead the nation very efficiently. Perhaps may be his last address to the Parliament in this millennium. Now we are going to enter into a new century. It is our opinion that India should be a powerful dynamic

nation of the world in the forthcoming century. So it is necessary that India should be a secular and democratic republic in such a way that every person has right to live freely. Alongwith, it is essential to create an atmosphere to strengthen the country for religious freedom to every body.

Now it is need of the hour that India should emerge as a powerful nation. So it is necessary to create an infrastructure in the field of agriculture, industry, services and creativity. This country will also have to accept the recent development in industrial and other sectors also. India has to be a glorious nation, which must have an educated society and confidence in their life. To realise this ambition, it is necessary to have a Government which can lead the country effectively into new country. It is unfortunate that, in such a critical situation, we are having a Government which has a tenure on a daily basis. Its stability exists in 18 allies and they keep on pulling the Government in their own directions. Sometimes it seems difficult to find out whether the key of the Government lies in Delhi, Calcutta or Chennai. Yesterday we have seen that an objection had been raised in the House. We were not unanimous on the decisions they have taken after formation of Telecom Regulatory Authority. It was essential to provide more assistance particularly to those villages after monitoring the situation of telephones therein. We had been seen the attitude of Mamtaji in the House after an Authority had been formed and decision had been taken accordingly. An Authority is formed in several States. It is necessary to implement the decision after seeing the attitude of the public in these States. Honourable Prime Minister speaks very soberly in this regard and we do not see any ally party ready to cooperate him.

Sir, I was listening carefully the address of Honourable President. I have thanked, he had put forth his opinions speech on a very important issue in his address. It is definitely our primary responsibility to up keep the sovereignty of the nation. His excellency the President has told clearly in his address that this Government is determined to safeguard the secular concept of the Government. Concern and grief was expressed regarding the incidents of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa in that speech and it was said that these incident should be treated as exceptional and they do not reflect the image of national psyche as a whole. It has also mentioned that the Government is committed to protect the minorities and instructions have been issued to State Governments to arrest culprits found guilty in such cases, as soon as possible. I want to quote some lines of point No. 29 of National Agenda of Governance. We are committed to establish civilized, generous and judicious system. This system will not discriminate on the

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

basis of caste, religion, class, creed, colour or gender.

"We will enact the concept of secularism in a right manner on the basis of equity to every body and to with respect to our religions according to Indian tradition. We are committed to development of economic and educational development of minorities and we will take initiatives in this regard."

Sir, what has been the performance of Government for last 12 months? It is worth reviewing. Many State Governments are also responsible for this. What do we see in figures and reports? What do we perceive in reports published in the newspapers. A peculiar situation is growing in this country. Well-planned attacks are being perpetrated on the minorities, depressed and Christians since 1998. Reports tell out that 90 attacks have been made on the Christians and churches since 1st Jan., 98. The number of incidents held in this period is much higher than all incidents after independence as a whole. I want to mention some of such incidents. Assault by activists of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh on Catholic Hospital Association of India camp in Lator on Jan., 15, 98. Attack on pilgrims in Dadra Nagar Haveli on March 13, 98. Attack on Christian conference on polo ground in Baroda on April 3, 98. Threat to demolish central Baptist church in Karnool by Vishwa Hindu Parishad in April, 98. Attack on people worshipping during Jesus festival at Palanpur in Gujarat on April 16, 1998. Demolition of Christian religious places by 200 activists of Bajrang Dal at Narira of Gujarat on April 16, 1998. Profanity of male in Little Flower Church in Kossipilly of Kerala on May 5, 1998. Attack with iron bars on Father Omtenio Anthony Nevis by Shiva Sena activists in Amamath of Maharashtra on May 11, 1998. Rape of four nuns in Bhandaria Hospital in a tribal village of Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh. Incident of assault on nuns in Jhajjar district of Haryana. Threat by Vishwa Hindu Parishad to those trying to liberate the Sufi Shrine at Chikmagloor of Karnataka. This is direct assault on the religious bases of the country. Incident to burning churches, missionary schools and vehicles in Surat and Dong district of South Gujarat. Same was the situation of Ludhiana on Dec. 25, 98. The situation is the same at Ojara in Gujarat following an assault by armed persons happened there on October 30, 1998. Similarly most shameful incident happened on January 30, 1998 at Keonjhar district in Orissa in which some Bajrang Dal activist allegedly has burnt an Australian Officer and his two minor sons to death at midnight. Is it civilization?

I want to quote some lines of point no. 29 of National Agenda of Governance. It is said that we are committed to establish a civilized, generous and judicious systems,

a system without discriminations of caste, religion, class, colour, creed and gender. We will enact in true terms the concept of secularism based on equity to person and with respect to all religions according to Indian tradition. We are committed to economic and educational development of minorities and will take effective initiatives in this direction.

We come to know by it as to what today's leadership has its attitude towards these incidents? The point of most concern is that Union Home Minister has viewed these incidents as usual phenomena. He has stated in public that he is well aware of those concerned associations. There is no lawless person in them. Hon'ble Finance Minister has suggested to verify the tax-returns to be filled-up by the associations concerned with minorities. The hon'ble Prime Minister seems to be tranquillizing his partymen. He is of the opinion that there should be a national debate on the issue of conversion. I can understand this thing that there should be a national debate on the issue of poverty, fiscal deficit and discontinuance of subsidy, intellectual property rights as well as on the issue of promoting direct foreign investment. One can understand this but the point regarding conversion by Prime Minister seems to be diverting the nation from the issue of national debate. It implies the smell of excusing rioters. He pointed out that if the conversion was permitted, reconversion could not be avoided. This is just a way of provoking those elements.

Speaking at a press conference, the General Secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Acharya Giriraj Kishore has pointed out avowedly.

[English]

Christian Missionaries should leave India if they indulge in converting Hindus forcibly.

[Translation]

Just fifteen days or three weeks before a day long convention of Bajrang Dal was held in Mumbai. International General Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad demanded in the convention that there should be an assurance from the churches in India that not a single Hindu should be converted otherwise its full responsibility will be on entire society and their associations. I am not surprised to note it because such views have already been put up before the society. The book entitled "Buch of Thoughts", written by Sh. M.S. Golwalkar, a mentor of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh ratifies these thoughts. He has clearly pointed out that Christian, Muslim as well

as communist are threats to our internal security. Therefore, these points are old. This thing is taught after having adopted its ideology since the very formation of this organisation. The association is made by adopting this very ideology. I have no surprise that these forces will take steps in such a way when this Government comes to power. Thus, there is a need to take step for checking these forces.

I had got an opportunity to visit Gujarat. People hailing from minorities, gave me memoranda along with cutting of some newspapers. A Shantiniketan High School, situated at Jhhankhaw, is being run there for years together by Jesus priests of Loyala Education Trust. It has been attacked slightly. The local B.J.P. leader Shri Ganpatbhai Vestabhai had said there

[English]

"Our Government rules in the State and the Centre. No one can touch us"

[Translation]

No action has been taken so far on the FIR lodged against him. I want to just say that about 2 crores Christians are residing in India. They had never had that fear and threatening earlier as they have today. Christianity is not a new religion to India. It was propagated here in the first century. Actually it was brought first from western Asia to Kerala province of India by St Thomas, one of the 12 pupils of Jesus Christ and it spread over Europe later. St. Thomas Church of Chennai stands a living example in this context. In view of this Christianity is a religious of India and we do not treat it as a foreigner. There are about 2 crore Christians in India that are 2.3 percent of total Indian population. It is an interesting thing that the population of Christians has gone down for the last few years. If the conversion had got made by force, their population would have gone up. The reports we are getting, mention that total Christian population is not increasing. Therefore, how far is it justified to allege of converting? It requires thinking, Christianity is a peace-loving society. It has given unprecedented contribution to the sector of health and education. A number of B.J.P. leader including Home Minister Shri Advani ji have got education in Missionary School. In such event it becomes a matter of great sorrow when B.J.P. and members of the Sangh support the attack on that community where as the positive contribution of our society is far more compared to the ratio of their population.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the sequence of such incidents began from 6 December, 1992 when the Babri Masjid was demolished. Thereafter, extremist forces concentrated their mind to Christians; I do not know why and how such understanding persists in them. Vishwa Hindu Parishad has objections over the activities of Churches. But the irony is that Vishwa Hindu Parishad and its other associations like "Global organisation on people of India" include in propagating Hindu religion all over the world. It would have been a matter of gratification if they had worked for enhancement of India's prestige, but they have been engaging in propagating the Hindu religion in countries like America, Britain etc. They are trying to reconvert those Hindus who have already been converted into Christianity Islamic. We have no objections to it. They have launched a campaign to bring them back to their homes. According to them, reconversion is termed as home-back campaign. What a strange thing it is that if these associations take part in reconversion abroad, it is unquestionable while the same counterparts do think about society someone's religion and somewhat try to infuse the feeling of struggle in the hearts of common people, it is said to be objectionable. What a contradiction between the two is religious faith cannot be produced by means of force or illusion. Conversion is deeply rooted into the heart. However, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad intends to impose ban on conversion by making legislation while the Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees every individual to exercise and propagate his religious code of conduct without any fear, force and obligations. Despite it, I don't know as to what apprehensions are stored in them. Whether they think that population will be outnumbered by the Hindu one and something unprecedented will happen.

This is the desperate situation losing in most spirit of feelings and seems to me that there is need to be considered it here skilfully. Now the question arises as to who are the victims of conversions. If we glance at present scenario, we find the majority of the converted people come from scheduled tribes and down-trodden. The reason of it may lie in atrocities, their poor economic conditions as well as violation of dignity. And the issues which are raised repeatedly relate to the reason of reconversion adopted by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Sangh association or the members like that Articles 25, 26, 27 and 28 guarantee the fundamental rights of the people like freedom of speech religious discourse and constituting religious associations are provided in the Constitution but the Constituent Assembly itself is not satisfied with these provisions. The constitution-makers had made provisions in the Constitution separately while responding full faith in minorities, which is pertaining to freedom of religion. It is not so that the Members of the Constituent Assembly were unaware of knotty problems

[Shri Sharad Pawar]:

like Conversion or Mission. Shri K.S. Munshi was an eminent member of the Constituent Assembly. I wish to quote his remarks in this regard.

[English]

"Even if the word 'propagate' were not there, I am sure under the freedom of speech which the constitution guarantees, it would be open to any religious community to persuade other people to join their faith so long as religion is religion conversion by free exercise of the conscience has to be recognised".

[Translation]

I am sorry that the Government on one hand criticizes these incidents on various levels and on the other hand, it instigates to create such circumstances in which inhuman happenings like this often take place. The most-gruesome point is that the Gujarat Government ordered the intelligence to survey Christian population spread over the entire State, which is aimed at exploring the activities of Missionaries as to how they can convert the people. In my opinion, it is barely acceptable to a civilized society. However, it gives me a pleasure to know that the Government has not withdrawn its stand, I regret it that all these happened in the name of Hinduism. Few years ago, the Masjid was demolished in the name of Hinduism. Few years back, flames of Hinduism burst forth in many major cities of the country like Mumbai. Well organised attacks are being made over the last nine months under the fugitive shade of religion. It is possible that widows can be compelled to become 'Sati' in the name of this very religion. I would like to ask as to who are the persons talking of Hinduism who has given them authority? What have they done for Hindus?

Sir, I am trained in nehruvian tradition, which is enshrined to set up a mutual relationship between Almighty God and human being through the religion and it is no need of making it public. I always abstain from unifying politics and religion in my public life. However, I am compelled to speak today prominently on not only my party and country but on the interest of Hinduism also. I am proved of saying that I am a Hindu. The State which I belong to is Maharashtra. The State where industrialisation made, the works of social, agricultural and technical development took place is somewhat distinct from its other counterparts...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

He is not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

16.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Why didn't you show sympathy to the Hindus when nine Hindus were set-on fire in 1993 in Radhabai Chawl. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rawale, please sit down. He is not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is said to be land of saints having so many temples. Out of 12 Jyotirlinga, eight ones are there; Asht Vinayak are also there, followers of Sain Baba are spread all over the country. His Shirdi is there. Chhatrapati Shivaji was born there. He was a man of era, always imparting messages that there is no need to oppose someone's religion, attack individuals in the name of religion. He did not struggle against individual religion. He did struggle against the tyrannic rules, but now-a-days he, too, is being misinterpreted, its a matter of great sorrow. So far as Congress is concerned I would just say that my party always stands by the Hindu code of conduct preaching "sarve-janah sukhino bhawanti" (May be all happy). We have firm belief in the tradition of Hindu spiritualism, quoted by Swami Vivekanand during the course of speech at Datroit in 1894. I wish to excerpt some of his speech:

[English]

"Like so many rivers flowing from different mountains all coming and mingling their waters in the sea, all different religion taking their birth from different standpoints, in fact, come into thee. This is a part of the child's everyday prayer in India. With such everyday prayer, of course, such ideas as fighting because of difference of religion are simply impossible."

[Translation]

The father of nation Mahatma Gandhi is always remembered by us. He characterised the Congress as a public move by taking it out of the limit of intellectual ideology, which eventually succeeded to root out the British rule of India. He was very righteous man. He had a dream of Ram Rajya. I wish to quote his words.

[English]

"I do not mean Hindu Raj. I mean, by Ram Raj, Divine Raj—the Kingdom of God or the Khudai Sultanat again—My Hinduism teaches me to respect all religions—in this lies the secret of Ram Rajya."

[Translation]

Congress party and Mahatma Gandhi did not conceive national movement as political move. However, it implied freedom, smell of strong protest against British rule, Gandhi ji had perception of making social change at the same time. We can never forget his struggle against untouchability which he had launched in order to provide the rights of equality to the downtrodden. Earlier, the downtrodden were not entitled to enter the temple premises.

We talk much about Sardar Patel. He was such a leader who has made great contributions to Somnath-Temple. Despite it, he is being misinterpreted now-a-days. He had a thinking that we construct a temple with a sense of security and we can build country with the same spirit. He never said Muslims needed to migrate to Pakistan. He showed the whole country how to revive nationalism by means of temple construction. I would like to ask the Bharatiya Janata Party, which has been ruling over one or two States for a decade, what it has done for the Hindus in those States. Sir, I can tell you about myself. When I was in power our Congress party would sanction Rs. 25 crores each year for the development of the religious places.

Make there good roads, provide regular water supply to the people, provide better health facilities and spend 25 crore rupees every year for this work. The people from all parts of India come to Mumbai for their onward journey for Haj and when the Congress Government was in power, it decided to give financial aid for the purchase of land and construction of Haj House for these pilgrims.

I would like to ask, while B.J.P. Governments is ruling in U.P. at present, what, is the position of Vrindavan. We read daily that Vrindavan is a sacred place of Hindus, have some steps been taken to improve the condition of the people living in Vrindavan? We read in newspapers daily that the widows of Vrindavan are leading a very miserable life. Newspapers publish their stories But we have never seen that U.P. Government has done anything for their well-being.

Take the case of river Ganga. When late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India, he prepared a

Ganga Action Plan. The people of the entire country go there to have 'darshan' of this sacred river, take a dip into it and fetch water from this river. I need not to explain the condition of water of this river but crores of rupees have been spent to make the water of this sacred river clean. But after the implementation of Ganga Action Plan by Rajiv Gandhi Government, no effort has been made to make this programme successful. U.P. Government has not done any thing in this regard. You can not do justice with Hindus by merely raising the slogans or giving our false hopes, when you have got power you should exercise it for the betterment of the down-trodden people of the society.

We can see today the condition of Gujarat. A team of National Minorities Commission went in Gujarat and has given its report. I want to quote a few lines from that report.

[English]

I quote:

"The Commission find it specially painful that the Minorities should have such feelings of insecurity and complaints of deprivation of civil rights in the State of Gujarat, which has the distinction of having given birth to the Father of the Nation. The Commission wishes the State Government to realise its extraordinary responsibilities in view of this glorious historical fact. The Commission is constrained to urge the concerned custodians of constitutional authority in Gujarat to take effective steps to establish complete religious harmony in the State and ensure that the Fundamental Rights are freely enjoyed, and the Fundamental Duties diligently adhered to, by all citizens living in various parts of the State."

[Translation]

This position is prevailing in that State where so called B.J.P. which shows great faith in Hindu religion, is ruling. I do not feel that whatever the President of India has stated in his address regarding the Government having been successful to maintain communal harmony, is not acceptable to me...(Interruptions) He has been made to state like that...(Interruptions) In my view this statement is not correct.

I have mentioned about Hindus but same is the fate of the poor people of the society. What is the reaction of the Government in this regard? When Bihar issue was being discussed in this House quite a good number of statements were given regarding safeguarding the interests

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of the downtrodden people. This is a fact that attacks are made on the down-trodden people but nobody will accept and support it. Each Government is responsible to win the confidence of the people of the lower strata of the society and protect their rights. But who has got this right? The Government which poses to work for the welfare of the down-trodden people, its way of working could be seen by its attitude towards the institutions related to downtrodden. I want to give example of this very year. The Government of India has established Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Foundation. This foundation is under the Ministry of Welfare. Some amount was allocated for this foundation in the last budget. A few schemes have been prepared and this House been assured too of implementation of these schemes. I would like to highlight the situation of two-four schemes.

[English]

Funds to the tune of Rs. 250 crore were allocated for the Scheme for opening residential school for the girl students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, OBC and minorities. Name of the scheme is Kasturba Gandhi *Swatantrata* Vidyalyaya. The Government of India had allotted Rs. 250 crore in 1997-98. Again, a sum of Rs. 250 crore was allotted in 1998-99 when this Government came. Till today, not a single paisa has been spent. Even the scheme has not been prepared. A number of applications is pending there. But, this Government has not acted on a single application. That is why each and every paisa could not be spent.

[Translation]

We talk about Baba Saheb Ambedkar repeatedly, he played an important role in the enactment of the Constitution. He holds a special stature in the world. It was decided to construct the foundation at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi where he used to live by taking over that area. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of women made a provision of 27 crore rupees for it. But the Ministry did not spend even a single paisa. Resultantly, the whole money has lapsed.

Like this I would like to mention one more point.

[English]

Funds to the tune of Rs. 40 crore were released for the schemes of Ambedkar Fellowship and Ambedkar chair.

[Translation]

Funds to the tune of 40 crore rupees were provided for these schemes, but till today not a single paisa has

been spent on them. Some funds have been diverted but I have no knowledge about it.

[English]

Funds to the tune of Rs. 25 crore were provided for the rehabilitation of the displaced tribal families during the year 1998-99. This Government was there. Funds were not utilised and money has been diverted elsewhere.

[Translation]

Funds to the tune of 25 crore rupees were provided but they were not utilised.

[English]

Funds to the tune of Rs. 7 crore provided for the special Education development Programme for Scheduled Tribes of very low literacy level in 1998-99 Budget was not utilised.

[Translation]

In 1998-99 budget, 7 crore rupees were provided for this scheme but not a single paisa has been spent on it. Even the scheme has not been prepared.

Like this, I would like to conclude by saying that a scheme was prepared for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Schedules Tribes and funds were allotted for it. A provision was made to set up for N.G.O.s. But during the last 11 months not a single rule has been framed in this regard and nobody has received any financial aid. This amounts to the tune of about 350 crore rupees and they claim that they are proposing to prepare the new plans for Baba Saheb Ambedkar and for protecting the interests of the down-trodden people but during the last 11 months not a single paisa has been spent. I need not to say further how much good intention you have towards the down-trodden people. It is the prime responsibility of Government to protect the interest of all Indians whether they are down-trodden, tribals, Muslims or Christians. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): May I interrupt? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what he says is incorrect ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I would like to quote Item No. 2 of the National Agenda of this Government. We would continue the reform procedure. "We would like to give stress upon the spirit of swadeshi so that the national economy may develop on the principle that India should be developed by the Indians. The reform shall be evaluated after eradication of unemployment and development of infrastructure specially by giving special impetus to increase the production of energy and power" We have been given an assurance in the National Agenda that we would increase the growth rate of G.D.P. to the tune of 7-8 per cent.

Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Finance has presented his third budget. When he presented his first budget, he put forward 8-10 points before the country.

[English]

I quote.

"Strengthening the foundation of Indian economy, revamp the decline in agriculture, strengthening the rural economy, restore the momentum of industrial growth, accelerate the development of infrastructure, rapidly expand job opportunities, impetus to the social sector, integration with the world economy, revival of exports, ensure macro-economic stability, control over inflation rate and domestic savings and free the productive energies of the people from the bureaucratic hurdle and control."

[Translation]

Whatever is the overall position of the last year, it needs to be seen. About a year later we have seen that there has been a downfall in the domestic production growth and G.D.P. It is expected to be below six percent today. The data that have been given show that we are

going down below six percent instead of the expected six or seven percent. Industrial growth rate has come down from 6.2 percent in 1997 to 3.6 percent in 1998. The position is not so bad in the area of agriculture. There was some damage due to rain but its responsibility does not lie with the Government. As per the Government's own data, there was an important development of 7.5 percent in the area of energy during 1998 but it was at 8.7 in 1997. The trade deficit of the country got doubled from 2.6 billion dollar to 5.8 billion dollar and it is difficult to make good this deficit because the foreign investment came down to 644 million dollar in comparison with the last year. During the year 1998-99 the outflow of money from the country through foreign institutional investors has crossed the 672 million dollar mark. The 1998 financial status indicates that our revenue expenditure grew by 28.5 percent and the income of the country remained only at 11.7 percent, i.e. the financial status has the revenue expenditure growth at 28.5 percent and the income at 11.5 percent. Custom duty, Excise duty, corporate tax—all these amount to the shortfall of Rs. 10,000 crores in the country today. As per a speculation by the Reserve Bank of India, the revenue deficit is expected to cross the budgetary target of 5.6 percent from the gross domestic product.

This situation is going from bad to worse day by day, trade gap is increasing and our foreign trade is badly affected, there is a heavy downfall in the industrial areas and the position of banks has further deteriorated because non-performing assets have increased in the banks which are priced at more than 55 thousand crores and therefore, its whole impact is there on the economy. Under such circumstances I am unable to understand that His Excellency the President has said in his para 13 that.

[English]

"The economy has fared reasonable well and our G.D.P. growth rate should be one of the highest among the developing countries."

[Translation]

I feel that the saying 'a figure among the cyphers' is coming true here. What a position is there today, all areas are witnessing downfall. When this proposal was presented in the House today, Shri Ajit Panja supported it and he bid welcome to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Government. He said that 720 lakh ton milk was produced in this country. He expressed great happiness. 720 lakh ton milk was produced in this country after the Government was formed. When the cow was born and how many days she took to be a milk cow, but he bid welcome, I can understand this. He said that there was

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much improvement in the wheat area. The revolution that was there in the field of agriculture in this country was due to a new point of view given to the farmers by Dr. C. Subramaniam who was the Minister for Agriculture in the times of Policy of Pandit Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru. You cannot overlook this fact because it is a part of the history of this country.

'Kisan Cards' were mentioned here. I do not know how far this 'Kisan Card' has reached. I enquired in my State but could not come to know. A few banks might have given 'Kisan Cards' to a few persons at some function somewhere, but to make a statement here about fulfilling the responsibility of the common farmers' credit by taking some firm steps, I feel, is like perpetrating atrocities against the farmers.

Last year it was heard thrice from the Minister of State for Agriculture himself that they were about to announce a National Agricultural Policy. I listened to his speeches outside this House also that the Government was going to announce a National Agricultural Policy. I am happy that our Hon'ble Prime Minister is present here. He has the Agriculture portfolio as well. I want him to tell this House, the country and the farmers about National Agricultural Policy so that the people of the country may take benefit by it. If the Policy is good, we will also welcome it.

The second thing was mentioned about crop insurance here I do not understand to what facility, changes or improvements are there in crop insurance. Yesterday, there was a question before this House and a reply was given to it as to how many farmers committed suicide in various States. I am reading out from 1998 figures. Andhra Pradesh has reported 315, Karnataka—60 and Punjab has reported 418 suicides by farmers. The figures from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are not available. But what a situation. Earlier, it was restricted to Andhra, Karnataka and Punjab only. This question was restricted to 2-3 States, but then the farmers took to suicides on such a large scale. No step has been taken towards having the kind of crop insurance policy that is needed today to save his farming and the spoiling crop. Hon'ble Prime Minister is sitting here. He is looking after the Ministry of Agriculture also. Much more attention is needed to be paid to it.

I want to place two more questions here about agriculture. India is number one in the production of sugar. The whole country has the requirement of 150 lakh tonnes of sugar. Last year the production of sugar was 194 lakh tonnes. It was more last year by 53 tonnes. This year the production would be 150 lakh tonnes and so would be the requirement.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): We are not getting the translation. This is an important issue. Justice should be done to us. We want to hear the speech of the Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): If there is no translation, let him speak in English.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: This is what is happening to the Members of Lok Sabha. We have to follow that. It is going on more than 50 minutes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Why there is no translation?

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South): Please arrange for translation.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: An arrangement will be made for this.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: We cannot follow Hindi completely. That is why, we are asking for translation. We want to hear what the Leader of the Opposition is speaking. This is not the time to play.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: An arrangement is being made for this.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Despite the total production being 150 lakh tonnes in the country and 53 lakh tonnes of excess stock last year, the sugarcane grower, be it from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat or Maharashtra, he is facing a lot of problems. Despite so much production of sugar in the country you have opened the door for sugar to be imported from outside. I saw as to wherefrom the sugar came in India. It came here from Pakistan. Our target was 12 lakh 61 thousand 399 lakh ton sugar.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, translation is not coming. There is no translation.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been told that there is no translation. He is making an arrangement for this.

[*English*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Should I stop. Should I wait for that?...(*Interruptions*) I do not mind. I will wait for that, then let us adjourn the House.

SHRI P.S. GHATOWAR (*Dibrugarh*): If we do not get translation, what is this? We will adjourn the House...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: This Government is not functioning here.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: A little problem is there. He is taking care of that.

[*English*]

So, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 4.40 p.m.

16.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty minutes past Sixteen of the Clock

16.46 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Forty-six Minutes past Sixteen of the Clock

[*Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey in the Chair*]

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*CONTD.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I was telling that India is number one in sugar production in the world. It is our duty to protect the interest of those farmers who produce sugarcane. They are more than four crores. A larger number of labourers work in sugar processing industries

also. The requirement of sugar is 150 lac tonnes in this country. We have the last year's stock of 65 lac ton sugar.

The farmers of this country have produced more sugar than this country requires. Excess sugar is lying in godwons. In such a situation it is our and Government's duty to protect the interest of those farmers. But which step this self claimed Swadeshi Government took? It imported the sugar from abroad. An agreement to import 21,05,702 tones sugar is reached during the last few months and out of it 16 lac tones sugar has reached in the country. Each country has taken some steps, made some laws to import sugar. If we export sugar to Thailand, we have to give 104 percent duty to the Government of Thailand. If you have to export sugar to European Countries, you have to pay 300 percent duty thereon. If we export sugar to Mexico, we have to pay 179 percent duty but only 36 percent duty is to be paid if some one exports sugar to India. Other countries pay 36% duty if they export sugar to India, but if we export we have to pay 104%, 173% and 300%. Therefore the sugar canes grew by the farmers and processed in the Indian Industries can not compete in international market. This is the situation here. You would be surprised to know that the sugar imported in India is largely from Pakistan. Production expenditure of sugar is more in Pakistan than in India but the Pakistani Government gave the subsidy of Rs. 6 per Kg. and after the subsidy it came to India. When the matter was raised in the House, Government of India raised the duty upto 36%. But the day we raised the duty and issued notification, the same evening the Government of Pakistan raised the subsidy.

Therefore when the sugar is imported from Pakistan, Mexico and Brazil, we advocate Swadeshi and talk of interest of sugar producers. I want to tell the Government that in Agriculture sector on which majority of population are dependent, policies should be formulated sincerely. We put ban on the export of onions when its rate go up and this Government is responsible for selling onions after importing from abroad. Today after 40% more onions produced than required, the rate came low. The farmers are not getting the cost of cultivation and then this Government has given a limited quota as a step to go permit more. Therefore the farmers of this country have faced by loss.

This year country witnessed record production of wheat. 72 million tonnes of wheat production is estimated. I suggest to take some immediate steps for the export of wheat and rice. If you permit farmers to export grains when he brings in market, he would be benefited and if he is permitted after six months, traders would be benefited. 50% of onion produced has reached in the

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market and traders have bought them, now the Government of India is thinking to export. This fact proves that Government of India is protecting the interest of traders in spite of farmers. This proves that allegation of nexus between Government and traders is true. Therefore there is need to take some steps...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Sir, the hon. Member has said that import duty on sugar is hiked to 36 per cent. There were press reports saying that it is only 20 per cent. I would like the Finance Minister, he is sitting here, to clarify the position. The import duty was 5 per cent earlier. The Finance Ministry proposed to make it 50 per cent. It is being said that the Ministry of Commerce has not agreed to the 50 per cent hike and reduced it to 20 per cent. I would like the hon. Minister to kindly clarify the position if the proposal of the Finance Ministry was turned down by the Commerce Ministry.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: What Shri Devegowda has said is correct and what I have said is also correct.

[Translation]

Because the proposal given was not accepted by the Ministry of Commerce. Shri Devegowda said right that after raising 20% and adding other fares, duty is 36%. The Government of India has taken this decision recently. It is true that duty is raised than earlier and its result was visible in the market in the beginning but changing its decision Pakistan gave more subsidy. The situation did not change. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, because a person of the stature of a former Prime Minister has raised this issue, I would like to clarify. Shri Devegowda must be aware of the fact that duties are fixed by the Finance Ministry in the Department of Revenue and not by the Commerce Ministry. Therefore, the information that he has received is unfortunately not correct.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I have posed a specific question.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I just said that it is not correct.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: All the grains whether they are wheat, rice, onion, tomato or sugarcane have lowered and its bad effect will be on the lives of 70% population living in villages. Therefore there is need to take some strict steps regarding it.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to raise one more issue Shri Ajit Panja has praised the Government in the House as it has taken some good steps regarding women. I quote the text and read which Hon. President has said in Para 16 we will make laws to provide 33% reservation to women in the Parliament and State legislative assemblies. I know that discussion we held on this issue in the last session and then Parliamentary Affairs Minister had promised to introduce the Bill to provide 33% reservation to women in the first week of next session.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar): You cheated and breached the faith of House.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Congress party is ready to support reservation of 33 per cent to women. Even today we are ready to support it...*(Interruptions)* I am not supposed to entertain irresponsible statements. The Congress party has never let down anybody. The Congress party is ready to support even today. If this Government has the guts, let them bring this proposal. We will support this and we will pass this, and we will see that it is given. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is hoping to be a Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Ajit Panja has praised, may be he hopes to get a place in the Government.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to say that perhaps he forget that Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji has introduced the concept of reservation for women in this country for the first time and it was implemented at Panchayat level during Congress regime and this step encouraged women to come forward and give them respect. I feel proud to tell that when I was incharge of Defence Ministry despite of opposition to appoint women in Army from all three forces, I permitted women to join army as I had fair intention and wanted women to progress. I was firm on my views and gave chance to women to join army. You will be

surprised to know that a high ranking responsible officer of air force has said that ever since the girls have joined as pilots, accident rate has come down because they are more attentive to that. I, therefore, want to say that it is for us to bear this responsibility. According to the hint, given by the former parliamentary minister, a resolution regarding 33% reservation for women was not moved in the first week of this session of the House whereas we expected the Government to move the resolution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, President's address contains many important issues but it appears that no attention has been paid to the budget according to the issues mentioned in the address. Paragraph 33 of the address says:

[*English*]

"Information Technology presents the greatest single developmental opportunity for India in the 21st century. The entire edifice of tomorrow's knowledge-based economy and society will rest on its foundation. India's natural advantage in establishing global dominance in IT is today widely recognized. This recognition is based on the shining success already achieved by our IT professionals and entrepreneurs both in India and Indians working abroad."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what has been said about it is correct. President did say but whatever provision has been made in the budget in this regard does not seem to have any impression of the President's address.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a committee was constituted in connection with information technology and hardware and software which made some recommendations. P.M.O. also spoke about those recommendations that they should be considered in the budget but I am compelled to say that no attention has been paid to the recommendations in the budget presented by the Government. It appears to me that such kind of deeds belittle the credibility of P.M.O. also.

Out of the recommendations some questions and demand have been put up before the Government:

17.00 hrs.

[*Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh in the Chair*]

[*English*]

"Instead of lowering of excise duty to help improve PC penetration, the excise duty, in fact, has been raised from 13 per cent to 16 per cent for finished products.

Reduction of the duty on import components like ICs and storage devices from 12 per cent to 5 per cent is a mere eyewash exercise as most of the products were anyway attracting 5 per cent import duty."

[*Translation*]

There are three to four more issues in it, but no steps have been taken up for them. Therefore, some steps are needed to be take up because we can not reject information technology. As much help we can provide them, it must be.

There are some other issues about which discussions are being held time and again. That is about biotechnology and India has distinct place in this field. India can create a dominant place for herself in the world. Therefore, no place to rights intellectual estates and biotechnology was given in the President's address, something should be made about it. He said something about it when I narrated the budget speech delivered by the Finance Minister. He had made a declaration of National Bio-Resources Board here. I have to provide you one or two pieces of information that he wants to put it under the Ministry of Science and Technology. It appears to me that it needs to be thought again. Agriculture Ministry perhaps may have more work than it. Some steps are required to be taken up along with it about which demands have been made here. The suggestions which are given therein.

[*English*]

"Create a dynamic biotechnology Mission directly under Prime Minister to oversee policy implementation and good setting for the development of biotechnology in India. This Mission will chalk out schemes to transfer technologies developed in labs to the field and train rural youth in basic biotechnology methods like tissue culture, budding, grafting, seed multiplication etc. to raise a large cadre of skilled manpower that can translate biotechnology into action at the rural level. This will also create jobs in rural areas."

[*Translation*]

This suggestion has been given to the Government. I have talked of biotechnology mission which should be

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directly under the Prime Minister. Some more missions under it are required to be proposed. That mission may be about health environment and industry because biotechnology may bring about a great revolution and change in all these fields and therefore, much attention is required to be paid to it. I want to say only that in this connection nothing has been said in the whole address.

A lot of things have been said about foreign policy I do not want more time because my friends want to speak on this issue. I have to say only one thing that Prime Minister's Lahore visit was discussed greatly and widely in and outside the House. It was said that this visit would become a milestone to make the relations friendly between India and Pakistan. My party is in favour of improving our relations with Pakistan or neighbouring countries and we will support it if any body makes an honest effort in this connection. I admit that the step taken up by Shri Vajpayee is a constructive one. I welcome it. It is required because we will have to have good relations with our all neighbouring countries whether it is Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and we will have to make effort as to how we can minimise our attention and expenditure regarding defence and as to how all these countries can come out of question like poverty. Prime Minister has said that India will welcome strong Pakistan, strong Bangladesh, strong Nepal and strong Sri Lanka because if any of them gets weaker regarding its internal condition, it will not be good for India.

I, therefore, want to welcome the steps whatever you want to take up.

But there are some points in it towards which I want to attract the attention of the Government. The day when Hon'ble Prime Minister went to Lahore, reached an agreement the same day some people were murdered by some forces in the valley.

17.06 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

I want to say that External power and communal power from within the country will try to fail the step if we want to take up step for establishing cordial relations honestly with our neighbouring countries especially Pakistan. We will have to pay attention to it and keep a vigil on it. We will have to try that whatever step we take would not retreat from that. The statements delivered by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, were not good in nature.

May be, he might have done so because of internal situation. We have also delivered statements here. I do not like them too. We will have to pay much attention towards improving our relations with Pakistan. By it both India and Pakistan will be benefited. In order to strengthen India's internal power it is a must, because it is necessary for the interest of the nation. Congress party has, therefore, welcomed it. We have done nothing different.

When we make preparations to go to Pakistan by bus we should have connections relation with them at the same time we should have good relations with Abdullah who lives at my village in India. We must pay attention to it I believe so.

Some thing has also been said about Government employees in the President's address.

[*English*]

I quote:

"There is a great need to sensitise the Government machinery at both Central and State levels. I must emphasise here that no tangible progress will be made unless the officers and employees concerned adopt a proper approach to involve the people in the implementation of these schemes."

[*Translation*]

It seems to me that a different way of thinking is required for the beaurocracy of our country. Beaurocracy can do better if it is in the right leadership. I myself have worked with them for seventeen-eighteen years. The State, I belong to carried a good name for beaurocracy. May be, there have been some considerable drawbacks there during two to three years. But India's beaurocracy enjoys a good name in the world. We can not blame them if there is any deficiency as an unskilled craftsman blames the tools. Therefore, it is not correct to put all the blames on them. It requires attention that Government employees should be given facilities. But we see that under the present Government at the centre, sometimes doctors go on strike, then go to the courts, some times bank employees go on strike and some time agricultural scientists and sometimes employees of N.T.P.C. or other public sector go on strike. This way the situation is worsening day by day.

This also needs to be considered. The High Court of Delhi has given its decision about AIIMS, wherein an advice has been given to fix a separate scale of pay for the scientists working there. I request the Government to

accept it and not to make any further appeal. If the medical scientists are to be given a distinct scale of pay, the Government should also remain prepared for giving the same to the agro-scientists or scientists working in other fields.

I am to put up a final point. To run the Government with national consensus has been mentioned in the point no. 35 of the 'National Agenda for Governance'. I want to quote from that:

[English]

"We will, therefore, strive to develop national consensus on all major issues concerning the nation by involving the opposition parties and all sections of the society in dialogue. We will also try for the consensual mode of governance as far as practicable."

[Translation]

I am pleased to note it. We have been considering Bihar's situation for quite some time. Did this Government try to go for a consensus over this? Before this, so much was published in the newspapers. The Bhartiya Janta Party has been presenting one more point before the people for some period that they want to organise a 'Betrayal Week' and they are doing it too. A few steps have also been taken by them in regard to Bihar's situation. I want to ask the Government whether they have discussed with the major opposition-party or their allied parties even for a single day in regard to the steps taken by it in connection with Bihar? You have taken a decision of your own and you want us to support it? You talk a lot about Dalits here, they were killed there—no one is going to welcome it; but who was behind it, it is known to all. It is known to all as to whose support the Ranvir Sena has got. That the Ranvir Sena dare root out the Government of Bihar after the killing of Dalits, Congress will never let this happen so. The Rabri Government was responsible for the killings of Dalits. They failed to perform their responsibilities and we did express our resentment over that publically. We do not want to compromise in any such case but Bhartiya Janta Party has got no moral right to complain about their so-called 'betrayal' and organise any 'Betrayal Week'. I only want to say that if you speak of running the Government with a national consensus, you should develop a habit of making consultations and discussions with the Opposition and other allies over national issues. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The allies will not allow.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: That is also a problem.

[Translation]

We are demanding that you should discuss it with the Opposition before taking decisions over some issues and consult your own allies even before this. There is no unanimity therein. We come across the protests over many issues in the Parliament. We understand their problem. When they cannot even make sure to talk to their own colleagues how they can play politics of consensus in the country? Thereupon, they said that it is very hard to repose faith and confidence. I want to mention only one or two issues raised here especially, the issue raised by Sushma Swaraj ji very very seriously against corruption. I was pleased to note her say that, when no solid ground is found for accusing the Government in regard to corruption how much agony one has to undergo. I was happy that after all they felt it. I remember the debate held in this House for days together on the allegations levelled against Mrs. Indira Gandhi in the Nazarwala case, and as to how she had faced a prolonged attack of allegations for a long time. Come out with the old records, and you will know it. Who initiated all that? This House has witnessed a 55 hrs. and 17 minutes-long debate on the Bofors issue in the last nine or ten years. This went on till the very last year. This issue was raised again and again. This is the third Government after the going-away of the Congress Government. This Government have completed barely its one full year but they have done this work to take up Bofors issue and hurt the departed soul of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Who was responsible for it, they did not succeed to prove it. It's a fact. We have reiterated it many-a-time. Accusing like this, is not fair. I was also accused when the En-ron project was cleared, but later on the whole country witnessed that those who had opposed it, they cleared the En-ron project themselves afterwards and not only this alone, this Government green-signalled it widely by clearing a 2400 Megawatt capacity in place of 500 MW.

Those, who were to despatch the En-ron project in the unfathomable depths of sea-waters, they created this 2400 MW project themselves once again. We are not against such step taken to regain powerful positions, but when those people start advising us whose own lives have spent in making only accusation, it creates tension. I do not want to go in details in this matter. The present status of the country has economical conditions and feeling herself as separated in the world committee and in the various sections of the society that we are witnessing here we will have to come over. Unless

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

commitments over the issue of secularism are made, this country can not be carried forward. I beg your leave with this and conclude.

Text of Amendments

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provision of free and compulsory education upto 10th standard.” (1)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provision of twenty percent reservation for women in employment in all Government and Semi-Government institutions of the country” (2)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provision of reservation for the downtrodden, the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in employment in all the cadres in Government and Semi-Government institutions in the country in proportion to their population.” (3)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about provision of reservation for the post of Judges in the country's supreme judicial service in regard to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in proportion to their population.” (4)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about mobilizing world opinion in favour of safeguarding the human rights in Tibet keeping in view the long term security concerns of India.” (5)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provision of free movement of the people of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh across the borders without any passport and visa requirements in order to promote a perpetual relationship of friendship among the three nations.” (6)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about mobilizing world opinion in favour of India's claim for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.” (7)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provision of free ration to persons living below the poverty line”. (8)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for making right to employment a Fundamental right in the Constitution.” (33)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for making elementary education compulsory and Fundamental right in the Constitution.” (34)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the recent acts of vandalism encroaching upon the right to freedom of expression in the field of art and culture.” (35)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any specific plan to provide employment to educated unemployed youth, particularly in rural areas." (36)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the necessity of passing the 84th Constitution (Amendment) Bill providing one-third reservation for Women in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies." (37)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for enactment of a central legislation to protect the interests of agricultural labour." (38)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps proposed to be taken to stop serious atrocities committed on women and members of weaker sections of the society." (39)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the violation of labour laws by industries including public sector undertakings denying the benefits of provident fund scheme, ESI scheme, minimum wages etc. to the workers." (40)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to revamp public sector to face onslaught of multinationals." (41)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that the Address does not take note of the concern expressed by certain quarters over the dismissal of a top Navy Officer." (328)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for monitoring the effective implementation of Land Reforms throughout the country." (329)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the hike in the administered prices of rice, wheat, sugar and LPG." (63)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to include 'Right to work' as a fundamental right in the Constitution." (64)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the continued rise in the price of essential commodities." (65)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about provision of jobs to one crore youths every year." (66)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about payment of guaranteed minimum wages to agricultural labour." (67)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the recognition of trade Unions through secret ballot." (68)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about need to take up rehabilitation package for the people in and around Raniganj affected due to large scale mining operations." (69)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about controlling the pollution." (70)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to check braindrain of experts, scientists, technicians and doctors, out of the country." (71)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any action plan for providing unemployment allowance to educated unemployed youth of the country." (72)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take effective steps to protect and preserve all places of worship in the country and to ensure that no place of workshop will be allowed to be demolished by anybody." (73)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to eradicate child labour." (74)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a time-bound plan for eradication of unemployment from the country." (75)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the plan for providing education for all by including education in the Fundamental rights." (76)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of a time-bound scheme to minimise dependence of agriculture on rain waters." (77)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of a time-bound plan to resolve the housing problem in urban areas." (78)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of a time-bound plan to convert wasteland into cultivable land in the country." (79)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effective steps for checking price rise of essential commodities." (80)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any policy for setting up industries in rural areas for checking exodus of youth from rural area in search of employment." (81)

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for restructuring Centre-State relations and confer more powers on the States." (104)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the urgent need for bringing about legislative measures to include worker's participation in the management of corporate companies." (105)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to provide employment and education to all." (106)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the concern over the Government's move to disinvest the shares of profit making Public Sector Undertakings." (107)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the concern over the Government's move to close down certain Public Sector Undertakings." (108)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to revive the newspaper industry by reducing the levy on domestic newspaper industry and to impose anti-dumping duty." (109)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to formulate a scheme to provide jobs to one crore youths every year." (110)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to solve the problem of acute scarcity of potable water in all metropolitan cities in the country." (111)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the recent hike in the administered prices of rice, wheat, sugar and LPG." (112)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take measures to control pollution." (113)

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for making right to employment a Fundamental right in the Constitution." (148)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for making elementary education compulsory and Fundamental right in the Constitution." (149)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the recent acts of vandalism encroaching upon the right to freedom of expression in the field of art and culture." (150)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for enactment of a central legislation to protect the interests of agricultural labour." (153)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to revamp public sector to face onslaught of multinationals." (155)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about rise in prices of essential and life-saving drugs making them beyond the reach of common people." (161)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the hike in the administered prices of rice, wheat, sugar and LPG." (164)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to include 'Right to work' as a fundamental right in the Constitution." (165)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the continued rise in the prices of essential commodities." (166)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provisions of jobs to one crore youths every year". (167)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the payment of guaranteed minimum wages to agricultural labour." (168)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the recognition of trade Unions through secret ballot." (169)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take up rehabilitation package for the people in and around Raniganj affected due to large scale mining operations." (170)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the controlling the pollution." (171)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to check braindrain of experts, scientists, technicians and doctors, out of the country." (172)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any action plan for providing unemployment allowance to educated unemployed youths of the country." (173)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take effective steps to protect and preserve all places of worship in the country and to ensure that no place of worship will be allowed to be demolished by anybody." (174)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the payment of minimum wages to agricultural workers." (175)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to eradicate child labour." (176)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the time bound plan for eradication of unemployment problem from the country." (177)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of a plan for increasing agricultural produce." (178)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the visit of a U.S. team to collect information regarding child labour in India." (192)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about India's stand on nuclear disarmament and creating a nuclear weapons free world in the post Pokhran scenario." (193)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to protect the constitutional rights of the minorities." (194)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growth of unemployment arising out of mismanagement of the economy." (195)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the setting up of an effective system for the benefit of common man by way of transmitting the results of the researches and inventions." (216)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time-bound programme to include education in the Constitution as a Fundamental Right and to provide education to every child, youth and aged." (217)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time-bound scheme for less dependence on rain waters for agricultural purposes." (218)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of a time-bound plan to solve the housing problem throughout the country." (219)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of a time-bound-plan to convert wasteland, into cultivable land in the country." (220)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effective steps for checking unbridled price rise of essential commodities for use of common man." (221)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to set up industries in rural areas to check exodus of youths from rural areas in search of employment." (222)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the lack of potable water in about one lakh villages and the need to take immediate steps to over-come this problem." (223)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rising incidence of dowry deaths and other crimes against women and the need to take immediate steps to deal effectively with this menace." (224)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any specific plan to solve the problem of unemployment particularly of the educated youth in rural areas." (225)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for enactment of a central legislation to protect the interests of agricultural labour." (226)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the fall in prices of agricultural produce like cotton, jute, rubber etc. leading to a situation where a number of farmers have committed suicide in different States." (227)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"But regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps proposed to be taken to stop atrocities on women and members of weaker sections of the society." (228)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the prohibiting Private Sector in the Insurance Sector." (229)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to revamp public sector to face onslaught of multinationals." (230)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the problems faced by public sector undertakings like SAIL, BHEL, etc. who suffering from high rate of inventories and underutilisation of capacity for want of orders for their products, due to inappropriate import policy of the Government." (231)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about non-implementation of Government's directive for packing cement in jute bags." (232)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time bound plan for poverty alleviation." (233)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any time-bound plan to make arrangements for providing compulsory education to all the children in the country." (234)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the introduction of any time-bound scheme to provide potable water in each village of the country having population over 500." (235)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rise in the prices of essential commodities." (236)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about guaranteeing statutory minimum wages to agricultural labourers." (237)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the decline in the value of rupee against dollar." (238)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the closure of eight public sector units, mostly located in West Bengal." (239)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the closing down of several coal mines under Eastern Coalfield Ltd. thus throwing out thousands of workers out of job." (240)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the non-allocation of budgetary support to the public sector undertakings which are on the verge of closure and are mostly located in West Bengal." (241)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the non-payment of statutory dues *i.e.* gratuity, Provident fund etc. to the retired workers/employees of public sector unit like Cycle Corporation of India, etc." (242)

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharward South): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the population problems in the country which affects the planning process and thereby increases poverty of the people." (293)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the corruption in administration and public life by which the values of life of the community are affected and increases the gap between the rich and the poor." (294)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the deteriorating values of life due to faulty system of education in schools and colleges." (295)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for nationwide Prohibition on liquor and alcohol consumption to protect specially the poorest of the poor." (296)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about banning lotteries throughout the country." (297)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the austerity measures in the administration as well as in public life." (298)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about flood control measures in the rivers in North India which can be done by diverting these waters to join the South Indian rivers in South India where water is scarce." (299)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SAMAR CHOWDHARY (Tripura West): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure in implementing the Shukla Commission recommendation for removal of infrastructural gaps in the North Eastern States." (330)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the deployment of security forces in Tripura to help counter insurgency operation in the State and to check infiltration of foreigners." (331)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the sending back 40 thousand Reang tribals to Mizoram from the Relief Camps in Tripura, who had been ousted from their settled economic livings." (332)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the continued rise in the prices of essential commodities in the country." (333)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the introduction of a Central legislation for agricultural workers' benefit." (334)

[*English*]

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI (Barpeta): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention of a proposal to repeal the Illegal Migrant (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983." (353)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about inundation by floods of 21 districts out of 23 districts of Assam and inadequate flood relief measures." (354)

[*Translation*]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samstipur): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the trend of brain drain prevalent among the country's specialists, scientists, technicians and doctors owing to the Government's failure to offer sufficient employment opportunities to them." (391)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures for giving children the opportunities of vocational education." (392)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rise in prices of essential commodities." (393)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about provision for free and compulsory education upto the Tenth standard." (569)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about provision for the supply of free ration through PDS to the people living below poverty line." (570)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the existing disparity in the development of various regions in the country." (571)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the problems being faced by the farmers due to non-availability of fertilisers." (572)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rise in the prices of foodgrains sold through PDS hereby making it beyond the reach of the common man." (573)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (*Jalpaiguri*): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the glorious achievement made by Dr. Amartya Sen, Noble Prize winner." (399)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Constitution (Eighty-Fourth) Amendment Bill, 1998, providing for reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies." (400)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to control wide-spread land erosion which is taking place in Murshidabad, Nadia, Hooghly and Bardhaman districts of West Bengal." (401)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about equality of rights, wages etc. for the women." (402)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about women health and child care." (403)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about land reforms." (404)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to increase the interest rate for small savings schemes." (405)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (*Vaishali*): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to check the growing menace of poverty, unemployment, disparity and price rise in the country." (465)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about threats posed to the security of the country due to unrealistic foreign policy adopted by the Government." (466)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about demoralisation of the forces because of the dismissal of a top Navy Officer." (467)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about failure of the Government with regard to fulfilment of the hopes and aspirations of the poor people." (468)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the businessmen and the multinational companies minting money at the expense of common man." (469)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the deteriorating economic situation in the country leading to the closure of public sector undertakings." (470)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about improvement in cattle breeding and also checking spread of diseases in them." (471)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the diseases like Hepatitis-B, T.B., H.I.V. and kidney and heart ailments in the country and providing timely medical facilities for them." (472)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the schemes for the development of primary education, secondary education and higher education." (473)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making arrangements for augmenting the production of foodgrains, pulses, oils in proportion to the increasing population of the country." (474)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about meeting the shortage of cold storage for storing potatoes and onions in the country." (475)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures for checking price rise of potatoes, onions, oils, pulses and other essential commodities in the country." (476)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures of pulling by country out of the crisis of deficit financing, unearthing black money and preventing tax-evasion." (477)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about effective measures to check hoarding, black-marketing, profiteering and adulteration etc." (478)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about revival of loan facilities from R.E.C. for electrification of all the villages in Bihar." (479)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about completing the work of electrification of all the villages of district Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Vaishali in Bihar by granting REC loan to Bihar Electricity Board." (480)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about linking Hathidah and Fatuhan in the northern and southern Bihar by a transmission line." (481)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementing the hydroelectric projects of Koyalkaron, Kadram, Kanhar and Shankh." (482)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about augmenting the capacity of Muzaffarpur, Kahalgaon, Barh, North Kampura, Tenughat, Navinagar Thermal Power Stations." (483)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a scheme for draining out the water from water-logged fields (chauras) of Bihar." (484)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the scheme to save Bihar State from the fury of floods of rivers like Gandak, Kosi, Vagmati and Ganges consequent upon the signing of Indo-Nepal Treaty." (485)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the funds sanctioned for saving the people from the devastation caused by the floods and for providing relief to the flood victims in Bihar." (486)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about linking all the villages of Bihar by roads." (487)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the construction of pucca houses for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and weaker sections in Bihar." (488)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the installation of handpumps for providing potable water in the 'Mohallas' of poor people in Bihar." (489)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the completion of the work of the houses which are under construction and are yet to be completed under Indira Avas Yojana in Bihar." (490)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring the Patna-Hazipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Mithamor road as national highway." (491)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing transportation facility

in Bihar for fruits and vegetables such as potato, onion, tomato, banana, mango, lady fingers, 'Parwal', etc. to industrial cities and abroad by air cargo and A.C. rail coaches for the benefit of the farmers." (492)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about developing Vaishali as a international tourist spot." (493)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing facilities in schools of Bihar having no building/teachers and where school buildings are in dilapidated condition." (494)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing telephone facility in all villages of the country particularly in all villages of Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Vaishali districts of Bihar." (495)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to check rampant corruption in the country." (496)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to check child labour and prostitution." (497)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the development schemes for farmers, labourers, youth and women." (498)

[English]

SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY (Mayiladuthurai): I beg to move:

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing effective steps to control sea erosion in the coastal areas of Tamilnadu especially Poompohar and Tharangabadi." (557)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the proposal to modernise the minor and major ports of Tamilnadu, and to improve the working conditions of fishermen of these areas and desilting at the estuary point." (558)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the shortage of raw silk in the country and the problems being faced by silk handloom weavers of Tamilnadu and also the necessity to import silk from China and other countries." (559)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any incentive to States which are strictly following Family Welfare programmes." (560)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the time-frame for the permanent settlement of the Cauvery River Water dispute." (561)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the construction of new National Highway in Tamilnadu particularly in Cauvery Delta Area." (562)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about linking the Himalayan rivers with Cape Comorin so as to avoid flood in one area and drought in another area and consequent loss of life and property." (563)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing Hepatitis ‘B’ vaccine to children under immunization programme.” (564)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about guaranteeing of minimum wages and stable working conditions to people working in unorganised and private sectors through legislation.” (565)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the release of postage stamp to commemorate the centenary year of Late Smt. Thillaiyadi Valliyammi.” (566)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about starting of new refineries in the Cauvery Delta Area of Tamilnadu.” (567)

That at the *end* of the motion, the following be *added*, namely:—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing cooking gas through pipeline in the Cauvery Delta Area where the gas is available in abundance.” (568)

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the AIADMK, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

At the outset, I welcome the positive steps taken by the Prime Minister and the Government in smoothening the relation between India and Pakistan. The bus to Lahore is really a new bridge in relations between the two countries. Such exchanges should be encouraged.

I would like to congratulate the Government for demonstrating to the outside world our nuclear capabilities.

The Government should not come under any compulsion to sign the CTBT. National interests should be given top priority while dealing with such issues.

As far as defence of the country is concerned, we are still heavily dependent on foreign suppliers in key areas. Self-reliance in defence has to be achieved.

I welcome the New Agricultural Policy. It should aim at introducing technological revolution in all agricultural activities. While the land should belong to the owners, cultivation methods and choice of crops should be jointly decided by owners as well as by the Government after assessing the market and commercial forces in operation. This would ensure profits for the farmers as well as yield for the society.

The Cauvery river water dispute is yet to be solved in favour of Tamil Nadu farmers. The Government should implement the interim Award of the Cauvery Tribunal so that Tamil Nadu farmers are fully protected as demanded by my leader.

I also welcome the Free Trade Agreement reached between India and Sri Lanka in December last year. However, the problem of Indian fishermen being fired at by Sri Lankan navy still remains unresolved. The interests of Indian fishermen in Indian seas should be protected at all costs. I want this Government to initiate a special dialogue with the Sri Lankan Government on this matter.

Two days back, Parliament has adopted a resolution in support of women reservation. As far as the representation of women in Parliament and State Legislatures is concerned, the AIADMK is totally in favour of enactment of the Constitution Amendment Bill at the earliest.

I also welcome the New Policy for supporting older persons. These social measures will go a long way in developing a decent and civilized society.

I convey my thanks on behalf of my leader, Puratchi Thalaivi, Dr. J. Jayalalitha to the Prime Minister for allocating funds for executing the Sethu Samudram Project at the request of my leader. I hope the august House would continue to extend its support to the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee for serving the nation more and better.

With these words, I once again support the Motion of Thanks on behalf of the AIADMK.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of regret that our respected Rashtrapati Ji was required to indulge in inanities in the form of an Address which he delivered to the Members of Parliament assembled together from both the Houses of Parliament. This Address was prepared by a political aberration which somehow has assumed power to the great detriment of this country and the common people. Of course, it is for a very very temporary period. Its only merit, if at all there is any, is in its length and not in its depth or in its contents. It is full of ...*(Interruptions)* Why are you laughing? Maybe, you do not know what your fate is...*(Interruptions)*

I am sure, Sir, you must have gone through this document. I am sure you will fully agree with me that this contains only vague, demagogic generalisation and pious platitude. Sir, today, in the hands of this Government. I find a very important occasion, namely the Address by the President to the Members of Parliament, has just become a ritual, a formality. What is the purpose of this Address? What for did the founding fathers of our Constitution provide this occasion? This is supposed to lay down the direction which the country should take in the coming years. It should also contain a proper assessment of the performance of the Government. It should also highlight as to how the main issues confronting the people will be resolved. Of course, it is not expected to contain details for which the Budget, policy declaration and formulation will be there. I was not surprised that this Address did not contain anything like that. It does not meet the requirement of an Address to both the Houses of Parliament.

Can anybody deny that the hon. Finance Minister is being lauded in the halls where CII or FICCI meetings are held? But what is the perception of the common people? Every day, in TV news we are being told about the points that the share exchange index has reached, as if that is the only criterion. What is the fate of the common people? How many job opportunities are being created? I am happy that the Finance Minister finds himself a lot of amusement in what I am saying. But the last laughter will not be by him but by the common people of this country. ...*(Interruptions)* We have seen what happened in Delhi where the vulnerable Prime Minister was made to address almost street corner meetings. The result is that Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is there. Now, she does not know what to do except to quietly sit here. Where is Shri Khurana? What has happened in Rajasthan where they were supposed to be so strong. They could best find it out through the ballot boxes. Do they have respect for the democracy and the wishes of the people?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar): And what have you got in Delhi?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Leave us. Think for yourselves. It does not seem good. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, this is the difficulty. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj always exploits my great esteem and affection for her. I do not know how such an intelligent and articulate person is sitting there. Even the constituency which she naturally won with her grace and charm, was lost forthwith by her party in the by-elections that were held as soon as she resigned. Have you any respect for the people's verdict? Are you not seeing the writing on the wall? Why is it happened? They said with great gusto about 'able Prime Minister and stable Government' but his 'only ability is to have the stability of the Government'—But how did it happen? Ability is not in Governance. Ability is only in the stability and the stability is thus pampering your allies.

I said the other day that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had ceased to be concerned with the tears of the common people in this country which he promised to wipe out. Now, he is more concerned with the frowns and the smiles of his allies. Today this country is being decided how to keep them pleased one after another. So many demands are coming and packages after packages are being given. Can any country be governed by the packages of allies? All sorts of promises are being made. Ministers are being sent to different State Capital to satisfy their allies. They are making all sorts of promises. It is for the allies to believe all those promises. We are soon going to — I do not know if it is our misfortune—observe the anniversary of their coming to power. Let us see what has been done. We have seen what has happened in Tamil Nadu where lawyers are changed, judges are changed and Special Courts are changed. Let us see if one of these decisions and actions is for the benefit of the common people. Kindly test it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (Amroha): What point is this?...*(Interruptions)* Autography-writers have been appointed Vice-Chancellor...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Arguing it here?...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chetan Chauhan, no running commentary please.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, all the promises which have either been made in the National Agenda for Governance or adverted to in the Address of hon. Rashtrapatiiji have shown to be totally unfulfilled and which cannot be done by them. Today, the people are groaning under the miseries...(*Interruptions*). Sir, what is happening here? Has this House stopped to be a place for discussion and debate? Are we depending on some hon. Members' wishes and *ipse dixit*? If so, let us be told; we will go out.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN (Chandigarh): When someone speaks from this side, donot they interrupt then? They start remembering all conventions only then. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I appeal to all hon. Members not to indulge in running commentary from any side? Otherwise, I will have to take them to serious task.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have great affection and respect for them. I respect all of you. Please have a little patience. You can demolish by your articulation.

I was saying that common people of this country are groaning under severest burden which has been imposed by this Government because of price rise, because of what they have done to PDS and new imports have been levied even before the Budget has been announced. It is becoming impossible for the common people to bear them. But there is not a single word mentioned here as to how to alleviate their sufferings.

Over and above that, what concerns the people of the country the most is the attack on the unity and integrity of the country. It has never been under such severe strain as it is today. Recently, we have seen a deliberate attack also on the federal and democratic set-up of this country. We have never seen such political insincerity, to put it very mildly. It was in the shape of imposition of President's rule in Bihar, knowing very well that they cannot have it approved by the Rajya Sabha.

As the Leader of Opposition asked just now, what is the method of Governance they have thought of? Did they consult the Opposition without whose support they cannot pass it? He openly said just now on the floor of the House that they were not consulted. Now, do they have any obligation to support you just because you happened to take the most undemocratic and anti-federal decision in this country. What has happened to this party? I do not know. Therefore, power for one year has totally unmassed this political party. We had thought that they had some commitments to some basic principles like federalism and their opposition to Article 356. At least, they had been fighting for that throughout on the floor of this House. I had seen it and I had the occasion to walk with many of my distinguished friends on the other side in this very House. As I said, Shri Vajpayee and Shri Advani walked with us to Rashtrapati Bhawan in protest against use of Article 356 against MTR. Now what has happened has totally unmasked this party. Only skin deep attachment or commitment to parliamentary democracy and federalism is there so far as this political party is concerned.

In the recent memory, we have never seen what we have seen during the regime of this Government — the calculated onslaught, physical attacks on the minorities in this country. Sir, not one word has been said in the President's Address on this point. Not one word has been said about the cries of those people who have been beaten up, whose places of worship had been demolished and whose religious books have been burnt. Shall we decide, our citizens, it on the basis of the Gods they worship? Shall we decide and differentiate between man and man because of that? Secularism is the basic feature of our Constitution. There is some reference to it somewhere which I find in this book. Is this the way we are paying respect to that most basic feature of our Constitution? Federalism and parliamentary democracy have been held by the Supreme Court of India as the basic features of our Constitution. Today, all these basic features lie in shambles in the hands of this Government and Sir, I am very sorry to say that Rashtrapatiiji, because of his Constitutional obligation, had to read out an address which is an insult to the common and suffering people of this country.

I do not find Shri Madan Lal Khurana here. Why was he not allowed to make a statement which he wanted to make? His resignation shows that there is something. He referred to one thing. That is what we saw in the newspapers. He is a gagged person. He cannot speak. A Member of Parliament cannot speak! He referred to the attacks on the Christian minorities and the dubious role played by his previous mentor the RSS, the Sangh Pariwar which is now controlling this Government. He

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

has said this. He was a very distinguished member of this Government. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I think he has not yet been expelled from the Party! He may be on the verge of it. I do not know about it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi): Why are you losing your weight by bothering for us?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We must.

[English]

Unfortunately, you are in

[Translation]

We must bother for your sake.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, have you got a copy of the President's Address?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Kindly see page 1, paragraph 3 which says like this.

[Translation]

And the words are put into hon'ble President's month.

[English]

"I am happy to note that the National Agenda for Governance, which is the common policy covenant of the coalition Government, is being implemented faithfully."

Unfortunately, it is not within the inverted commas! I quote further.

"In the past eleven months, my Government has acted decisively on many fronts to promote people's welfare, accelerate economic development, strengthen internal and external security, and develop deeper bonds of friendship and cooperation with India's neighbours and other countries. Taken together, these initiatives have instilled a new sense of self-confidence among Indians, increasing our ability to effectively face the challenges of the present and the future."

Yes, people have shown self-confidence because they have already expressed their view that they would get rid of this Government as soon as they get an opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)* But let us see whether this National Agenda is implemented faithfully.

Let us start with women. Let us see in which page it is there. Kindly see the heading "Empowerment of Women", Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, have you got a copy of it or have you thrown it into the waste papers basket?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Shall I show it to you?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You have got a copy of it. All right.

[Translation]

If you say then it is all right.

[English]

Is it an amended version?...*(Interruptions)* It has been stated and I quote:

"We will legislate for the reservation of 33 per cent of the seats in Parliament and the State Assemblies for women and also institute plans for providing free education for girls up to the college level including professional courses so as to better empower women. We will also set up a Development Bank for women entrepreneurs in the small and tiny sectors."

Please tell us what you have done. How much is implemented?...*(Interruptions)* What does the President's Address say in paragraph 39? I quote:

"The Government has launched the Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project in six States. A National Policy for Empowerment of Women is finalised. A new Initiative in child development would be setting up of a National Commission for children."

Which one has been implemented at all faithfully?

About education, you take any one item. Take, for example, Eradication of Unemployment. It is a burning issue in this country. From the National Agenda, we find this: recognising the right to work of every citizen. There,

it has been stated:

"The main thrust of the new Government will be *Berozgarī Hatao*."

If one does not understand it in English, they have translate it as "eradicate unemployment." It has been further stated:

"As against the present trend of jobless growth, our Government will measure growth by generation of gainful employment."

Let us see what has been said here and how it is faithfully implemented. Only one sentence is here. I will show it to you. It is being implemented by the closure of the Public Sector Units and creating more unemployment. It is trying to force upon them VRS.

Now, what is the state of the faithful implementation of this? I quote paragraph 12 of the Address:

"The National Agenda for Governance calls for an accelerated and well-balanced economic development as a precondition for fulfilling the goal of *Berozgarī Hatao*. The Government has set the target of an annual GDP growth rate of 6.5 per cent."

At the end of it, nothing. I do not know. I am sorry. I was in some other meeting. I wanted to listen to our distinguished Member Sushmaji. How did you support this? You should get a *Param Vir Chakra*. Take any aspect. For example, all these talk about friendly relations in the international arena. What is the situation today? Who is our friend? We have commended; we appreciate the efforts of the hon. Prime Minister. After queering the pitch, making ourselves friendless in the whole world, he has taken this bus ride. We have supported it. Any attempt is good. But what benefit this country has obtained? They thought that there will be such euphoria in this country that they would not have to bother for anything after the blasts.

Till today eight-nine rounds of talks have been held by our distinguished Foreign Minister with somebody at the Joint Secretary and Under Secretary level. They met eight times. I am very sorry because I have personal respect for Shri Jaswant Singh and also for Shri Yashwant Sinha. All Jaswants are good. In bad places though, however. What is happening? It is an unseemly sight.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Somnath is also good.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You can get nothing out of praying before me.

[English]

Advani started his *Rath Yatra* after paying not to me but he had *pooja* at the Somnath temple. At least do not interrupt me.

Today what has happened? Yes, we are supporting it. We want closest friendly relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh; with our neighbours; and with every country in the world. Is that the position today? With great bravado you make allegations against China. What is the position today with every country? Which is our friendly country today? Even in the SAARC, we are losing our position.

Sir, with regard to the defence services - I am not going into the details - such an important event as a dismissal of a Naval Chief has taken place. They should have mentioned it. What can our Respected *Rashtrapati* do? He has obliged to read it out only as it is printed. I hope it was better printed there. Not one word is there. Is it a matter of total insignificance? We shall have the occasion to go through it. I hope the Congress presses for the JPC.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do not be carried away like the patents.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): Private commitment is being taken in the Lok Sabha.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In the presence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy-speaker and in the presence of all your friends.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am helplessly watching.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So far as this is concerned, everybody has said that it is an unprecedented event. Now, the hon. Defence Minister felt that this House is not a proper place to make his views known. He goes to the press and says that it is 'civilian control' and ultimately has ended up with 'security risk'. In between so many conflicting statements, the hon. Prime Minister goes to Andaman and there he thinks of this issue.

The Session has started on the 22nd of February. Until we raised it here, they did not bother and when they found that they have to face it, they want to explain it only in a Committee meeting. Is this a routine matter?

Sir, we are all proud of our defence forces. Fortunately they have remained unpolluted by politics of any kind so far. I sincerely hope that they would remain unpolluted inspite of their well-designed intention to

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

penetrate everywhere on the basis of religion. I hope, they remain immune from this attempt. But a calculated attack is now being made and today, one Defence Chief has gone, another Defence Chief goes to the Press and makes a statement, so many Ex-Defence Chiefs are issuing statements. What remains of this country?

Sir, so far as the economic situation is concerned, apart from the price level, apart from the lack of job opportunities being created, where is the growth? I have never seen such an inconsequential and useless document such as the National Agenda for Governance. It says:

"We will bring GDP to 7 to 8 per cent bracket and control deficits, fiscal and revenue."

What is the percentage now? It is 3.5 per cent. I hope the Finance Minister does not get another opportunity to present the Budget. Then, when will they do it? They never said that they would achieve this target at the end of the five year term.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: There are four more years.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You make your own calculations in your office.

Sir, the President's Address says that the Government has set the target. The hon. Rashtrapatiiji is asked to say that the Government has set the target of an annual GDP growth rate of 6.5 per cent. It has come down from 7 to 8 per cent which they have mentioned in their National Agenda for Governance. But it is only 3.5 per cent now. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the Finance Minister does not agree with me. I make it 4 per cent. I am more charitable to him; I make it 4 per cent.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Please read the Economic Survey.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He says it is 5.8 per cent. Have we reached it? I was trying to find out as to how do we reach that target. Is it by mere words? Let them tell us what is their direction either in their Budget or in the President's Address. How are they going to do it?

Sir, what is going to happen to our own industries? What is the crime of being employed by the public sector undertakings of the Government of India? Are they criminals? Are they anti-nationals? As a matter of fact, it was said by them that they would try to evaluate them

on a unit-to-unit basis as to whether they can be saved or not. With regard to disinvestment, I find that Shri Manmohan Singh and Shri P. Chidambaram are being beaten hollow by Shri Yashwant Sinha. They say that the Disinvestment Commission must be given effect to and they want to collect Rs. 10,000 crore out of disinvestment. I am no economist, nor an expert, nor a juggler. But what has happened by the swapping of the Government shares? They have realised Rs. 3,500 crore. It is nothing but a financial jugglery. Is this the way to raise revenue to meet their Budget deficits?

Sir, it is not a question of opposition for the sake of opposition. These are issues which are troubling the people everyday. In every sphere of today's national life, these problems are there and we do not know how they are going to be solved. This Government cannot solve them.

The other point to which I have to come back once more is the question of misuse of article 356. Kindly see how this was done. From the time of election, they had promised to impose President's Rule in Bihar if they came to power. Can it be a matter of election manifesto of any responsible political party or can it be an election issue of any responsible political party who has any attachment to the principles of Constitution, principles of federalism. It was trying to please its allies saying, "if I come to power there, I shall utilise article 356 of the Constitution in dismissing the Government"?

They have got 25 per cent of the popular support. They cannot form a Government on their own. They have taken help of their allies. I do not blame them. It is for them to commit hara-kiri or not to commit hara-kiri by joining them. They have joined them. Now, because of arithmetic of numbers, they have formed the Government thanks to Shri K. Yerranna's last minute decision.

If the cellular telephone does not operate, I do not know what will happen. Or if the STD does not operate, we do not know what will happen. With their good wishes and blessings, this Government was saved on that day and even on this day.

We know very well that the Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh has always opposed article 356. BJP has opposed article 356. All their parties have opposed article 356 because, at one time or the other, they have been victims of this. Now, when they tried to impose the President's Rule earlier. *Rashtrapatiiji* returned that. After five months, that report is submitted again on the basis of article 74 of the Constitution telling the *Rashtrapatiiji*. "You are bound to approve of this because it is resubmitted after reconsideration." And that signature is

detained knowing that, they have not got the support of both the Houses in this Parliament.

I have never seen it in my humble experience in this House. I have seen so many Presidential Proclamations have been brought before this House. But with such cavalier attitude, with certainty of being defeated and with as I said the other day - such gusto and bravado where we have got the support of the people which has been proved by the House of the People voting in favour, then, what more do you want? Then, they attempted dinner diplomacy. It did not succeed. Is this the way the country should be run? Can you just dismiss the State Governments which have been elected? I said it the other day. Shri L.K. Advani said, "People's support is there."

³How do you ascertain the people's support in a parliamentary democracy? Is it through opinion polls or going to the people to get their verdict? When is the next election?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Next year.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Within one year, the election is to be held. The people will give their verdict. Now, you send your RSS functionary as a Governor there. The Sarkaria Commission repeatedly said, "Do not appoint any political person." In any event, no Government should appoint somebody who belongs to its own party. Knowing that, they sent him. Now, the President's Rule is applied. A person like Shri L.K. Advani, one of the seniormost leaders of the BJP - the main ruling party - says, "We should change him." We want apolitical person. Then, Sir, what happened? The respected Governor came back with his bag and baggage in Rajdhani Express, which was very well advertised. He did not use the Government car. He did not utilise the hospitality of the Government. He stayed in his follower's house. Then, Sir, our Home Minister prostrated before him and gave a statement in writing that he is sorry, he may be excused, otherwise he will lose his job. Then, the Governor went back with bravado in his official plane. This was the *tamasha* which took place on in this country.

I saw the gentleman whom I am referring to on TV so many times saying that he was proud to be an RSS person. Is this way to run the country? Can we maintain the unity and integrity of this country? Are not the respective State Governments elected with the support of the people? Can we just play with them? After the President's rule was imposed, within a short time, there were killings. Did the Government dismiss the Governor?

This is the pernicious thing which is being taken recourse to. The founding fathers have said that this most draconian provision should not be taken recourse to except in the rarest of rare occasions. It is being glibly taken recourse to and then they ask somebody else to support it. If you do not support it, then the one-convert will say "Well, well, it shows the anti-dalit character of the Congress". They nurtured him and brought him here. Where is he? Where is my nephew, Shri Kumaramangalam? Of course, I have said that he had been faithfully following all the bad habits, decisions and wrong policies of the Congress Government but now he is following them in a much less articulate manner. They were *pucca* rulers for 45 years. You are *kutchra* rulers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): What are you saying?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If you are not able to hear me, you may take help of earphones.

[*English*]

Sir, this is the tragedy of this country. When you have to make efforts to unite the country to meet the challenges of poverty, unemployment, lack of progress, and attacks from multinationals, this country is being divided on the basis of religion, on the basis of politics. Therefore, this Address is nothing but an insult to the people of this country. It is nothing but a mockery which is being played on the people of this country. They make all sorts of flimsy promises; they make all sorts of references to the National Agenda for Governance but they failed miserably in every sector.

Now, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister how this Government is being run. There was a declaration by the Industry Minister that eight public sector undertakings will be closed down. The Finance Minister might have given his blessings to that. Members of Parliament from West Bengal, irrespective of the political affiliations were representing to him not to do it. If it is done, then thousands and thousands of workers will be on the street for no fault of theirs. They have requested him to do something to revive those undertakings. The Chief Minister of West Bengal repeatedly requested him to do the needful. He had met him also but no action was taken, not even a response came from him. So, we are not at all taken care of. But when an ally makes a request or demand, immediately, special meeting is called, photographs are published and so on. Recently there was a request from one of their allies, they have decided to keep the matter in abeyance for three months.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

18.00 hrs.

Is this the way to run the country? Is it their political *bonafide*? The whole attempt of this Government is somehow to remain in power, as I said earlier.

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, it is 6 o'clock. The time of the House has to be extended.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been extended. It was decided earlier.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I know this is happening. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs does not know that the time has been extended. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was decided that it has been extended up to 8 o'clock.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I would like to know when it was decided.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was decided in the morning.

SHRI RAM NAIK: When it has been extended?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, after Question Hour it was decided.

SHRI RAM NAIK: But Sir, the sense of the House has to be taken. Whatever is decided in the BAC has to be conveyed here. The senior leader of this House, who has been given the best parliamentary award should know that the sense of the House has to be taken...*(Interruptions)* I would request him not to throw on me whatever he wants to say...*(Interruptions)* This is not the way. He is a senior Member. He must know that the sense of the House is to be taken...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I withdraw...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Yes, that is good...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, yesterday also we had taken a decision.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, my point is that it is always done and if the procedure is followed, I have nothing to say.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, what has been decided and announced here is considered to be taking the sense of the House. Yesterday also the same thing happened.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Minister has got some objection, when we will sit tomorrow because it is already 6 o'clock...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: I have not objected. The hon. Member has not understood me. What I said was that the time of the House had to be extended and that it was my duty as the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs to draw the attention of the House. That is what I had done. I have not objected. I think, I am misunderstood...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have understood everything. You wanted to obstruct him only...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, is it the sense of the House to sit up to 8 o'clock?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. So, the House is extended up to 8 o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I have withdrawn my comments in deference to his intervention, but I will check up whether it has been already extended or not...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: So, we will sit tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, there is no unanimity. We will sit tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: But I have not opposed to this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: But there is no unanimity in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Shri Somnath Chatterjee has understood me...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I appeal to the hon. Member?

...(*Interruption*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: No, Sir, he has objected to a senior Member...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK: I have not objected...(*Interruptions*) I have just appealed ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, we have reservations. There is no unanimity, so we will sit tomorrow...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK: But Shri Somnath Chatterjee has agreed...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: No, he will speak tomorrow...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But Sir, let me finish my speech...(*Interruptions*) May I finish, Sir? Let it be extended till 6.30 p.m. I will conclude by this time...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: All right. He will sit till he finishes his speech...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I will finish it in five minutes...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I inform the House that even in the Business Advisory Committee we had taken a decision in this regard, that is why I just reminded the House in the afternoon, at 12 or 1 o'clock, that the House was going to sit up to 8 o'clock from today. There was an announcement from the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, Sir, we do not agree to this...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: No, Sir, we have heard that if a senior Member like Shri Somnath Chatterjee has to take a lesson from the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs then we want some time for that. So we will sit tomorrow...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Please.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Let me not be misunderstood ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I only drew your attention to the time. I did not say anything ...(*Interruptions*) I only drew the attention of the Deputy Speaker to the time. That is my duty. As the leader of the Opposition, you must help us. It is my duty to draw the attention of the Deputy Speaker that the time is coming on. That is what I have done...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, it is also my duty to protect the respect and prestige of a senior Member like him ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram): Sir, the contention of the leader of the opposition is not acceptable. It is the duty of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to draw the attention of the Chair as to whether the time of the House is extended or not ...(*Interruptions*) Mere reminding the time to the Speaker will not affect the prestige of any Member. Whatever senior or junior member every one is equal before the prestige of House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, tomorrow I am in differently ...(*Interruptions*) There are two more issues. I shall mention them briefly. One is what was being said in the national agenda about corruption. This is a very important issue and became a live issue. I quote paragraph 24, which says:

"We will enact a Lok Pal Bill with adequate powers to deal with corruption charges against anyone including the Prime Minister. In the administration of Justice, we shall not allow discrimination between the rich and the poor, the empowered and the powerless, restore the majesty of law and the objectivity of the State."

Sir, what has happened to the Lok Pal Bill? The Government has to tell about this Bill. On the other hand, we find newer and newer charges of corruption against this Government. As a matter of fact, some of them have already been raised. Serious charges of corruption have been made now but not a single action is being taken and they want to avoid discussion even on the floor of

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

the House until today. Sir, something has happened; very grudgingly they have agreed to have a discussion.

Sir, we would like to know what is the action taken by this Government to fight against corruption. What has happened to the Lok Pal Bill?

Now, I quote paragraph 21 of the National agenda:

"We are convinced that there is a clear case for devolution of more financial and administrative powers and functions to the States. We will take suitable steps to ensure harmonious Centre State relations in the light of recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and effect decentralisation right up to the grassroots level by activating, involving Panchyat and local bodies."

Sir, nothing has happened. On the other hand, Sir, a deliberate attack is being made on the proper Centre-State relations. Sir, their electoral reform is only about State funding. A Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of comrade Indrajit Gupta. We have had the privilege of being its members. We have submitted a report. I do not know when that would be brought. The Bill has not been even circulated. We do not know as to the decision that the Government will take on electoral reforms, on which we have been listening from Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Lal Krishna Advani for years. Where is the electoral reforms legislation? Where is it? There is not even one word about that in the President's Address also.

Sir, now what has happened to Prasar Bharati? Shrimati Sushmaji, I do not know whether it is one of the reasons you have been shunted out.

Prasar Bharati has become today the matter of personal control of the hon. Minister. He says Doordarshan cannot have two policies. Prasar Bharati is not being allowed to function. I saw in the papers that the Members of the Board are meeting, the Prime Minister. The Chairman is not there. The other Members are not fully there. They are not being allowed to act. In the meantime, we are seeing the gross misuse of the electronic media. As a whole, it has become an extension, not of the Government, but it has become an extension of the publicity machinery of BJP, of course, minus some of the leaders like Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. She is no longer seen. Those who are outside their favourite circle, they are out. Now it has become their publicity wing. You will have to see that the allies are given time on the basis of their own survival. Then, what commitment is there of this Government? Which clause of the national agenda they have implemented in this one year? Which is the thrust of the address?

As I said, the hon. Finance Minister will receive kudos from a very minority section of the people in this country who has got all the things in this world, but not by the common people. They are not thanking them. I do not know how many telegrams he has received from the common people, hutment dwellers and unemployed people for the "excellent Budget" that you have delivered.

Mr. Deputy Minister, Sir, I submit that this country's future can be protected by getting rid of this aberration and this motley combination masquerading as Government of India. When we are going to enter into the new millennium, this country needs proper approach, proper outlook and a proper dedication. It is a dedication to the maintenance of unity and integrity of this country. Nothing can be more important. This country needs a dedication to the basic features of this Constitution; federalism, Parliamentary democracy and secularism. Each one of which is being trampled down by this Government for their own political ends. Therefore, it is our duty, duty of all right thinking people of this country. I am sure they have already expressed, as we know, their verdict against this Government in three important States of this country. It is high time that this House expresses itself in a manner which will show that the misgovernance cannot be allowed to continue and it will come to an end. Therefore, I am sorry I cannot support the Motion and I oppose the Motion with full vigour. I am sure some of the people there are my good friends, very hon. friends with great patriotism but they are following misguided policies and programmes which is tearing this country apart. Therefore, our obligation is to get rid of them as soon as we can. This will be for the good of the country.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Let us adjourn it for tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you kindly resume your seats? Please resume your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha): The mode of the discussion was not quite right...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly resume your seats. I have to say a few words. Will you please sit down.

I would appeal to hon. Members. We are very short of time.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: We are sitting on Saturday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Business Advisory Committee had taken the decision. It has already been circulated also. We are sitting up to eight o'clock. Please cooperate.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If it was circulated, then the hon. Minister was not right. I was right. But he abused me. He abused me on the floor of the House, when I was speaking. You were not here.

Please admit it Mr. Minister (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wait. I am on my legs.

The Business Advisory Committee Report was submitted to the House.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deona): But the Minister was saying something else.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singh, a mistake can be committed. What is there? He has already expressed his views.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It was on the assumption that he was right.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: If the decision was already circulated, then where was the necessity for the hon. Minister to mention it? Where was the need to obstruct the hon. Member when the decision was already taken?
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): The Minister has behaved in a manner unbecoming of a Minister.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Let me clarify...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It was unbecoming of a Minister.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I drew your attention.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It was the Hon. Minister who created such a situation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already expressed his views. He has gone back.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me complete. Do you not want me also to speak in this House?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur): We are not for extension. It has to be decided every day at six o'clock. You have asked for extension. We are not for extension. If it has to be decided every day by taking the sense of the House, we are against extending the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Raghavan, the House is supreme, I agree. The Business Advisory Committee consists of all parties.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They have decided in the BAC. It was also circulated in the form of the Bulletin. Yes, there was a mistake. What happened? Anybody can commit a mistake.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not crucify him for that.

Now let us hear Shri Yashwant Sinha

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I have been watching the proceedings as quietly as possible. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, to the best of my understanding, did not want the House to commit an irregularity in not extending it formally beyond 6 o'clock. Now, because it was circulated, this was a mistaken notion. He has admitted it. In view of this, I would like to appeal to all sections of the House to please cooperate with each other...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: From tomorrow, not today.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, this is a decision which has been taken by all the senior Leaders of the House who constitute the Business Advisory Committee and it has the full consensus of the House. Now, therefore, we will not be showing any respect to that decision, if we were to hurriedly take a decision to adjourn just now I am, therefore, appealing to all sections, to all parties to please cooperate and implement the decision which has been taken. Let us cooperate with the decision. We know that we are a little behind schedule. It will only help us to catch up with it. It has already been decided. We are all saying that let us agree to implement that decision... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, there are no two opinions about the unanimous decision of the Business Advisory Committee to sit up to a particular time. I do not want to raise any objection because I am fully aware that that decision was already circulated to all the Members. But hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs got up at 6 o' clock, though a hon. Member was speaking and he was insisting that I got time, but still he said, 'no', this is the practice and we have to take the consent of the House. Until and unless we take the consent of the House, we cannot continue like this. Then, the issue was raised. The House said that there is no unanimity and there is consent. If this objection was not raised by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, probably, there would not have been any problem. He has raised the problem since the House has not accepted it and there is no unanimity, we will meet tomorrow.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, if the hon. Leader of Opposition does not want the House to continue, well, he is within his rights. But yesterday also at 7 o' clock when the House was extended and it was to work up to 8 o' clock, the Members said that they do not want to work. That is why, the House was adjourned. So, I thought it is proper on my part to draw your attention at 6 o' clock - that is the practice - even though the Business Advisory Committee takes a decision, in the House always this practice is being followed. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: That is why, I thought it is my duty to draw your attention and that is what I have done... *(Interruptions)*. Subsequently, whatever Shri Somnath Chatterjee said, he said it and I gave my comments on that. He also was satisfied at that time that this should have been done. Now, whether after circulation in the Bulletin, this type of attention is to be drawn of the Speaker or not, I feel it is to be drawn. Now, it is for you to decide whether I should do it or not... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anyway, I have taken a consensus. Now, the House seems not in favour of sitting.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to appeal as a mover of the motion, I donot intend to comment on whatever has happened here. This discussion has been allotted eight hours. This has been made fixed that the discussion must end by 3 o' clock tomorrow. I would like to request folded-hands to the leader of the Opposition to forget the misunderstandings and to let the discussion go on, that it may continue till tomorrow 3 o' clock and the Prime Minister may be able to reply it on Monday.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, you should try to understand our difficulty also. Our difficulty is that we were under the impression that after taking a decision and circulating that particular decision, there is no necessity to raise this particular issue. But the issue was raised by not less than the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. And not only that, there was some guidance also to hon. Members that they should learn this and that, though not exactly in these words but by saying that after spending 32 years in Parliamentary affairs, we should get some time to learn about rules and other things. That is why it is better to adjourn now.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, if the Leader of the Opposition does not want to work beyond six o' clock, then what can we do?... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have to make an announcement.

1826 hours

ANNOUNCEMENT BY DEPUTY SPEAKER RE:
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held today, the following decisions were taken:

- (1) The Private Members' Business fixed for Friday, the 12th March, 1999 may be transferred to Wednesday, the 17th March, 1999 and

- (2) The House may also sit on Saturday, the 13th March, 1999 in order to enable more Members to participate in the discussion on the Railway Budget for 1999-2000. I hope the House agrees.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have accepted it, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 12th March, 1999 at 11 A.M.

1827 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 12, 1999/Phalguna 21, 1920 (Saka)

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Thursday, March 11, 1999/Phalguna 20, 1920 (Saka)

....

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
5/26	SHRI ANATH KUMAR	SHRI ANANTH KUMAR
129/3	SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHALIA	SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA
169,170/15	146.36	148.36
171,172/11	3.65	3.95
173,174/6	1055.91	1065.91
177,178/23	(SHRI RAMNAIK)	(SHRI RAM NAIK)
225,226/6	135.92	135.62
233/4	46,908	46,808
249/9	seat	seat
256/31	SHRI N.M.KRISHNADAS	SHRI N.N.KRISHNADAS
266/29 } 267/1 }	SHRI RATILAL PRASAD VARMA	SHRI R.L.P. VERMA
298/18	DR. RAM CHANDRA DONE	DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Ninth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
